



The CARDINAL NEWS

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Fall 2006

www.illinoisaudubon.org



Plum Island Tree Planting *by Don Goerne*

... plant, ... water, ... wrap, ... REPEAT!

In the past, Plum Island has been the beneficiary of an extraordinary volunteer effort and our September 30, 2006, tree planting workday was no exception. In excess of 150 enthusiastic volunteers made short work of a job our Plum Island Sanctuary committee had unnecessarily agonized over for the past six months. 400 hardwood trees (burr oak, swamp white oak, pin oak, red oak, black walnut, and sycamore) were planted and fenced by noon! The only hitch in the project arose when two boats were temporarily made inoperable from damaged propellers. But even this unforeseen incident was overcome by having extra boats readily available.



A special thank you to Starved Rock, Will County and Kane County Audubon Chapters and other IAS members for their dedication to the reforestation of Plum Island. Other groups assisting in this effort included an Elmhurst Boy Scout Troop, Northern IL University graduate students, and numerous members of the Minooka High School FFA.

IAS is grateful to IDNR for providing the bulk of the funds for this project through a C-2000 grant. Other partners include the USF&WS, Trees Forever, and Chad Pregrake's Living Lands & Waters. This has been a very rewarding and exciting partnership and we look forward to next fall when we plant an additional 400 to 500 trees.



Finally, congratulations to the Plum Island Sanctuary committee for a well organized event. Indeed, many hours of preparation paved the way for a smooth and (almost) uneventful workday.

photos by Lee Witkowski

H and B Bremer Sanctuary holds 3rd Grade Field Labs

by Vicki Hedrick

Bremer Sanctuary hosted six 3rd grade classrooms from three schools in the Hillsboro School District on October 3, 5, and 10. The 3rd grade science curriculum includes a study of habitat and Bremer's Education Committee has developed a field lab to complement the curriculum. Bremer Team Leaders assisted students with identifying trees, measuring tree circumferences, measuring climate variables in both prairie and forest sampling plots, and searching for evidence of fire and animals. A generous donation provided partial funding for the equipment needed to measure the climate variables. The students will return again in April for a seasonal comparison of their study sites.

Don't Put your Hummingbird Feeders Away Quite Yet *by Vern Kleen*

This past summer the Illinois Audubon Society hosted a series of hummingbird festivals from deep southern to north central Illinois. The festivals were extremely popular with more than 2000 people appreciating the opportunity to observe these unique, miniature birds up close and personal. During the festivals, approximately 350 birds were captured, banded, adopted (by making a \$5 donation to the Audubon Society's Land Acquisition Fund) and then released back to the wild by the visiting public. As part of the adoption process, Illinois Audubon notifies the adopters each time their birds are recaptured – and, in 2006, 76 persons received notice that birds they adopted at earlier festivals were recaptured this year.

Now that October has arrived, nearly all our "native" (Ruby-throated) hummingbirds have left Illinois and are migrating towards their winter haunts along the Pacific coast from southern Mexico to western Costa Rica. However, from now through December is the time to watch for "unusual" hummingbirds to appear in Illinois. That's right, from now through December. In recent years a number of Rufous Hummingbirds have found Illinois feeders after the Ruby-throated's had departed. In addition, there have been records of at least three other species from October through

(Continued on page 4)

IAS Calendar (2006)

November 4, 9am-1pm
Open House at Adams Wildlife
Sanctuary sponsored by the Springfield
Audubon Society

November 11
Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield (10:30AM)

December 5, 7:30-9:00pm
IAS Presentation by Tom Clay
Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oakbrook
Public invited

December 14 thru January 5
Christmas Bird Counts

IAS Calendar (2007)

Happy New Year !

January 13
Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield (10:30AM)

January 28 - 29
Bald Eagle Weekend, Starved Rock
State Park Lodge & Illinois River
Waterways Visitor Center

March 9-10
Prairie Chicken Field Trips,
Jasper County

March 21 through April 2
Costa Rica Trip, see IAS website
for info — www.illinoisaudubon.org

March 24
Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield (10:30AM)

April 13-15
IAS Spring Gathering,
Stoney Creek Lodge, East Peoria

April 28-20
Southern Illinois Birding Festival

May 5
Statewide Spring Bird Count

May 12
International Migratory Bird Day,
"Birds in a Changing Climate"

May 18-20
Southern Illinois Field Trip

June 8-10
Northwest Illinois Field Trip

From the Director's Journal, by Tom Clay

I recently attended a workshop for non-profit organization staff and board members. At the onset of the workshop, the dynamic keynote speaker emphatically asked the question; ***"What is your organization's reason for being and, in the end, what does your organization want to be remembered for?"***

