



The CARDINAL NEWS

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Spring 2010

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Gathering at the Mighty Mississippi River

Submitted by Dan Moorehouse, President, Western Prairie Audubon Society

In spite of having to dodge a few rain drops our spring gathering was a big hit. Over 130 Illinois Audubon members gathered at the small river town of Nauvoo Illinois for big river birding and western Illinois culture during the weekend of April 31st – May 2nd. Organized by Western Prairie Audubon our gathering included 10 different field trips such as Cedar Glen Eagle Roost, Stony Hills Nature Preserve, Geissler Savanna, and a Mississippi River Ecology boat trip. In addition two fantastic programs were presented, “Combat Birding on the Upper Mississippi” by Kelly McKay and “A Century of Change: Bird Communities of Illinois” by Jeff Walk. Tom Clay, Illinois Audubon Executive Director, gave a brief summary on the historical link between Abraham Lincoln, Margery Adams (Illinois Audubon Adams Wildlife Sanctuary), and Joseph Smith (Nauvoo Mormon Profit).

The event featured wonderful local food including the 150 year old Hotel Nauvoo (restaurant) with some of the best food in western Illinois: Mississippi River smoked fish, and a wine tasting from the oldest vineyard in Illinois, Baxter’s Vineyard.

Highlights of the 129 birds seen include: ring-necked duck, canvasback, greater scaup, surf scoter, American white pelican, great egret, green heron, osprey, bald eagle, broad-winged hawk, sora, Wilson’s phalarope, Caspian tern, yellow-billed cuckoo, belted kingfisher, red-headed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, yellow-throated vireo, Philadelphia vireo, bank swallow, cliff swallow, sedge wren, northern mockingbird, golden-winged warbler, black-throated green warbler, blackpoll warbler, Prothonotary warbler, northern waterthrush, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warbler, summer tanager, scarlet tanager, vesper sparrow, lark sparrow, savannah sparrow, swamp sparrow, dickcissel, bobolink, Baltimore oriole, and eurasian tree sparrow. Trip attendees also marveled at some unusual spring flora including showy orchids, blue toadflax, shooting stars and wild hyacinths.



Birding on the Mississippi River. *Photo courtesy of Lee Witkoski, Will County Audubon Society.*

Welcome New Membership/Volunteer Development Coordinator

With our top master plan goal to increase membership statewide, Jo Skoglund was hired on April 1st as our new Membership/Volunteer Development Coordinator. Jo has been actively involved with the Illinois Audubon Society for 10 years as a board director and then as the Assistant to the Executive Director. “Jo’s extensive experience with non-profits and her familiarity with Illinois Audubon make her a perfect fit for the position,” said Tom Clay, Executive Director. In addition to her statewide membership responsibilities, Jo coordinates the education programs at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. For membership or Adams Wildlife Sanctuary questions, please contact Jo Skoglund at 217-544-5781 or jskoglund@illinoisaudubon.org.

IAS Calendar

- June 4-6
Northwest Illinois Field Trip with Vern Kleen*
- NEW!! June 4-6
"Birds and Bridges" Field Trip with Marilyn Campbell - Full
- June 26
Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield (10:30AM)
- October 9-11
Saw-whet Owl and Whooping Crane Field Trip to Wisconsin with Tom May*
- October 16
Annual Meeting, Ballard Nature Center, Altamont

* See page 3 for details and contact information.



2010 Hummingbird Festivals:

The schedule can be found in the spring issue of *Illinois Audubon*, page 27 or on our website, www.illinoisaudubon.org.

Mark your calendar

Fall Annual Meeting to be held October 16th at Ballard Nature Center, Altamont. More details to follow in the summer issue.

The Cardinal News is produced quarterly at the office of the Illinois Audubon Society, 2315 Clear Lake Avenue, Springfield, IL. Mailing address: PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL, 62708. Editor Janet Hawes-Davis. Contact us at (217) 544-2473 or email: ias@illinoisaudubon.org.

From the Director's Journal by Tom Clay

For many years, Illinois landowners allowing people to access their property to bird watch, hike, fish, and participate in numerous outdoor-related activities were protected by state statute against legal liability. In 2005, Illinois landowners lost that protection.

