

Scarlet Tanager
by Henrey Deese



The Hoot

Spring 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE ILLINOIS YOUNG BIRDERS, A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE IOS

IN THIS ISSUE

Sharing Our Passion

By Jeff Reiter, ILYB Adult Sponsor and Editor of *The Hoot*

I guess you could say this is my second by-line in *The Hoot*. One of my *Daily Herald* columns was reprinted here in 2012 – a piece about Graham and Henrey Deese. It's good to be back!

As *The Hoot's* new editor you'll be seeing my name more often now. Four issues per year is the goal and I'll do my best to stay on track. Your support—in particular, your content!—is appreciated.

The Hoot is YOUR newsletter. This is the place to share your stories, photos and artwork with fellow members. Have fun with it, be creative and give me your best stuff!

I try to take that approach myself when I sit down each month to write "Words on Birds" for the *Herald*. The column has been my creative outlet since 2004. More importantly, it's my way of sharing the joy of birds and birding with the general public.

I wish the column was my "real job." No, it's just my way of giving something back to the hobby. Likewise, I depend on fellow birders to donate their wonderful images to go along with my narrative. Nothing beats a great photo for getting people excited about birds!

It was my pleasure to showcase one of Nathan Goldberg's images in my column last December. His shot of the Black-Legged Kittiwake that visited Montrose was truly professional grade. Thanks again Nathan, and for the Cackling Goose picture, too!

Many ILYB members are certainly better photographers than me. And better at other things too, such as birding by ear and identifying gulls! Your skills, combined with your enthusiasm for birding, are a terrific combination.

Don't ever be shy about sharing your passion for birding. With words, photos, leading field trips and in other ways, you can help us grow ILYB. Along the way you might recruit some new adult birders as well!

The Hoot is just a small part of the ILYB experience, but it's a good vehicle for bringing club members closer together and sharing cool experiences. Your ideas and contributions are always welcome.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve ILYB and to IOS for supporting the future of birding.



White-Tailed Ptarmigan by Nathan Goldberg

Birding the Great Northwest

Nathan Goldberg recalls an amazing week of birding at Camp Cascades in Washington State last summer.

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Reducing Downtown Collisions

Kalman Strauss reports on the lifesaving work of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors.

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Camp Cascades

Text and photos by Nathan Goldberg,
ILYB Member – Age 17

Fellow Illinois Young Birder Ethan Gyllenhaal and I went to Camp Cascades last summer, from July 28 to August 8. Camp Cascades is led by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, or VENT, every two years.

The camp takes place in the Washington portion of the Pacific Northwest. We spent five days on the largest island in Puget Sound, Whidbey Island, and another four days in Mount Rainier National Park. Barry Lyon and Victor Emanuel (the company's founder) were our leaders.

The goal of VENT young birder camps is to get young birders ages 14-18 together to meet and bond over a common passion, specifically birds and nature. Victor had an idea about 30 years ago to start birder camps, and he still to this day states it was the single most valuable and important decision he has made for VENT. These trips are invaluable to young birders, for many of them do not have an easy way to connect with other young birders outside of their hometown or state.

Camp Cascades began with our arrival at Seattle-Tacoma Airport. Our camp consisted of six boys and four girls, including a boy from Costa Rica and a girl from Panama. We immediately drove to Fort Casey on Whidbey Island. Our lodging was an old Army barracks, which was constructed to protect Puget Sound during World War II. After arrival, we began



Black Bear

birding right away. Our barracks was right on the edge of a mudflat that could be scoped from the back porch and about a two-minute walk away from some nice pine forest.

The real birding began the next day with a morning walk around the pine area. There I saw my lifer Pacific Wren and other Northwestern specialties.

On day three of our trip, we stayed on Whidbey Island and birded around the area, taking in the beautiful landscape and wonderful birds. But on our last day on Whidbey we took a boat out to Protection Island to look for Tufted Puffins and other alcid.

We were extremely fortunate to find the puffins and we observed two of them. One was very obliging and allowed us to get fairly close. This sighting was notable for only about 4-5 pairs of Tufted Puffins breed on Protection Island.

