

**VISHNU SPRINGS/ARGYLE LAKE STATE PARK
GERALD WHITE PRAIRIE**

FIELD TRIP OPTION [A] (Saturday AM)

Start time: 6:45am, Approximate end time: 3:45pm (all day trip)

Tour of historic Vishnu Springs Resort excellent for forest warblers; oak barrens and reservoir lake at Argyle; 7-year old prairie restoration and grassland fields at Gerald White property.

Trip will involve moderate to strenuous walking (for those who want to walk to the old hotel at Vishnu Springs). Hikes at each location will range from ½ to 1 mile in total length.

Vishnu Springs, owned by WIU, is a dense forest with a creek and natural seep springs which act as a trap for migratory warblers. In the 1800s Vishnu Springs was resort hotel, famous for its natural spring water and hosting visitors such as Al Capone. Argyle Lake State Park consists of high quality oak woodland and barrens communities surrounding a large reservoir attracting a wide variety of forest interior birds. The Gerald White Prairie is a restoration planted in 2003 from seed provided by Western Prairie Audubon. The prairie restoration is surrounded by oak woodlands and successional fields offering a wide variety of bird habitats. Birds anticipated on this trip include: Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, Pileated Woodpecker, Lark Sparrow, and Cerulean Warbler.

Meet in parking lot of Nauvoo Family Inn & Suites

Attendees will be encouraged to carpool

Trip Leader: Barbara Brown, Jay & Michelle Hainline, Trip Host: Gerald White (Gerald White Prairie)

Approximate distance that attendees will cover: 100 miles roundtrip.

DIRECTIONS

Destination or Basic Route that will be taken to get to destination or multiple stop route: from Nauvoo Family Inn & Suites head East on IL Rt. 96; road turns to North and continues through Niota and bends back Easterly then Northerly; continue on Rt. 96 to Dallas City; at 4-way stop in Dallas City take right/East onto Rt. 9; continue East on Rt. 9 through La Harpe and Blandinsville; just over 1 mile past Blandinsville turn right/South on Blandinsville/Tennessee Blacktop (there will be a brown sign for directions to Argyle Lake State Park); continue South on this blacktop road about 7 miles to the sign directing traffic to turn left/East to Argyle Lake State Park [trip leader will meet group there at this intersection West of road opposite yellow house].

To reach Vishnu Springs continue on blacktop South past this intersection for about 1.8 miles; turn left/West on County Road 1100N; follow 1100N for 3 miles; road bends to South; park at wooden gate (entrance to Vishnu Springs).

To reach Argyle from Vishnu: reverse course, travel North from parking area; road (CR1100N) bends to right/East; continue on 1100N for 3 miles to stop sign; turn left/North on blacktop and travel 1.8 miles to intersection at yellow house and follow signs to Argyle; turn right/East for 1.5 miles; turn right/South for about ½ mile to entrance to park; follow leader within park; LUNCH at shelter house in Argyle Park.

To reach Gerald White Prairie from Vishnu: travel South from Argyle entrance to Colchester; turn right/West onto Rt. 136 to Tennessee; at Tennessee turn left/south.

To return from Gerald White Prairie to Nauvoo hotel: turn left/West onto Rt. 336; continue to Carthage exit; exit onto Rt. 136 and continue West through Carthage and Elvaston to Hamilton; on the West side of Hamilton before the road bends to the left turn right/North on IL Rt. 96 and continue along the river road to Nauvoo; continue on Rt. 96