

ive Park. The woody sanctuary usually holds roosting immature Black-crowned Night-Herons in the summer. Tree, Barn, and Rough-winged swallows are common nesters in nearby building eaves which use Olive Park's open meadow for hunting. The same meadow has hosted Cassin's, Sharp-tailed, Harris', Henslow's, and Clay-colored sparrows. Least Bitterns, Virginia Rails, and Soras haunt the shrub islands and the sanctuary. Peregrine Falcons hunt the park year-round and accipiters cruise the passerine visitors during migration. Chicago's most recent Royal Tern was seen lounging on the Ohio Street Beach at the north side of the park. Other exciting Navy Pier-Olive Park birds include Sabine's Gull and Groove-billed Ani.

Lincoln Park and Northern Beaches

A coalition of environmental, community, and historical groups worked with the Chicago Park District and other public agencies to

park enhancements. The impressive document identifies areas of major historic and natural interest and makes broad recommendations for preservation and redevelopment. The word restoration could be a misnomer since Lincoln Park was originally a swampy dunal community and urban land pressures won't allow a reversion to pre-settlement conditions. But the master plan emphasizes the need to landscape and redevelop the parks for wildlife protection.

Laura Ronneberg, program director for Friends of the Parks, an umbrella group concerned with Lincoln Park issues, said the document is broad in its suggestions for park changes. Implementation of individual projects is left to the Chicago Park District, with input and impetus from citizens' advisory groups. The master plan suggests sound wildlife habitat and conservation guidelines centering on landscaping to provide food, shelter, and relative isolation for migrant and nesting birds.

Major wildlife areas are identified at the South Lagoon, the South Pond, Lincoln Park Zoo, the Sanctuary at Waveland, and at Montrose Point. These areas will receive special landscaping enhancements and maintenance to improve their productivity as ecological zones. The watery areas may be

dredged and emergent vegetation will be re-introduced to encourage marsh development. Human use and abuse of the park will be controlled by design features such as fencing, re-routing of bike, in-line skate, and pedestrian traffic, and through better patrol enforcement by Chicago police and park district staff.

Up and down the lakefront, green parkland acres, with better wildlife plantings, will be added in bits and pieces. Parking lots and old building structures will be removed from many parks, including from Wilson to Lawrence avenues, at the Foster Avenue entrance to the lake front parks, along the lake front from Montrose Avenue to Belmont Avenue, and at many other spots south to Oak Street. The North Pond Task Force, a citizens' advisory group, is working on a restoration plan for this beautiful pond in Lincoln Park. The group is trying to balance the needs of the park's human neighbors and residents with migratory wildlife.

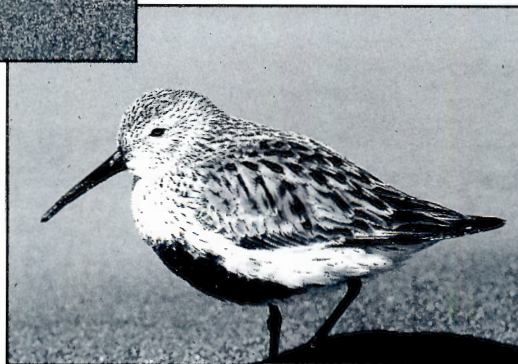
Human abuse at the park at the end of Montrose Avenue already seems to have abated since the closure of the parking lot at the base of the fish hook pier. The pavement has been removed along the seawall and new grassy plantings, interspersed with tree and shrub islands, are being planned. Enhancing park plantings will increase the likelihood of getting even more of the great sparrows which often haunt the very edge of the lake and the park, east of the Magic Hedge, a scruffy hedgerow which attracts great migrant birds because it is on a point of land which juts well out into Lake Michigan.

The Magic Hedge, at the northeastern corner of Montrose Harbor, has received significant planting attention in the past few years. Brown of the Park District said the whole Montrose area will be significantly enhanced under the CPD's eco-



Sanderling at Montrose Beach. Photo taken in May 1994 by Robert Hughes.

create a master plan for restoration and enhancement for all of Lincoln Park's green space, stretching from Oak Street on the south to north of Hollywood Avenue. The Lincoln Park Master Plan provides a working blueprint for major



Dunlin at Montrose Beach, May 1994. Photo by Robert Hughes.