

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Audubon Society Announces Plans to “Spring into Decatur”

SPRINGFIELD, IL. Illinois Audubon Society is pleased to announce its 2008 annual Spring Gathering will be held in Decatur. Working in partnership with the Decatur Audubon Society, both organizations invite everyone to “**Spring into Decatur.**” The event will be held April 18-20, 2008, at the Decatur Conference Center & Hotel.

Beginning and experienced wildlife watchers are invited to attend an assortment of guided field trips to nearby natural areas and cultural points of interest. Special guest speakers have been scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings. “The weekend will offer many opportunities to get out and enjoy Decatur and the surrounding area,” says Marge Evans, Field Trip Coordinator for the event.

On Friday night, at 7pm, Don Chamberlin, retired biology teacher and award-winning photographer, will present “Photographing Wildlife in Illinois.” Following a full day of field trips and an evening banquet on Saturday, the featured guest at 8:00pm will be Dr. David Horn, Assistant Professor of Biology at Millikin University. Dr. Horn will present “*Enhancing the Backyard Birding Experience.*” The Friday and Saturday night presentations are free and open to the public.

A registration form, with complete listings of field trips and weekend events for “Spring into Decatur” is available for download at www.illinoisaudubon.org. Walk-ins are welcome; however, pre-registration is encouraged since some field trips may become overbooked and unavailable that weekend. Registration deadline is April 11. For more information please call (217) 544-2473 or e-mail ias@illinoisaudubon.org.

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. Independent from National Audubon, the Illinois Audubon Society is a privately supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. It was founded in 1897 and is Illinois’ oldest private conservation organization with over 2300 members, 19 chapters and 13 affiliate groups. IAS currently owns and manages 12 wildlife sanctuaries and has saved over 2600 acres which are now being protected and managed for habitat and biodiversity throughout Illinois

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