Along on the boat trip was long-time Washington birder George Gerds. After the boat trip, he took us to Anderson Lake State Park where he knew Red-breasted Sapsuckers bred. Luckily, after a long wait, we were able to find one as well as some passerines, specifically a Townsend's Warbler, which was a lifer for Ethan. The day was full of lifers for others and the scenery was gorgeous.

We began the morning of our fourth day packing up, and driving to Mount Rainier National Park. We arrived at about four or five in the afternoon and set up camp at Cougar Rock campground. After pitching our tents we went birding. While looking around, I found my lifer Gray Jay and watched a chipmunk climb into a nearby camper's backpack (not anyone from our camp).

The next morning, we hiked from Narada Falls to Longmire (one of the visitor centers in the park). We found at least two American Dippers feeding in bone chillingly cold rivers, for they are glacially fed. At this site, we got to see some amazing waterfalls and got splashed by the mist coming off of them.

Unfortunately, on the next day, I came down with a cold and was not able to attend the



Tufted Puffin

Skyline Trail hike. But before everyone departed on the hike, we checked a local stop along the road for Pine Grosbeak. While I was admiring the Avalanche Lillies, my friend Ben came running to tell us the main part of the group had found a Sooty Grouse.

Adrenaline kicked in and I sprinted to go see this lifer. After I arrived and quickly took some photos, I realized the bird was not going anywhere. I was able to just sit down with the group and admire this bird. It eventually got up after preening and walked within three feet of the group, not caring at all. This was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had with a grouse.

The last main hike we took on day nine of camp was to the Mount Freemont Lookout. This was a six-mile round trip hike, to an elevation of about 7,800 feet. This would be one of our best shots at seeing a White-tailed Ptarmigan.

We set out on the hike and were stopped in the first mile by a Black Bear that was about six feet from me, feeding on a rotten tree. Once I called it out, everyone took a few steps back to watch it, only to have it walk towards us. Eventually, it began to eat flowers in the meadow and did not pay any attention to us. Later in the hike we also found an American Pika, one of the cutest animals ever, and some Hoary Marmots, which are a type of large, alpine mammal.

As we approached the trail to get to the Lookout, we ran into a ranger and asked him if he had seen any ptarmigan. He told us he had seen them about two weeks ago near the Lookout. Thanking him, we continued hiking and encountered two or three groups of hikers, who told us that they had just seen ptarmigan at the Lookout. This boosted our morale, but as we got there, the ptarmigan

Continued on next page

were nowhere to be found. Disappointed, we began scanning all the rocks in the area.

While scanning, my friend Alex suddenly shouted "Got it!!!" and pointed to a bird's head walking away from us. The ptarmigan must have been sitting under a rock, and we just lucked into finding it as it walked away. We watched it and followed it, making sure not to stress the bird, until we were satisfied. While we were watching, my friend Sam turned around to check the rocks above us. He then shouted, "ROSY-FINCH!" We all turned, and looked at a backlit Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, but after looking at it for about five seconds, we all returned to watching the ptarmigan.

The ptarmigan turned out to be my 500th ABA lifer and I couldn't have asked for a more special bird. Not only was the ptarmigan amazing, but also the place where we found it was spectacular, with mountains and valleys in every direction. There were dense stands of green pines, but since we were above treeline, there were none surrounding us. There were also smaller patches of snow, which the entire camp used to engage in a giant snowball fight.

Our trip came to an end a few days later, but this camp was by far one of my favorites. The scenery was gorgeous and the birds were spectacular. I highly recommend any of the VENT camps for young birders, including the ones in Arizona and Texas.

ILYB Art Gallery



Bobolink
by Lucas Haberkorn,
ILYB Member – Age 12

Florida Road Trip!

**Text and photos by Nandu Dubey,
ILYB Member – Age 15**

Last December my family and I left our home in Illinois and drove to Florida for winter break. My mother and brother had never been to Florida and I had only been there once a number of years ago. My dad's frequent business trips made him go down to Florida more. We entered Indiana and then went down to Louisville, KY. Through Alabama and the foothills of Appalachians we entered Florida through the panhandle.

