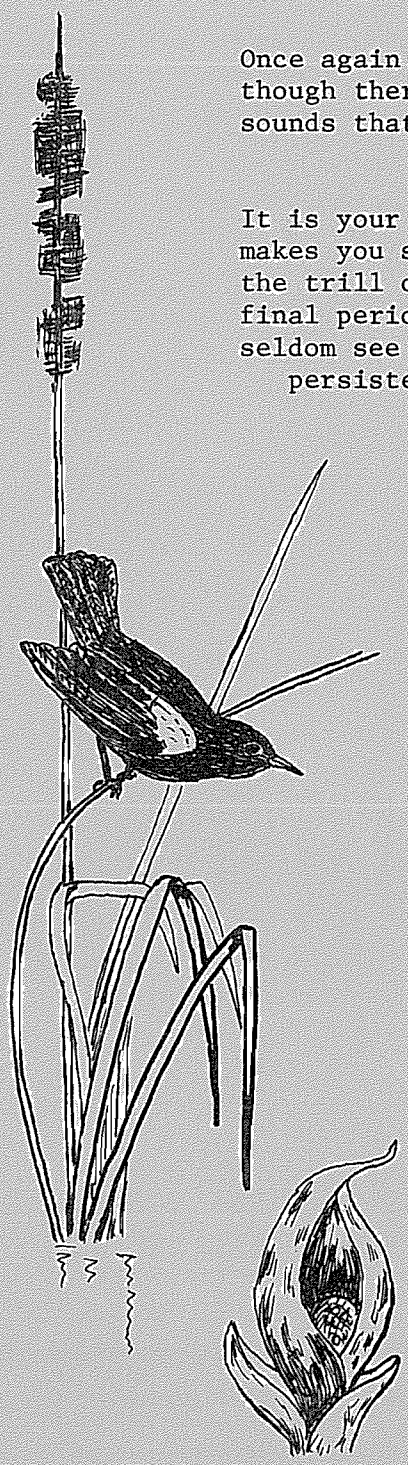
THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWS LETTER
Spring 1970

WHAT TO SEE --

AND HEAR



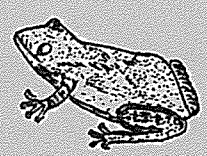
Once again it is time to listen for the chorus of spring. Now, though there is much to see, to smell, to feel, it is the new sounds that seem most exciting.

It is your ear that hears the honk of the *wild geese*, that makes you search the sky for that wavering wedge. It is the trill of the *spring peeper* you hear that puts the final period at the end of another winter; you seldom see this tiny, elusive frog that calls so persistently. It is the kong-ka-reee that announces the return of the *red-winged blackbird*. These are creatures of the wet places.

We can see the flowers of earliest spring in wet places, too. Look for them, for *skunk cabbage* and *hazel* along the water's edge.

Fortunately, the Prairie Path passes many ponds, swamps, and streams. There is a superb field of skunk cabbage on the Path just west of Prince Crossing Road. Look for hazel near Eola Road on the Batavia spur, and don't fail to see its tiny crimson flowers.

Above all, listen . . . always listen for the song of spring.



For membership information write Box 5, Wayne, Ill. 60184

WORK OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Prairie Path is not exempt from the world-wide trash problem, and spring is clean-up time. Many organizations and individuals are at work gathering up what the "litter-bug" has scattered.

The annual Lombard clean-up day sponsored by the Boy Scouts will be on a Saturday in mid-May, just before the Lilac Festival.

A team from the Illinois Audubon Society had its house-cleaning day (bluebird houses) on March 21st. They reported seeing a number of returning birds, and also evidence of beaver work along the river.

The sixth grade of Benjamin Franklin School of Glen Ellyn has planned for three Saturdays in April to work on the Path. Our sincere thanks go to Kelly Ann Mahoney who organized this project.

FIELD TRIPS

The first *members walk* for 1970 is scheduled for Saturday, April 25.

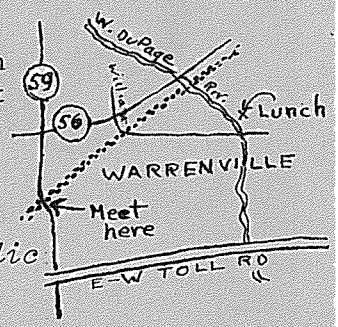
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Meet at the Lakewood station on North Avenue (Rt. 64) about 1/2 mile east of Rt. 59.
Leaders: Mr. Richard Wason of the Morton Arboretum.
Mrs. Robert Headen of the Prairie Path Board.

Bring a lunch, and binoculars if you have them. Wear sturdy shoes. MARK YOUR CALENDAR AS THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY NOTICE.

The second walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 16.

Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Meet at the intersection of the Path and Rt. 59 (1/2 mile south of Butterfield Road, Rt. 56) or ... for a shorter walk, meet at Williams Street at 11 o'clock. The lunch stop will be in Warrenville Forest Preserve.
Leaders: Mr. Jon Duerr, ecologist of Waubonsee College.
Mr. William Masters of Geneva.

Bring a lunch. Wear sturdy shoes. This walk is *open to the general public* and will be announced in local and Chicago newspapers.



LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

We now have a headquarters room in the building in Rathje Park in Wheaton. More on this in the next newsletter.

Application for designation as a *National Recreation Trail* has been sent to the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington. Receipt of the application has been acknowledged.

There is to be a meeting in mid-April of garden clubs, youth organizations, and other individuals in Glen Ellyn to coordinate plans for further development of the Path in that community.

Membership. May 1st is the start of our fiscal year and you will receive your renewal cards soon. Last year we issued 548 membership cards. If you joined after January 1, 1970 you are paid up until May 1, 1971.

We hope you saw the excellent Prairie Path article, written by Edna Dornfeld, in the magazine section of the March 22nd Chicago Tribune.

The 32 page illustrated Guide to the Prairie Path is still available. Price $1.00. Send orders to Helen Turner, 125 S. Brainard Street, Naperville, Illinois 60540.