



ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP
March 12-13, 2010
JASPER COUNTY ILLINOIS

SCHEDULE

Friday, March 12 - Meet in Effingham in the lobby of the Hampton Inn at 4:00 p.m. (Hampton Inn is located on the east side of the intersection of I-57 & I-70 at exit 160.)

The field trip this evening will include a visit to the sanctuary to learn about the Prairie-Chicken program (perhaps even observing some) and to observe other prairie species with the potential of seeing fair numbers (perhaps 10-30 or more) of Northern Harriers going to their roost and Short-eared Owls coming from their roost. It is also possible that there will be time to hear (and perhaps see) one or more American Woodcock in their courtship displays.

Saturday, March 13 - Meet in the lobby of Hampton Inn (as above); be totally prepared to leave by 5:30 a.m. (There will be an excellent "early morning" Continental Breakfast available for persons staying at the Hampton Inn.) We do not expect to return to Effingham before noon, so you will need to be checked out by departure time.

The early portion of this morning will be spent at the Prairie-Chicken Sanctuary observing and listening to the chickens on their booming ground around sunrise. The birds should be visible from the sanctuary and roadside observation points shortly after day-break. We will look for the emergence of Northern Harriers from their roosting sites and may see Short-eared Owls as they prepare to go to roost.



Later in the morning we will travel to nearby areas (including IAS' Robert Ridgway Sanctuary) in search of more prairie/grassland species, take a short walk down a wooded lane, and make a trip to the "closed" portion of Newton Lake Fish & Wildlife Area for waterfowl and other wetland species. Past trips to Newton Lake have included as many as 18 species of ducks, 3 species of geese, 3 species of grebes and loons. The field trip will conclude around noon.

Special Note 1: If you have a TALK-ABOUT with family Channel, bring it along.

Special Note 2: Neither the Illinois Audubon Society nor the field trip leaders are liable for any accident, injury or loss incurred on or during the field trip or field trip weekend.

DONATION FEE

\$35 per person (for IAS members) (*note: Illinois Audubon is not the same as National Audubon*)

\$45 per person (for non IAS members - Illinois Audubon applications available)

Students (16 and under) -- No charge

This fee is totally tax-deductible and does not include any travel, food, lodging or other expenses. Checks should be made payable to: IAS Land Acquisition Fund and given to Vernon Kleen sometime during the trip. Checks received in advance of the trip will not be deposited until after the trip.

ACCOMMODATIONS IN EFFINGHAM

Hampton Inn (217) 342-4499, Exit 160 off of I-57 & I-70 (I'm staying here)

U.S. Inn, (217) 342-4667, W. Fayette Rd., Ext 159 off of I-57 & I-70

Best Inns of America, (800) 237-8466 or (217) 347-5141, I-57 & I-70 & Rt. 33

Best Western, (800) 528-1234 or (217) 347-7131, North Rt. 32, Exit 160 off of I-57 & I-70)

Days Inn, (217) 342-9271, W. Fayette Rd., Exit 159 off of I-57 & I-70

Holiday Inn, (217) 342-4161, W. Fayette Rd., Exit 159 off of I-57 & I-70

Ramada Inn, (217) 342-2131, Rt. 32 & Rt. 33 and I-57 & I-70

Since this is a busy time of year, you will want to make your motel and other arrangements as soon as possible and mention that you are part of the annual ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY trip (you may get better rates)

ADVANCE PLANNING

1. Please confirm your intentions to be a participant on the trip with Vern Kleen as soon as possible so we know to expect you.
2. Have appropriate travel accessories with you in advance of departure times on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Some walking will be necessary, but nothing strenuous, so good walking boots/shoes would be appropriate. Some areas may be damp/wet.
3. Bring breakfast materials for Saturday morning (although there will be a very good continental breakfast at the Hampton Inn for those staying there). Bring snacks and drinks for personal use during the trip. (Grocery stores are available at Effingham, but not during the field trips.) Restaurant facilities of all sorts are available and convenient in Effingham for Friday evening enjoyment, if desired. Three favorites are Niemerg's Family Restaurant, the Cracker Barrel and Ryan's Family Steak House and Buffet.
4. If you plan on driving throughout the trip, please have a FULL TANK of gas before beginning the Saturday morning trip. Observers do not enjoy having to wait for participants who have to stop in the middle of field trips. It is expected that car-pooling should work out once you arrive in Effingham; if you are able to car-pool to Effingham, that would be even better. The fewer cars in the "caravan" the better the trip will be for all participants. "Talk Abouts" will be used throughout the trip.
5. Be ready to depart, everything in your cars and the cars lined up, at the scheduled departure times on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Birders become impatient if trips do not start on time.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Send all inquiries as well as intentions to be a part of this trip to my home address: Vernon Kleen, 1825 Clearview Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 (217) 787-3515, vkleen@comcast.net.