Traveling down the west coast of Florida we saw a good number of shorebirds such as Willets, Least Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlins, Sanderlings and American Oystercatchers. In the causeways between islands and the mainland there were some magnificent birding areas. In one of them we saw a Loggerhead Shrike, Common Ground-Doves, Long-Billed Dowitchers and a Common Loon.

The beaches all over were also full of bird life including Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls, Royal Terns and some of the shorebirds already mentioned. At one beach area we spotted a Nelson's Sparrow and a Tricolored Heron and I took a photo of both of them. We even got to see some Bottlenose Dolphins from the shore.

Many state parks included birds such as a Red-Shouldered Hawks, Black Vultures, Bald Eagles, Little Blue Herons, Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets and Brown Pelicans. The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Naples also was full of wildlife. There we saw some good birds including a Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, American Anhinga and two Painted Buntings. We even found our first American Alligator of the trip.

Later on, in Everglades City, we took a boat tour and saw Bottlenose Dolphins up close. We even saw a group of Magnificent Frigatebirds. The same tour gave us good looks at the 10,000 islands made of mangroves. On these islands there were a lot of White Ibis, a few Great Egrets and a big group of American White Pelicans.



Royal Terns

Turning east, we entered the Big Cypress National Preserve. Here we observed West Indian Manatee and American Alligators.

When we reached the Coe Visitor Center in the eastern part of the Everglades we saw more Anhinga and Reddish Egrets. Moving on, we viewed a few Roseate Spoonbills in flight. At one viewing point we got a very good look at a young American Crocodile out of the water.



Tricolored Heron

After experiencing a good part of the Everglades we started heading back home. We stopped for a day at the Kennedy Space Center near Orlando. Along with seeing all the space things we saw one Bald Eagle in flight and another in its nest which we learned was 40 years old! After that we drove back up north through Jacksonville, Atlanta and Nashville. On January 2nd we were back home.

Trivia Challenge

1. Logo bird of the American Birding Association
2. Smallest bird in North America
3. Smallest bird of prey in the world
4. Our tallest native bird
5. First federal duck stamp in 1934 depicted this bird
6. The bird that inspired Roger Tory Peterson when he was a boy

Answers on page 7

Watching as the habitat transformed from farmland into desert, I was getting excited. I knew the flight to Arizona would be over soon. While I don't hate flying, I don't particularly like it. The worst part of flying is the fact that you have to sit there for hours, and there are no birds to look for. The thing that got me through this flight was the itinerary that Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) had mailed to me. I read it, then re-read it, then re-read it again.

This went on for almost four hours, until I felt the plane slowly descending. I knew then it was almost time. All I could do was stare aimlessly out of the window, pondering what birds could be seen during camp. My mind started to wander. I now was primarily thinking about how this camp could go wrong. This is my typical thought process. I am a worrier, but I get over it quickly.

I am jerked out of my thoughts by the plane landing. My brain switches gears as I shift my eyes back and forth looking for the first bird of the trip. I spot something heading straight towards the plane. In a couple seconds, our paths cross and I can tell it's an American Kestrel. Given that this is a native species, I am content with my first bird. I relax until the plane gets to the gate. I soon meet up with the leaders of the camp, Louise Zemaitis and Michael O'Brien. I am the second camper to arrive. Eventually, the other 10 meet up with us. After a quick stop at our hotel, we leave for our first destination, Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson.

Sweetwater Wetlands acts as an oasis to both breeding and migrating birds. It is a place with a decent amount of water and vegetation, which is very unique habitat in the desert. We were entertained by Tropical Kingbirds, a Sora, and a flock of Yellow-Headed Blackbirds at the wetlands.

After birding the wetlands we had dinner and returned to the hotel. Excited for the day to come, I got up early. Our first stop was the Sonora Desert Museum.



Painted Redstart

Arizona Adventure

Notes from Camp Chiricahua

Text and photos by Aaron Gyllenhaal,
ILYB Member – Age 16

We saw many desert specialties including three lifers for me: Varied Bunting, Rufous-winged Sparrow and Lucy's Warbler. We also met up with our third leader here, Jennie Duberstein.

