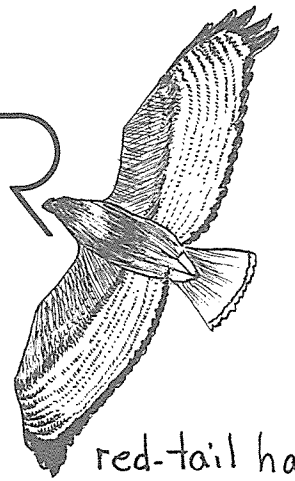


THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

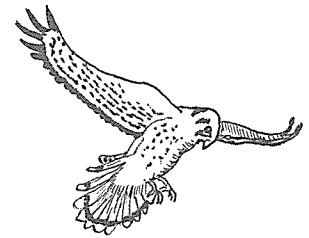
WINTER 1982



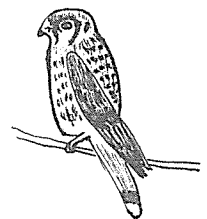
red-tail hawk

What to look for - Hawks. Look up for hawks. Many hawks winter in DuPage County and can be seen along the Prairie Path hovering, stooping, and soaring but always on the lookout for a careless meadow mouse, vole, or rabbit to have for lunch.

The smallest falcon is the American kestrel or sparrow hawk which is 12" high with a wingspan of up to 21". The kestrel is our most colorful hawk with a reddish back, a black and white face and blue-gray wings. Adapting well to suburban living the kestrel is often seen hovering over the sides of expressways as well as open patches of the Path. It often perches on utility poles.

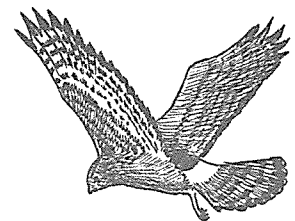


Two buteos or buzzard hawks commonly seen on the western part of the Path are the red-tailed hawk and a winter visitor, the rough-legged hawk. Both are large with lengths of 19" and wingspans of 50". The broad fanned tail of the red-tailed hawk flashes its color as it wheels in the sunlight. Dark elbow patches are the distinguishing mark of the rough-legged hawk.

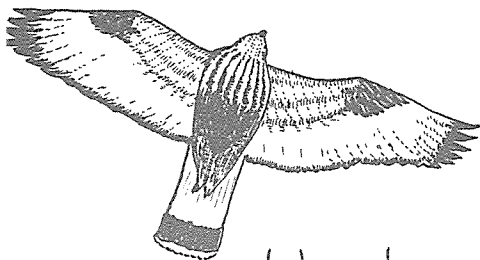


Kestrel

Marsh hawks are becoming more rare as their habitat disappears but they are easy to identify by their white tail patch, a distinct contrast to the dark brown feathers of back and tail. The marsh hawk is a harrier with long wings and tail - 16" long with a wingspan of 42". The marsh hawk flies close to the ground tilting from side to side as it hunts.



marsh hawk



rough-legged hawk

ANNUAL MEETING

Principal speaker at the sixteenth Prairie Path annual meeting on November 7 in the elegant auditorium of the DuPage County Historical Museum in Wheaton was Jeannette Fitzwilliams, president of the National Trails Council. Her topic was the promotion of a nationwide trail network and the need for cooperation among government agencies at all levels, public and private landowners, and trail users. She said that the National Trails Council can be the catalyst in achieving this goal because it is an independent nonprofit organization of persons with widely-varying expertise scattered all over the nation and interested in all types of trails -- land and water, urban and rural, summer and winter, motorized and non-motorized -- but united in their desire to promote and support the planning, creation and maintenance of trails systems on public and private lands. She emphasized the vital role of volunteers in this process and lauded the Prairie Path as a shining example of a successful rails to trails program run by volunteers. She recommended formation of a statewide trails advisory council for Illinois and on the national level urged our support of the Comprehensive Trails Act, HR 861, passed by the House of Representatives and now before the Senate, where it is sponsored by Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyoming).

Path president Paul Mooring conducted the brief business meeting; and the following board members were re-elected unanimously: Gunnar Anderson, Joan Hamill, John Kacich, Jerry Martin, Paul Mooring, and Dick Wilson. Path treasurer Joan Hamill presented the annual treasurer's report.

A highlight of the meeting was, as always, President Mooring's illustrated report on the year's events. The slide show included pictures of the new Berkeley Park, the Ardmore Station in process of restoration, "The Little House on the Prairie Path" in Lombard, and the Sierra Club Workathon volunteers repairing the approaches to the Salt Creek bridge in Elmhurst, shoring up the glacial moraine landslide in Glen Ellyn, restoring a prairie in West Chicago, and cleaning up the Batavia Spur. There were also views of the Glen Ellyn Fourth of July float, the beaver dam and lake at Pratts Wayne Woods, the hike to Kenyon Road in Kane County, and the construction of the horse trail at St. James Farm.

Path vice president Phil Hodge also presented a slide show, about the famous old Wheaton bridge, in connection with his announcement of the kickoff of a \$60,000 fundraising project for the bridge reconstruction. Board members will be happy to give the slide show to civic groups interested in helping the Path.

After the meeting former board member Vi Kolze served her traditional homemade cider accompanied by delectable cookies and country breads from the kitchens of members of the Warrenville Junior Women's Club.

A special treat this year was the model railroad demonstration in the basement of the museum preceding the meeting. We thank the members of the DuPage Model Railroad Engineers for this fascinating display.

