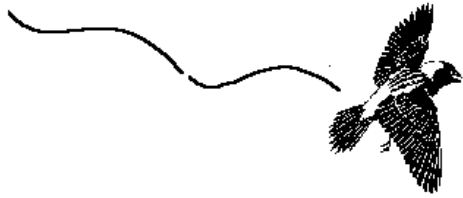


Give Back to Birds - Field Trip and Workday

Lost Mound Unit – Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
Savanna, IL



April 12, 2008

9:45 -12:15 workday

12:15 Lunch (provided)

1:00 – 3:00 birding tour

Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge south of Galena contains the largest remnant sand prairie in the state and hosts impressive numbers of grassland birds. The 9,800+ acres of the refuge climb from Mississippi River backwaters to sand bluffs and upland prairie. Most of the site is still closed to the public due to ongoing clean-up at this decommissioned Army Depot.

We will remove cedars from a 50-acre field that is being rapidly degraded. As a result, we expect that populations of grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows, dickcissels, bobolinks, eastern and western meadowlarks, will increase in the improved habitat.

We should have great views of eagles as we work. Other possibilities are early grassland sparrows, meadowlarks, and other migrant landbirds. A variety of migrant waterfowl should be visible from the site's overlook on the Mississippi River.

This trip will take place rain or shine. People aged 13 and over who are reasonably fit will be able to find a way to help. No need to bring lunch – the refuge will treat us. Dress in layers, with sturdy waterproof boots, and bring work gloves if you have them.

Please contact Joan Bruchman at pjbruchman@comcast.net or 847 253-4128 to RSVP and to arrange to be part of a car pool. Birders are encouraged to car pool. For those who would like to arrive on Friday night and bird the Mississippi River bluffs early Saturday, contact Dick Riner at 708-601-5683 (cell) or dickriner@gmail.com.

Lost Mound is 7 mi. north of Savanna and 5 mi. south of Hanover. On Highway 84 turn west at the brown Lost Mound signs onto Army Depot Rd. At the Depot entrance go straight, cross the RR tracks and turn right at the top of a hill. At the large Lost Mound sign turn left into parking area.

Give Back to Birds is a series of "work and birding" trips sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network. There will be two trips per year, one in the Chicago Wilderness area and one in an Important Bird Area in another part of Illinois. There are two primary purposes. One, fellowship and camaraderie among our bird conservation and birding communities. Two, helping out some sites that have conservation needs. Oh, well, three – seeing some great birds and beautiful places!