We then went to Mt. Lemon and set up camp. The drive up got me Mexican Jay and Zone-tailed Hawk for my list. The second we got out of the vans, we saw a Yellow-Eyed Junco. A quick survey of the surrounding area of the campground turned up an Olive Warbler.

After all tents were set up, we left to visit some feeders a couple miles from the campground. These feeders delivered Hepatic Tanager and Magnificent Hummingbird for my ABA list, as I'd seen them before in Costa Rica. We soon returned to the campground and eventually fell asleep.

Everybody woke up early the next morning, ecstatic to see what the dawn chorus would hold for us. Just as it started to get light, a Greater Pewee started to sing. Once everybody gathered, we started to walk the entrance road. This proved to be incredibly productive. My highlights were Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Grace's Warbler and Painted Redstart.

After breakfast, we headed down the mountain to Molino Basin and Bear Canyon. The best birds for me were Arizona Woodpecker, Broad-billed Hummingbird and Bridled Titmouse. In the afternoon, we headed up the mountain to Aspen Vista and Marshall Gulch. While birding wasn't spectacular here, the large amount of butterflies swarming there creek were. Also there was fudge. I like fudge.

The next day, we left our campground and headed for the Chiricahua Mountains, the namesake of the camp. On our way, we stopped at the Willcox Sewage Ponds, an oasis for shorebirds.

We found 12 species, the best being hundreds of American Avocets. We got to Cave Creek Ranch and immediately noticed a Blue-throated Hummingbird. We wandered around the grounds without too much to show for it. After dinner, we heard some Common Poorwills calling.

After the first good sleep of the camp, everybody was ready to go. In the morning, we birded the San Simon Valley and the South Fork Trail. Gray Flycatcher, Botteri's Sparrow, Crissal Thrasher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher and Scott's Oriole were the highlights. At night, we met up with Dave Jasper and Jack Pruitt and searched for snakes. We found four rattlesnakes—three Mojave and one Western Diamond-backed. This was one of my favorite days of the trip.

We decided to not use motor vehicles the next day and walked up Cave Creek Canyon. The biggest highlight was an extremely cooperative family of Elegant Trogons. The group consisted of two young and an adult male. Not much else happened until the night when we met up with Dave Jasper again. He took us owling and we got fabulous looks at Whiskered and Western Screech-owls.

Our last full day at Cave Creek Ranch included some amazing birds. Two gorgeous Red-faced Warblers and a Mexican Chickadee highlighted the morning. Then a hike around the grounds of the ranch yielded a singing Montezuma Quail! After failed attempt after failed attempt, we finally got this tough bird.

After driving around Cave Creek Canyon for a while without any highlights, we left for the



Elegant Trogon

San Pedro River Inn. On the drive, we found a family group of four Gray Hawks. Once at the inn, we explored a tiny bit, and I finally got my lifer Vermillion Flycatcher. This had been a frustrating gap in my life list and I was glad to fill it!

The next morning was highlighted by finding a Violet-Crowned Hummingbird nest right outside our rooms. In the afternoon, we decided to go to Beatty's Guest Ranch in Miller Canyon. Besides the ranch's famous hummingbirds, we hoped to see the Spotted Owls which have been seen with regularity in the area.

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After a short walk, we got to the owl spot and immediately laid our eyes on a beautiful fledgling Spotted Owl. Knowing the status of the species, we soon left it alone and went back to enjoy the hummingbirds.

For our last day along the San Pedro River, we went bird banding. When we got there, we found a beautiful adult male Painted Bunting being banded. Back at the main visitor center for the area, we were asked to be in a film about birders. Of course, we obliged and as a reward, we each got a free soda. We had lunch at Carr Canyon and saw some other birders. They told us about an Elf Owl at the base of Miller Canyon. After the sun set, we tried for the owl and found it with ease.