Like many workshop participants, I was prepared to answer the speaker's question by quoting the mission of Illinois Audubon Society; *"to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them."* Knowing she had a room filled with people all wanting to share their mission statements, and in an effort to establish a common ground, she re-phrased her question and asked, ***"Why do your members belong?"***

Not giving us time to justify each and every participating non-profit organization's existence, she immediately answered the question for us; ***"Your members belong because you change lives and change conditions."***

The workshop room quickly quieted as we all considered our organizations in relation to that statement. Sitting there surrounded by human-service related non-profits, I cautiously approached the question; ***has the Illinois Audubon Society changed lives and changed conditions?***

Thankfully, I did not have to consider this question very long because of Illinois Audubon's rich history of heightening human awareness of the importance of wildlife protection and habitat preservation. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, we were instrumental in curtailing the feather trade, protecting bird species that were being driven to extinction, and we were champions in the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1916. In later years, Illinois Audubon's accomplishments include successfully working toward a state ban on the use of DDT and for the passage of statewide laws regarding pollution control.

Our organizational imprint can be found within the creation of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Conservation District Act, the Wildlife Preservation Fund and the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. As a land trust partner, Illinois Audubon owns nearly 1000 acres of wildlife sanctuaries and has purchased over a thousand more acres for permanent protection and sound management.

Throughout Illinois, our staff and volunteers actively educate school children and adults alike about the importance of stewardship and the fragile balance between humans and the environment. Through field trips, workshops and coordinated classroom education programs, we know we are making a difference now and for generations to come.

Members of the Illinois Audubon Society should be proud of all we have accomplished over the past 110 years. Although our work will never be done, as we forge ahead into the Twenty First Century we belong to Illinois Audubon because we are committed to nurturing wild things and wild places. Together, without doubt, ***we are changing lives and changing conditions.***

Will County & Kankakee Valley Audubon Groups Host State Gathering *by Rita Renwick*

The Will County Chapter and Kankakee Valley Audubon affiliate hosted the statewide meeting of the Illinois Audubon Society on the weekend of Sept 22, 23, 24 in the Bourbonnais/Kankakee area.

Over 110 people registered for the "Fall Gathering" which included field trips to Kankakee Sands, Aroma Forest Preserve, Kankakee River State Park, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, and Perry Farm. Field trip leaders were Dave Atkinson - President of the Kankakee Valley group, John Baxter, Jed Hertz, Glenn Johnson, Bronson Ratcliff and Ruth Meyer (assisted by Marilyn Campbell and Mary Ann Hoeffliger).

A good time was had by all, despite a few rain showers. A cumulative total of 117 species of birds were reported at the noon compilation lunch at Kankakee River State Park.

Friday night's guest speaker, Dr. Frank Pascoe of the University of St. Francis in Joliet, fascinated the crowd with his program on "Prairie Spiders." Reports of spider web sightings on weekend field trips were abundant!

Saturday evening's speaker, Chip O'Leary with The Nature Conservancy, acquainted the group with The Kankakee Sands Restoration Project in Newton Co. Indiana (the site of one of our field trips).

The Silent Auction and Raffle raised \$1,091! Thanks to all who participated in this enjoyable weekend!



photo by Helen Parker

Bronson Ratcliff leading a trip.

Board of Directors Elections, New Members and Retirements

John Wallace, Carol Silvestri and Lee Witkowski, returning members of the IAS Board of Directors were given the nod for another two years by the membership attending the Annual Meeting during the Fall Gathering this past September in Kankakee. In addition, three new members were elected to the board to serve for the next two years and, hopefully, beyond.

Randell "Randy" Wiseman lives in Springfield, Illinois. She is currently the Elementary Education Coordinator for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Prior to accepting that position in February 2006, Randy worked for 17 years at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education, and its predecessor agency, the Illinois Department of Conservation. Before moving to Springfield in 1989, Randy worked for 9 years as an elementary school teacher in the Massac County Unit School District in Metropolis, Illinois. Randy is married to Bernie and they have five children and seven grandchildren.

Susan Finzen is a resident of rural Petersburg, Illinois. Susan worked at WICS TV in Springfield, Illinois as anchor for 17 years and news director for 4 years. She previously served on the Boards of the American Heart Association, GoodWill and Crime Stoppers Menard/Sangamon Counties. She is married to Ken Baumgarten and has two children. Susan enjoys the outdoors, particularly gardening and horseback riding.

Jeff Walk lives in Toulon, Illinois, and is a research scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey. Jeff led the development of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, and is now working on the centennial statewide bird surveys, begun in 1906 by Stephen Forbes and Alfred Gross, and carried on by Richard and Jean Graber in the 1950s. Jeff and his wife, Regina, enjoy running and cycling.