Since 2006, conservation organizations have unsuccessfully united behind an effort to amend the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act. With a high percentage of Illinois in private ownership, landowner liability protection must include those property owners who open their land for recreation and conservation purposes.

The 2005 amendment to the Act afforded liability protection for landowners allowing hunting and recreational shooting on their property and erroneously eliminated protection for all other forms of outdoor recreation. Since then, conservation organizations like Illinois Audubon have been trying to reinstate landowner liability protection for recreation and conservation purposes while retaining protection for landowners allowing shooting sports to occur on their property.

Why is amending an erroneously altered 40-year old state statute back to its original form while including the intent of the 2005 amendment so difficult? That is a question you should ask your state senator and representative. While you have them on the telephone, ask them if they support amendment language like that in **House Bill 6072**. If they support restoring landowner liability protection for ALL landowners and outdoor enthusiasts, thank them. Although I cannot imagine a reason why, if they do not support the effort to restore landowner liability protection, urge them to reconsider or ask what would convince them.

Before taking action, I encourage you to review information provided by our conservation partners at Openlands. Established in 1963, Openlands website (www.openlands.org) provides a tremendous amount of background and action-item resources regarding the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act.

I will end this journal entry with some great news per my message in the winter issue of *Illinois Audubon* magazine. If you recall, we asked for your help in increasing Illinois Audubon's statewide membership. Thanks to your help, a great response at Bald Eagle Weekend and success with our annual target mailing, we have increased our membership by 206 households since January 1, 2010. Thank you for helping us get the word out about Illinois' best kept secret. In its 114th year, the Illinois Audubon Society continues preserving native habitat for native wildlife. What could be better than that?

Color printing provided courtesy of Frye-Williamson Press, Inc.

2010 IAS Field Trips

Northwest Illinois Field Trip (June 4-6, 2010)

Annual Illinois Audubon Trip to Northwest Illinois. Locations visited: Mississippi Palisades State Park, Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge, portions of the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge, Green River Conservation Area, Lowden Miller State Forest and Nachusa Grasslands. See registration information below.

REGISTRATION for Northwest Illinois Field Trip:

Please contact Vern Kleen, trip guide, as soon as possible. Call 217.787.3515 or e-mail vkleen@comcast.net. If you care to mail your reservation, please send to Vern at 1825 Clearview Drive, Springfield, IL 62704. Registration fees are totally tax-deductible and do not include transportation, food, or lodging. Visit the Illinois Audubon website for additional information at www.illinoisaudubon.org.

Saw-whet Owl Trip to Wisconsin (October 9 - 11, 2010)

Annual Illinois Audubon trip to Wisconsin to see the whooping cranes and saw-whet owls. Visit our website for a detailed itinerary. The cost of this trip is \$280. This includes a donation to Illinois Audubon Society's Land Acquisition Fund, two nights in motels (double occupancy), transportation, and entrance fees to the two banding stations and the crane foundation. For more information or to reserve a spot on this tour contact Tom May at samtum@att.net or 618-475-2790, and visit these web sites: Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, International Crane Foundation, Leigh-Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, and Linwood Springs Research Station.

Central America Nature Tour Info
2011 Trips Booking Now



BELIZE 8-Day Trip

March 3-10, 2011

COSTA RICA 10-Day Trip

February 22 to March 3, 2011

COMBINED BELIZE & COSTA RICA – 17-Day Trip

February 22 to March 10, 2011

BELIZE: This 8-day/7-night trip (sponsored by Lincoln Land Community College) includes visits to a wide variety of sites and habitats including Nekos Cave, Crystal Paradise, Xunatunich Mayan Ruins, Jaguar Reef, Baboon Sanctuary and Blue Hole. Colorful birds expected include hummingbirds, toucans, trogons, parrots, antbirds, flycatchers, oropendolas, seedeaters, manakins, becards and tanagers

COSTA RICA: This 10-day/9-night trip includes visits to Sarapiquí and La Selva Biological Research Station, Rancho Naturalista, Savegre Valley and the central mountains, and the Carara area on the Pacific coast. Bird species expected include great views of hummingbirds, trogons—probably the quetzal, toucans, macaws--possibly both species, other parrots, cuckoos, raptors, motmots, silky-flycatchers, wrens, tanagers (and a goal of 300+ species).