For our last full day of birding we went to many locations. The highlights were Thick-billed Kingbird and Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet. The kingbird was my 600th species in the ABA area. Then we went to Paton's feeders where there were no new birds, but this is where I found out that there was a Wandering Tattler in Chicago. I cursed the birding gods for torturing me like this, but then I realized I was in Arizona. I quickly got over it and went back to photographing Violet-crowned Hummingbirds. We had lunch at Patagonia Lake and we were shocked when a Brown Pelican came out of nowhere—a very rare bird in Arizona. There were no big highlights for the rest of the day.

After saying goodbye to everybody, I returned home to my beloved Illinois. I will always look back on this experience and remember the uniqueness of every bird we saw. I will remember all of the new friends I made. But most of all, I will remember to never take nature for granted. I learned so much about butterflies, dragonflies, moths, reptiles and amphibians. I have a new respect for all of the animals that I neglected to look at before. Camp Chiricahua not only bettered me as a birder, it bettered me as a naturalist.



Magnificent Hummingbird

An introduction to Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

By Kalman E.S. Strauss—ILYB Member, Age 11

A wounded White-Throated Sparrow lies on the ground next to a giant glass skyscraper, petite, solitary and helpless like an ant that is waiting to be stepped on by a giant. Some people notice it, and then keep on walking. Some people think "What can we do?" yet do not know what. Some people walk past, immersed in their thoughts, and do not even notice!

Luckily, that little bird is not alone. An organization called Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM) is trying to help birds like this sparrow. CBCM works on preventing and addressing this very problem of migratory birds colliding with glass buildings and skyscrapers.

CBCM is a bird conservation and rescue organization started in 2002 by Robbie Hunsinger. Annette Prince became the leader of the organization in 2005 and has been leading it for the past 8 years. Thanks to Prince's hard work, CBCM now has over 100 volunteers and is active in both preventing bird collisions and in rescuing collision victims.

Why is bird collision a problem in Chicago? Birds use waterways as a natural map during migration, so when birds are flying along Lake Michigan they fly near Chicago's skyscrapers.

"Chicago is right on the lakefront, along the migratory flyway that birds have used for thousands of years," says Prince. "Plus, a lot of Chicago's skyscrapers are close to the lake."

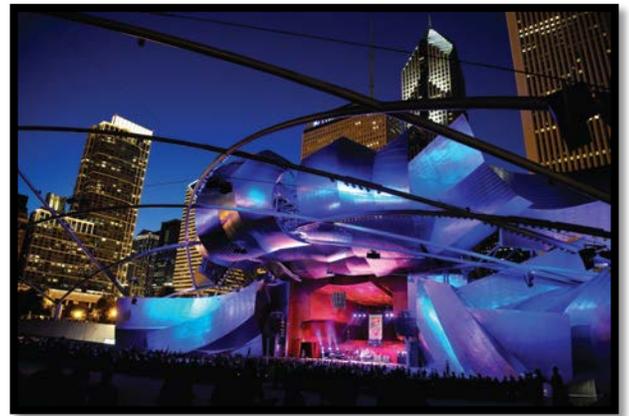
Why do migratory birds collide with skyscrapers? There are two problems with skyscrapers: glass and lights. Let's start with glass. Glass is see-through. Transparent. Clear. Birds cannot know the danger when all they see is air. Birds then collide with the windows not knowing that there is a barrier there. Sometimes there are even trees in the lobby which attract the bird, and it collides with the unseen window.

We know that glass is sometimes hard to see even for people.

"There are videos on YouTube of people accidentally walking into glass doors. If people are fooled by the transparency of glass, then birds are

even more likely to be fooled because they are not used to living with glass the way people are," says Prince.

Glass also reflects trees, grass, blue sky—whatever is in the landscape. So, birds approaching a window might see blue sky and keep moving forward, resulting in a collision.



Chicago at night: Too often a deadly trap for migrating birds.

Lights, as I mentioned, are another danger with skyscrapers. High building lights sometimes attract birds when they are migrating during nighttime.

Prince explains: "Think about what happens to a moth that is attracted to a porch light. The moth cannot seem to get away from the light, even though it is getting hurt. Birds have a similar problem. They are drawn to the light."

Birds fly closer to the lights and either collide with the building or become disoriented in the mass of towering skyscrapers and die from exhaustion.