Board members Alan Whitlaw and Arnie Bock retired this year. Alan had served for seven years as the IAS Treasurer. Arnie was the Lake-Cook Chapter representative. Neal McDermott has left the Finance Committee after many years of service. Neal completed twelve years on the Board in 2002, including terms as Vice-President then President of the Society, but remained active on the Finance Committee. The service and dedication of these men has certainly made a positive difference for IAS and we look forward to seeing them at future meetings and events.

The Cardinal News is produced quarterly at the office of the Illinois Audubon Society, 230 E. Broadway, Springfield. Mailing address: PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL, 62708. Contact us at (217) 544-BIRD or e-mail jskoglund@illinoisaudubon.org.

Focus on our Board — Continuing our in-depth interviews with our board members we present the latest “scoop.” The focus this issue is on John Wallace, At-Large member from the Shawnee Audubon Society.

Please state your full name: John Brian Wallace

Nickname: I don't really have one. My family refers to me as "Johnny" and some like to call me "John Muir" because of the historical character that I often portray.

Favorite bird: Whichever bird I'm enjoying watching and listening to at the time, but if I had to pick just one out of the many amazing species, it would probably be the wood thrush.

Hometown: Carbondale, but I was born in E. St. Louis and grew up in Collinsville.

Second favorite hobby: It's tough to choose but I suppose canoeing would win out.

My best birding accessory is: I'm not much into accessorizing so I would have to say good quality habitat.

A website that I visit often: The IAS website is clearly my favorite for obvious reasons but, because I dislike spending time on the computer and am so technologically challenged, the site I have to visit most often when I am online is Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER), to check on the status of the Court case I am involved in.

Where would you live if you won the Lottery? In Pope County on the piece of land that Karen and I bought several years ago.

What famous person would you like most to have lunch with-and why? Hmm....do historical people count? If so, I would likely choose Aldo Leopold because of his ability to so succinctly articulate the importance of the land ethic. I would love to tap into some of that ability. People may ask why not Muir? My response would be that I have spent so much time researching Muir that I have my own concept on how I think he was or maybe even should have been. If I were actually to sit down with him, I might learn that he was actually different than the way I perceive him, and I think that scares me! If I have to choose living people, I would probably go with a local Congressman that has been making such poor decisions regarding our natural world. He has a League of Conservation Voters scorecard of zero! I doubt that he has very often sat down and listened to environmental types like me and understood a different perspective.

Favorite spot in nature: Undoubtedly Lusk Creek Wilderness in the Shawnee National Forest.

My favorite music: Bluegrass, even though I love all kinds of music.

Hummingbird Feeders (Continued from page 1)

December that wouldn't have been recorded here if the hummingbird feeders had been taken in for the winter. Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and other nearby states have recorded even more unusual species that have not yet been found in Illinois – so, keep your feeders out until at least after Thanksgiving. Who knows, you may be the first to discover a new Illinois species. Should such a bird visit your feeder, please contact the Illinois Audubon Society office (217-544-2473) or Vernon Kleen (217-787-3515) immediately so that the bird can be properly documented for the state records. We EXPECT other species to show up in Illinois.

By the way, keeping a feeder out until after Thanksgiving will not deter any of the resident hummingbirds from departing on normal schedule. When it's time to migrate they will do so whether your feeder is present or not.

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Population Trends Presentation Available

The Bird Conservation Network (BCN) has contacted IAS recently to report that they have begun analyzing their database of over 100,000 bird monitoring records for population trends. Illinois Audubon is a member of BCN, a coalition organization that includes 20 bird clubs, Audubon groups, ornithological societies and other conservation organizations located primarily in the Chicago metropolitan area -- approximately 40,000 people. BCN's mission is the conservation of birds and the habitats they need to survive. There is no full time staff; BCN's board is made up of volunteer representatives from the member groups who carry out the needed work.

In addition to the web page, BCN is offering a power point presentation that gives an overview of the BCN census and the analysis method, highlights some results, and encourages birders to become monitors. The presentation can be tailored to last as short as 15-20 minutes or as long as 30-45 minutes. Chapters interested in having someone from BCN give the presentation can contact Glenn Gabanski by e-mail, ggabanski@comcast.net or by calling the BCN office (847) 965-1150. BCN is eager to show the fine work that has been accomplished with the support of member organizations like IAS. An explanation of the analysis method and displays of results for over 120 Illinois species is available for viewing at <http://bcnbirds.org/trends/>.

In Memory.....