BELIZE & COSTA RICA: This 17-day/16-night adventure combines both trips. Even though these trips are not scheduled until February and March of 2011, early reservations are necessary because of the limitations of group size and accommodations. for trip details and reservation forms.

For trip details and reservation forms: Contact Vernon Kleen at vkleen@comcast.net or 217.787.3515.

Note: These trips are not sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society.

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary — Urban Jewel

Submitted by Jo Skoglund, Membership/Volunteer Development Coordinator, Illinois Audubon Society

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary (AWS) sits quietly on the east side of Springfield, surrounded by development on three sides and a corn field on the fourth. It is easy to forget the urban bustle outside the boundaries as you walk into the interior on one of the trails. For visitors it is a restful green space. Hikers stop by on their lunch hour and out-of-town visitors explore the trails on their way from other Lincoln tourist venues. The energy level shifts in the spring and fall as dozens of school children leap off the bus into an awaiting outdoor adventure.

AWS is unique to the Illinois Audubon sanctuary system. While recent bird banding activities conducted on site prove that AWS is an important resting and refueling stop for spring and fall migrants, there are no critical species to protect or habitats to preserve here -- not yet anyway. With the help of the newly formed Local Sanctuary Committee and Friends of the Sangamon Valley, the future looks bright for improved native habitat at AWS.

While visitors and residents appreciate the green woodlands in the midst of the urban area, a closer look reveals nature run amok. Nearly 1800 fruit trees were documented in 1910 as part of the Adams Truck Farm and Orchard. When James Adams died in 1931, the fruit and vegetable business was abandoned. Wife, Laura, her sister Mary and young Margery Adams let nature take over and by the 1940s the homestead at 2315 Clear Lake Avenue rivaled Sleeping Beauty's cottage. Celebrating Invasive Plant Species Awareness Month at AWS this May was a snap.

Margery died in 1983, leaving the house and 28 acres to IAS. She loved her birds and woodland mammals and wished Illinois Audubon to maintain the place where she grew up and lived as a sanctuary for her "wild friends." Many local organizations pitched in throughout the years to help improve the sanctuary for use as an urban environmental education center. In 2008, Miss Margery's house underwent major changes and became the location of a permanent Illinois Audubon Society headquarters.

AWS expanded to 40 acres in December 2008 with a gift of land. Located north and adjacent to the sanctuary, this new 12-acre addition underwent aggressive restoration last fall with the help of a Landowner Incentive Grant to remove non-native species and increase the diversity of native habitats. Recent workdays were spent planting trees and seeding the new eight acre prairie. Old trails will be expanded and new ones added to interpret the new wetlands and prairie.

Anyone stopping by to visit will hear us talk about Miss Margery and the history of AWS. We speak of her love of nature and determination to preserve her land for the generations to come. Linking her story to our mission and goals helps people to understand what Illinois Audubon Society is all about: protection, education and appreciation of nature.

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary trails are open sunrise to sunset.



Miss Margery Adams on her front porch. Photograph by Barry Locher, 1981, courtesy of The State Journal-Register.



Spring Flowers at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

From left to right: Puschkinia, Virginia Blue Bells, and Aconite. Photos courtesy of Jo Skoglund, Illinois Audubon Society.