LET'S BUILD A BRIDGE

"Treasure your trail!" is the theme of the major fundraising project adopted by the membership at the annual meeting. Phil Hodge, professional engineer who is heading the Wheaton bridge reconstruction, stated that this will be the Prairie Path's biggest project ever and will cost \$60,000 for a series of bridges spanning 370 feet, across Wesley Street, Front Street, and the Chicago and North Western Railroad. He explained that we expect to keep the cost so low because we anticipate donations of equipment, materials, and labor. Steel to fabricate floor beams for the old bridge and 80 gallons of Rust-Oleum have already been donated. To raise the \$60,000 the Path will sell Bridge Shares at \$10 (or more) apiece. Each share will entitle the purchaser to a one-year Path membership. The goal is to increase active Path membership to 4000 (from approximately 1200) because with more members we will be better able to develop and improve other sections of the trail as well. A brochure is currently being prepared by a group headed by Path secretary Donna Albue, to explain the details of the fund drive; and the slide show mentioned is now available. It is hoped that friends of the Prairie Path who are employees of companies with charitable matching gift programs will take advantage of them to help the Path. Target date for completion of the bridge is September, 1983.

LAKE ELLYN MONSTER PROWLs AGAIN

The second annual Prairie Path Spook Walk occurred as predicted on October 28. Rumors of strange creatures lurking in the shadows along the Path between Montclair and Taylor proved only too true; the clammy-handed gravedigger, the menacing tree stump, the sparking chain saw cutting off arms, legs, heads (or so it appeared), the hanged man dangling from a high branch, assorted witches, vampires, zombies, and even an uninvited black cat all were there. Could the cat have been the real Lake Ellyn Monster in one of its many guises?

Some 200 courageous people took this scary walk under the protection of members of the Wayne Township Mounted Patrol.

After the last terrified patron had been rescued, all the monsters retired to the home of Dick Diebold, chief perpetrator, for supper and to count the loot. They found that this FUN-raiser had netted \$108 for the Path treasury.

BERKELEY'S NEW PARK

In mid-September a major landscaping program was completed by the Berkeley Park District on the Great Western right-of-way adjoining the Prairie Path west of Taft Avenue. Thirty-seven trees were planted on earth berms designed to give the formerly flat treeless railroad grade a more pleasing rolling contour. The Prairie Path was re-routed to wind through the park. Other amenities in the park include an attractive gazebo to house four picnic tables, and farther west near the tollway a tot lot, restrooms and a basketball court. This is only the first phase of a planned 10- to 15-year park development program which will eventually include a one-story community center, tennis courts, a volleyball court, a junior size soccer and football field, bleachers for the softball field, additional groves of trees throughout the area, multi-purpose play areas, and added parking.

The Prairie Path board congratulates the Berkeley Park District on this well-planned addition to the recreation facilities adjoining the Path. We hope next year to do our part by improving a suitable connection between the Berkeley and Elmhurst sections of the Path.

ENGLAND'S PRINCE PHILIP HEARS ABOUT OUR PATH

On November 8 the Prairie Path was one of twelve prominent environmental organizations and educational institutions invited to attend a small reception at the Brookfield Zoo in honor of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and president of the World Wildlife Fund, who was visiting Chicago to promote the cause of conservation. Paul Mooring represented the Prairie Path and had the privilege of telling this distinguished group something about the history and goals of the Path. He reports that the prince is very well informed and does a fine job as goodwill ambassador for wildlife.

GLEN ELLYN RESURFACING

In early November the village of Glen Ellyn spent \$2,216 of a \$3,000 appropriation from Revenue Sharing funds to resurface 1000 feet of trail between Park Blvd. and Montclair. Ninety tons of grade #8 limestone were spread and topped with seventy-seven tons of screenings. The contractor was Dennis O'Neill, Sunrise Landscaping, Glen Ellyn. Jean Mooring, Prairie Path representative for Glen Ellyn, supervised the project on behalf of the village and the Path, and spent three days helping shovel and rake the stone to form a crowned surface for better drainage. She promises to find another project for the remaining \$784 before the allocation expires on April 30, 1983.

TREASURER'S REPORT, November 1, 1981 - October 31, 1982

Balance on hand, November 1, 1981

Naperville National Bank checking account	\$ 554.95
Naperville National Bank savings account	365.69
SteinRoe Cash Reserves	<u>45,454.65</u>
Total	46,375.69

Income

Arveda Allen Bequest	2,850.57
Contributions	7,565.36
Dues	13,138.00
Sales (Maps, T-shirts, patches, "Guides")	1,280.05
Interest	4,381.88
Miscellaneous	<u>29.75</u>
Total	29,245.61

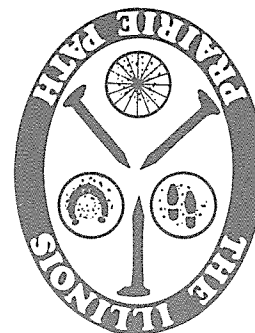
Expenses

Path improvements (Surfacing)	32,316.56
Maintenance	974.27
Newsletter	1,890.74
Membership mailings	821.57
Printing	696.90
Office rent and telephone	592.27
Office supplies	639.97
Merchandise (Maps, etc.)	1,699.20
Decals	1,058.80
Dues	175.00
Annual meeting	197.00
Insurance	545.00
Legal	2,485.00
Miscellaneous	<u>391.69</u>
Total	44,484.37

Balance on hand, October 31, 1982

Naperville National Bank checking account	781.43
Naperville National Bank savings account	0.00
SteinRoe Cash Reserves	<u>30,355.10</u>
Total	31,136.53

— Jean C. Mooring, Editor —

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