Why don't birds learn about glass and lights and how to avoid them? It is not at all related to bird intelligence. In fact, urban birds do usually learn to avoid these traps. But migratory birds don't spend enough time in big cities to master their confusion. Plus, skyscrapers are on the migration routes that birds have used for millions of years.

"It's not that they are not smart enough; it is more a matter of evolution," says Prince.

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"Birds have been here for millions of years before there were glass buildings. When you look at how long they have been around, they have relatively very little experience with windows."

Another reason that migratory birds have a hard time learning the booby traps of downtown Chicago is that they have a fidelity to their routes that is very hard, if not impossible, to break. For example, a Brown Creeper once collided with a building, became stunned and was saved by CBCM volunteers. He recuperated, was banded, and then was released. One year later, to the same hour and day, he collided with another building one block over and died.

The creeper story is amazing in many different ways. First of all, it is very rare to find a banded small songbird. Second, it tells us of the loyalty of migratory birds to their migration routes.

Given that bird collisions are such a problem in Chicago, what is CBCM doing to help? The group performs both conservation and rescue work to address the problem of bird collision.

On the conservation front, CBCM works to prevent bird collisions by educating people about the problem, and encouraging them to make their buildings safer. For example, it is working with several other groups on the Lights Out Initiative which encourages buildings downtown to turn off their lights after 11 pm.

Lights Out started in the 1990s but until CBCM was established only a few buildings complied. Now, thanks to the work that CBCM does to educate building managers about bird collisions and the problem of lights, there is a high participation rate: 90-100% of buildings in Chicago. And the program is helping.

"Before the Lights Out Initiative," says Prince, "there could be reports of 1,000 birds outside of one building. We don't see those numbers anymore, so turning down the night time lights seems to be working."

CBCM is also trying to reduce lobby lights because some buildings light up trees or fake grass inside which look inviting to the birds, resulting in more window collisions.

"There are people coming at light reduction from many different perspectives," Prince explains. "Astronomers, birdwatchers and

health care professionals are all joining together to make changes."

In addition to the Lights Out Initiative, another way that CBCM makes buildings safer is by encouraging people to put up decals, banners, or screens on their windows to make the windows less transparent and less reflective. CBCM also educates thousands of people each year about bird collision prevention through conferences, media interviews, presentations, hotline calls, discussions with building staff and articles like this one.

Says Prince: "On the CBCM hotline, we can



*Northern Flicker: A common collision victim in Chicago.
(photo by Jeff Reiter)*

talk to thousands of people each year. These are people we educate about the importance of birds and bird safety. Our efforts to raise awareness are probably even more important than bird rescue. We are not asking people to not use windows or to not build skyscrapers. We're just saying that we should take measures to reduce the hazards."

By educating building staff and residents about the importance of reducing lights and making buildings safer for birds, CBCM prevents a lot of bird collisions.

Unfortunately, despite CBCM's great prevention efforts, birds still collide with windows. CBCM therefore rescues injured birds. When a bird hits a window and survives, it has the equivalent of a concussion, resulting in a dangerous situation.

"When the birds get stunned, they stand very still," Prince explains. "They seem to think that if they do not move, then we will not see them. This works well in their own habitat and protects them from predators. But it is not a good strategy for a bird in the middle of a downtown sidewalk. If it stands still, it is likely

to get stepped on by a passerby or eaten by scavenging crows or gulls."

To help these injured birds, CBCM volunteers go out every morning in the spring and fall, capture the birds that are stunned and put them in a safe paper bag to rest. The live birds are taken to Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn to receive treatment and gain strength. They are released if they survive.

Dead birds are delivered to the Field Museum of Natural History to be studied. Every year CBCM recovers about 6,000 birds, 40% alive and 60% dead. Some of the most common

birds found are White-Throated Sparrows, Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers, Nashville Warblers, Brown Creepers, Northern Flickers, American Woodcocks and Dark-Eyed Juncos. One of the rarest birds that CBCM recently found was a Painted Bunting. Sometimes CBCM also finds Yellow Rails, which are very hard to spot in the wild.