Welcome New Members

Roz Alvarez, Mundelein
 Dorie Anderson, Braidwood
 Marlys Bandy, Jacksonville
 Jeannie Barnes, Decatur
 Paul Barrett, Marseilles
 Mary & Barry Bass, Petersburg
 John Baxter, Bourbonnais
 Barbara Been, St. Charles
 Anthony Bellisario, III, Darien
 Jan Benson, Morris
 Donna Black, Cobden
 Donna Blackwell, Bethalto
 Valerie Blaine, St. Charles
 Paulette Bland, Joliet
 Diane Bodkin, South Barrington
 Anne French & Stan Bosch, North Aurora
 James Boudreau, Glencoe
 Marilyn Boyle, Peoria
 Andrea Brackett, Grayslake
 John O. Brahmer, Vernon Hills
 Earl Bricker, Camp Point
 Amy Brunner, Evanston
 A. P. Butir, Downers Grove
 Sally Cadagin, Springfield
 Robert & Stacey Calvert, Paris
 Donna Caplinger, Moweaqua
 Bob Carper, Streator
 Deb Chabi, Palatine
 The Chasmar Family, Batavia
 John Christopher, Elmhurst
 Robert G. Clark, Chicago
 Catherine Clark, Batavia
 Julie Clark, Lindenhurst
 Brenda Clark-Cox, McHenry
 Beth Clayton, Urbana
 Gary Cole, Charleston
 N. Dana Collins, Princeton
 Vermilion County Conservation District, Danville
 Dr. Erica Corbett, Durant, OK
 Marsha Corley, Channahon
 Yves & Diane Cournoyer, Batavia
 Doug Crane, Woodstock
 Eileen Cunningham, Carrollton
 Tim Dever, New Athens
 Beth & Arthur Diamond, Libertyville
 Cheryl Dillenburg, Springfield
 Donna Dittmann, Lemont
 Mike & Anne Dunbar, Prophetstown
 David & Lynne Dusel, Elgin
 Carrie Edwards, Chicago
 Deanna C. Eng, Downers Grove
 Carl England, Oak Lawn
 Helga Faust, Romeoville
 Julie Fessett, Havana
 Sharon Finzer, Naperville
 Stuart & Judy Fliege, Springfield
 Arlene Ford, Ottawa
 Tracy & Rick Fox, Chillicothe
 Gail Gammel, Chicago
 Edward Gardner, Springfield
 Jane A. Gauss, Arlington Heights
 Georgette Gladstone, Park Forest
 Vincent & Linda Good, Tinley Park
 Charlene Gordon, Minooka
 Miriam Greene, Mason City
 Teri Grimm, Leland
 Donna Grootenboer, Seneca
 Ed & Lydia Grossman, Palos Heights

Gail Grutzius, Wheaton
 Richard Gunia, Chicago
 Matthew Haake, Peoria
 Lorraine Hamilton, Peru
 Les & Carol Happ, Hartsburg
 America-Lynn Hardy, Murphysboro
 Joan Harris, Glenview
 Susan F. Hesketh, Mahomet
 Jay & Sue Hill, Princeville
 Jim P. Hofstad, Darien
 Victoria Hofstein, Highland Park
 Dave C. Holloway, Auburn
 Linda Horn, Belleville
 Paulette Horne, Sugar Grove
 David Hultgren, Peoria
 Kevin & Karen Irons, Havana
 Jim Jackson, Decatur
 Jennifer & Stephen Janasie, Springfield
 Fred Johnson, Peoria
 J. J. Johnson, Normal
 Marion Johnson, Lincolnwood
 Cheryl & Everett Johnson, Huntley
 Marsha Jones, Mendota
 Richard & DaleAnn Kania, Homer Glen
 Jon Keasling, Mt. Prospect
 Sheila Kelley, Ottawa
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kelsheimer, Springfield
 Bob & Cathi Kershner, St. Charles
 Mary Ann Klindworth, Canton
 Norma Koen, Hillsboro
 Andrea Landsberg, Antioch
 Darlene Lauzon, Sandwich
 Mary & John Laws, Naperville
 Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, Glencoe
 Susan & Arnie Liepa, Hawthorn Woods
 Sharon Lindner, Chicago
 Gina C. Lopina, Lockport
 Patricia Lutzenkirchen, Wauconda
 Kelly MacDonald, McHenry
 Catherine M. Majeske, Chicago
 Ron & Diane MaKeever, Ottawa
 Michael Marlow, Lombard
 John Marshall, Springfield
 Laurel & Henry Maze, Peru
 Judith Mazion, Somonauk
 Sam & Cindy McClallen, Yorkville
 Mark McCully, Joliet
 Marcia McHarry, Havana
 Derrick McKinney, Peoria
 Tom M. McMahon, Evanston
 Chris Meade, Geneva
 Joe Mehaffey, Morris
 William Meyer, Lincoln
 Marjorie Milton, St. Charles
 Daphne Mitchell, Ottawa
 Mary Beth Morrissey, Wood Dale
 Chris Morrow, Chatham
 Dick & Barbara Moss, Petersburg
 Deb Mottl, Burr Ridge
 Mary Jo Mulcahy, Western Springs
 Carol Neff, New Athens
 Christy Nichols, Bunker Hill
 Anne Norris, La Moille
 Stacey O'Brien, Hometown
 Stephen Ode, Sandwich
 Lucille Oglesby, Homer Glen
 Kristin Olsen, Warrenville
 Chiyoiko Omachi, Springfield