Illinois Audubon extends its condolences to the family of Sandy Hammel of Springfield, who passed away on July 11, 2006. Sandy's love of and dedication to the natural world was demonstrated through her many hours of volunteer work with the Illinois Native Plants Society, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Environmental Education Association of Illinois, Association of Interpretive Naturalists and the Sierra Club. Sandy served on the board of directors of both the Illinois Audubon Society and the Springfield Audubon Society, and served as the Education Chair for Adams Wildlife Sanctuary.



photo by Jo Skoglund

John McKee instructs volunteers before heading to Plum Island

	2006			Year Ended 3/31/2006
	Unre- stricted	Tempo- rarily Restricted	Perma- nently Restricted	
ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2006				
REVENUES, GAINS & OTHER SUPPORT				
Donations	61,383	6,303	-	67,686
Bequests	5,000	104,001	-	109,001
Grants	-	63,960	444,188	508,148
Membership dues	73,565	-	-	73,565
Memorials and honorarium	1,871	-	-	1,871
Restricted gifts	-	76,559	-	76,559
Sales of merchandise	9,298	-	-	9,298
Investment income	56,505	24,626	-	81,131
Net unrealized and realized gains (losses on investments)	30,427	1396	-	31,823
Environmental Fund of Illinois	7,189	-	-	7,189
Program income	12,024	-	-	12,024
Advertising income	625	-	-	625
Field trips	1,241	3,025	-	4,266
Contributions of goods and services	41,637	-	-	41,637
Miscellaneous income	3,500	-	-	3,500
Farm income	12,479	-	-	12,479
Gain/(Loss) on sale of land	-	-	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	316,744	279,870	444,188	1,040,802
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS				
Expiration of purpose restrictions	410,969	-410,969	-	-
Total revenue, gains and other support	727,713	-131,099	444,188	1,040,802
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Operating	154,738	-	-	154,738
Sanctuary	100,178	-	-	100,178
Education	14,165	-	-	14,165
Supporting services:				
Management and general	84,887	-	-	84,887
Total expenses	353,968	-	-	353,968
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	373,745	-131,099	444,188	686,834
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,299,050	1,013,074	-	3,312,124
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	2,672,795	881,975	444,188	3,998,958

New Illinois River Educational Web Site Announced

The Illinois State Museum has released a new educational Web site entitled "Of Time and the River: 12,000 Years of Human Use of the Illinois River." This site is designed for use in grades 5-12. The program was funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program and covers a wide range of topics related to the Illinois River, including archaeology, biology, chemistry, cultural anthropology, ecology, economics, environmental science, geology, and history. Key features of the site include:

- A 115-minute, narrated, captioned video divided into 12 chapters.
- Content accessible for the hearing and visually impaired as well as other special needs students.
- Hundreds of pages of text with content aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.
- Water quality data, exhaustive references and web sites, and other resources for class projects and individual student assignments.
- A Teacher's Guide with sample lesson plans and interactive games to reinforce learning.

This is an exciting new educational tool to be used in the classroom, at home, or in libraries. The Web site address is: <http://www.oftimeandtheriver.org>.



ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 2547
Springfield, IL 62708
WWW.ILLINOIS AUDUBON.ORG

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, IL
Permit No. 986

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them.

Welcome New Members

Kathleen Baird, Elsah
Nancy Beattie, Quincy
James & Margaret Borgerson, Mt. Pulaski
Robin Fjelstad, Wheeling
William Frankenberg, Sycamore
Margarette Gross, Elmhurst
Holly Hammel, Peoria
Margaret Harn, Macomb
Jane Herbek, Wadsworth
Marv Hoech, Springfield
Patricia Keane, Chicago
Ken & Polly Kirby, Riverton
Judith Graber & Paul Kuehnert, Batavia
Cynthia Mazrim, Athens
Sherri & Terry McDonald, Franklin
Charles & Susan Mies, Geneva
Margo Miller, Quincy
Karen & Larry Miller, Wilmington
Lynda Morgan, Danville
Paul Neiswander, Crystal Lake
Todd, Mary & Family Palmer, Springfield
Shelle Price, Chicago
Eleanor Robertson, Springfield
Cheryl Schellhammer, Vermont
Louise Shanklin, Bushnell
Marilyn Smith, Peoria
Carol Witter, Good Hope
Carol Ann Wood, Petersburg

IAS Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program

Congratulations to the following applicants whose yards have been awarded official IAS Bird and Butterfly Backyard Sanctuary status.

The Mandernach Family, Arlington Heights
Mr. Robert W. Motz, Rock Island
Thelma Lewis Demet, St. Charles
Mr. Chet Szeriag, Woodridge

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Have you checked our website lately? We've been doing some updating. Pictures from our recent tree planting at Plum Island have been posted along with other essential pieces of information regarding IAS. Webmeister Lee Witkowski has been volunteering many hours to help make your IAS website better than ever. Need to contact a local chapter or register for a meeting? Just head to www.illinoisaudubon.org. More updates and downloads appearing daily.



REMEMBER: Memberships in the Illinois Audubon Society make great Christmas gifts! Introduce someone to IAS – they'll receive a welcome package along with the Cardinal News and the IAS Magazine. It's a gift they will remember you for all year long.