One question that you may ask is, "Why should we care that all these birds are getting injured by flying into windows?" First, bird collisions are a big problem. It is estimated that 1 billion birds a year are killed by collisions with windows, making that the second deadliest trap to birds, the first being habitat loss.

Second, birds are an important part of the environment. If we lose them, insects will infest the world, and there would be fewer plants without the birds to pollinate them.

Third, on an ethical level, what would we say if a building killed 100 people a year? We would quickly change that building. We should do the same with buildings that hurt birds.

Some people suggest that the collision-related deaths of one billion birds each year are just a result of natural selection or a part of nature, but this is not correct. Migratory song birds are not a natural part of the diet of crows and gulls; they only eat the injured song birds because they have an opportunity. Furthermore, the collisions are hurting not only the weakest birds.

"When it comes to bird collisions, it should not be confused with natural selection," Prince says. "Glass is indiscriminate. It does not only kill the weakest bird. In nature, the weakest bird will not survive. But with collisions, it may be the strongest bird that is leading a flock who is the one to get killed. We could be

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degrading the gene pool by taking the strongest members of the species. We just don't know."

Luckily, this problem of bird collisions is a problem we can actually do something about.

"A lot of times you hear about a problem and are saddened, but it feels like there is nothing you can do about the problem, so you give up. But with bird collisions, there is something to be done to help... Here's a problem we can do something about!" says Prince.

Want to get involved? Here are a few ways young birders can help with the bird collision problem:

Make the windows of your home less reflective by putting decals, banners, or screens on your windows.

Encourage similar changes at your school or at the buildings where your parents work.

Educate people about the problem of bird collisions, just like CBCM does.

Donate to CBCM (they have non-profit status through the Chicago Audubon Society).

Become a rescue team member downtown one morning a week.

If you find an injured bird, call the CBCM hotline 773-988-1867.

So, let's not leave that little White-Throated Sparrow injured and alone on the sidewalk. We can help!

Prince sums it up: "We are so lucky to have birds migrating through Chicago. They are our guests. They deserve safe travels. It is our responsibility to protect them while they are passing through. Then we can all continue to enjoy them."

Editor's note: Kalman filed the above article in June 2012. He is a CBCM volunteer and says it was an honor to interview Annette Prince and learn even more about what she and others at CBCM are doing to help birds navigate safely through Chicago during migration. Thanks, Kalman, for this informative and impressive contribution to The Hoot!

Trivia Answers

1. Red-Billed Tropicbird
2. Calliope Hummingbird
3. Elf Owl
4. Whooping Crane
5. Mallard
6. Northern Flicker

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 11, 7:00 a.m.
Warblers of Elsen's Hill
 Leaders: Josh Engel and Matthew Cvetas

Sunday, May 19, 7:00 a.m.
Migrants of Columbus Park
 Joint outing with Chicago Ornithological Society
 Leaders: Ethan, Aaron and Eric Gyllenhaal

Saturday, June 22, 7:30 a.m.
Kankakee Sands/Willow Slough
 Joint outing with Indiana Young Birders
 Leaders: TBA

TRIP RESULTS

Detailed summaries of the following field trips are posted on the ILYB website: illinoisyoungbirders.org

Gulls & Ducks of Lake Michigan
 February 3, 2013

Owls of Bartel Grassland
 February 23, 2013

Loons of Lake County
 March 23, 2013

Hunt for Smith's Longspur
 April 13, 2013

Join ILYB!

Do you have an interest in birds? Are you between the ages of 9 and 18? If yes, we think you'd enjoy being a member of Illinois Young Birders. You'll meet other young birders throughout Illinois and neighboring states, attend expertly guided field trips with other young birders and make lasting friendships with others who share your passion for birding. To sign up, please visit illinoisyoungbirders.org. See you on the trail!



ILYB welcomes new youth members: Ava Norman, Ethan Ellis, Jackie Kuroda, Julia Kuroda and Catherine Gilbert. In addition, new adult sponsor Jennifer Kuroda is busily recruiting new youth members in the Rockford area! (Stay tuned for more about that in the next issue of *The Hoot*).

As always, special thanks to our parent organization, the Illinois Ornithological Society.

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