Rosine O'Neal, Orland Park
 Dorothy & Joel Orlinsky, Ingleside
 James & Karen Osgood, Springfield
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 Louis Pasquale, Geneva
 Shirley Pauley, Bethalto
 Michael Pavilion, Chicago
 Michelle Pawlick, Springfield
 Mary, Peele-Masek, Chicago
 Jim Peterson, Hoffman Estates
 Darrel & Kay Phillips, North Barrington
 Nancy Piacenti, Peru
 Jean Pohl, La Salle
 Kay Preshlock, Crystal Lake
 Janice Prine, Chicago
 Ellyn Prosize, Chicago
 Betsey L. Puth, Winnetka
 Lee Ramsey, Northfield
 Sue Rathbone, Spring Grove
 George Ray, Rochester
 Roberta Rehor, LaGrange
 Alison Richards, Saint Charles
 John Rickey, Tinley Park
 Linda Roberts, Marseilles
 Mike A. Robinson, Danville
 John Ronchetto, Bismarck
 Robin Rothbard, Chicago
 Jessica Runner, Danville
 David & Stephanie Russell, Clinton
 Evelin Salopek, Aurora
 Lance Schiera, Orland Park
 Christy Schisler, Peoria
 Joe Schmidt, Belleville
 Raymond Schroeder, Kalamazoo
 Glen & Linda Schuetz, Addieville
 Ronald & Helen Ann Seamon, Hillsboro
 Tom & Beth Shipley, Groveland
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 Pamela J. Stanek, Peoria
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 Jim Stephenson, Wheaton
 Sherri Stevens, Arlington Heights
 Linda Stoecker, Litchfield,
 T. D. Studebaker, Oakley
 Pat Sullivan, Rushville
 Karen Summerell, Bloomington
 Chris Swisegood, Ashland
 Robert Trendler, St. Charles
 David Turner, Champaign
 Charles & Linda Utley, Mendota
 Connor Walker, Winnetka
 Pat Weber, Romeoville
 Diane Weber, Chillicothe
 Mark Weisman, Glenview
 Char Weitkamp, Rochester
 Karin Wethington, Johnsburg
 Patricia A. Wiedenman, Lakeland, FL
 Timothy & Andrea Williams, Macomb
 Vicki Winemiller, Valier
 Angela Wissel, Washington
 Sandra Wollrab, Hoffman Estates
 Thomas Worms, Chicago
 Patricia Wright, Springfield
 Betsy Wroblewski, LaSalle
 Haley Yarber, Fairmont City
 The Ziegler Family, Brighton
 Jackie Zimmerman, Libertyville
 Woodhaven Assoc., Sublette

Cardinal News

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



Helping Preserve Illinois Flora and Fauna Since 1897

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.

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Focus on the Board: The focus this issue is on Sara Mathis who also serves as the Vice President of the Emiquon Audubon Society.

Please state your full name: Sara Mathis

Nickname: None.

Favorite Bird: All of the hummingbirds.

Hometown: Currently live in Canton, IL.

Second Favorite Hobby: Flower gardening.

My Best Birding Accessory is: My 10-year-old binocular.

A website that I visit often: birdsandblooms.com

Where would you live if you won the Lottery? On an island.

What famous person (living or deceased) would you like most to have lunch (not dinner) with – and why? Princess Diana – I always liked to hear about her charity work.

My favorite spot in nature: On top of a mountain next to a babbling brook.

My favorite music: Broadway show tunes.

If you were a bird, what would you be? Barred Owl.

REMEMBER:

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



May is Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month