

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

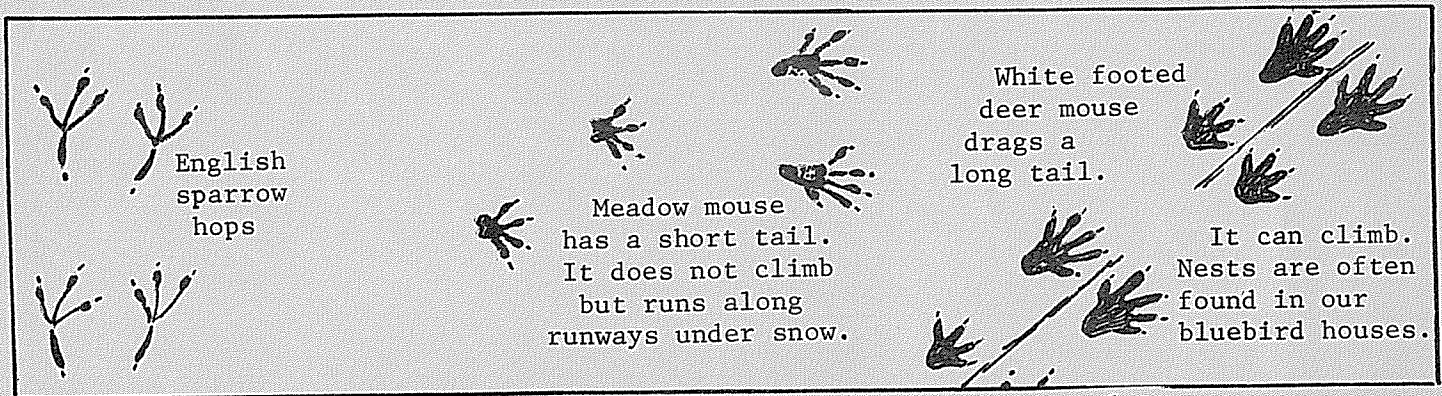
Winter, 1972

## WHAT TO SEE ... Animal tracks where once there were railroad tracks.

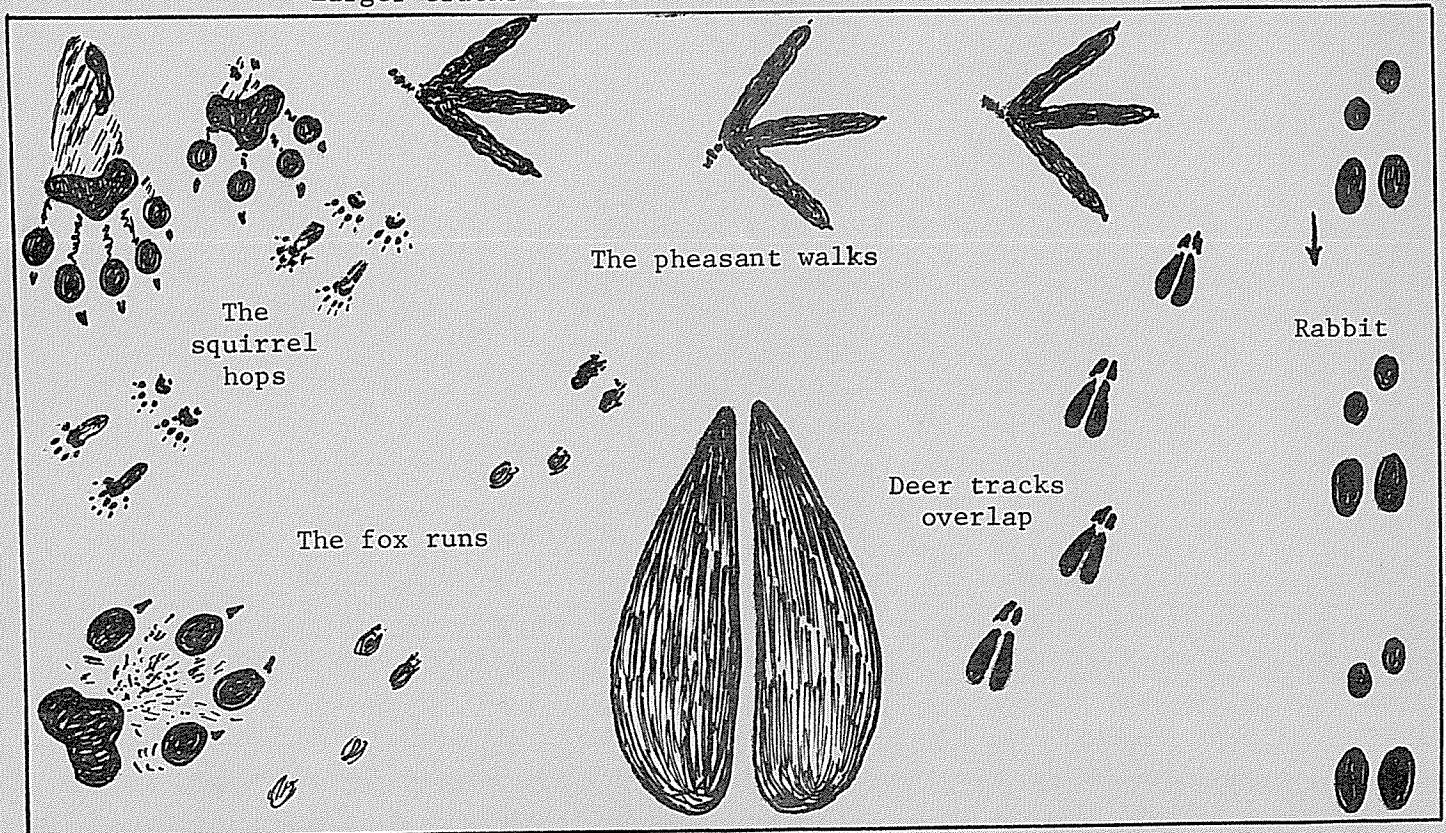
If you walked along the Prairie Path last summer after a rain, or looked at the mud flats along the river, you might have seen footprints -- tracks of *raccoon*, or *muskrat*, or perhaps *woodchucks* (sometimes called *groundhogs*). Now it is winter and the best time to see tracks is after a light snowfall. You will not find "coon" tracks; the raccoons are curled up sleeping in hollow trees. Neither will you find muskrat; they are living in ponds, in tunnels, and the houses made from reeds and mud that look like igloos after a snowfall. Nor will you find woodchucks; they are holed up, sleeping in burrows in the ground waiting for February 2 when they come out looking for their shadows.

But you may see tracks of *deer*, or *fox*, or *pheasant*. You surely can find *rabbit*, *sparrow*, *squirrel*, *chipmunk* (like a diminutive squirrel track) and if you look closely, the tiny foot prints of *mice*. These animals are active all year.

### Small tracks about natural size



### Larger tracks reduced in size -- not drawn to scale



## WORK ON THE PATH

This Prairie Path project that was started in 1963 by a struggling handful of folks, is snowballing! Previous Newsletters have reported on the great help given us by civic groups, the *DuPage County Board*, utility companies, and by several communities. Now we add another big community project. Through the efforts of *Jeannie Mooring*, there is to be a four foot path of limestone siftings laid in *Glen Ellyn*.

*Mr. Galligan*, village manager, proposed to the *Village Board* that \$1,750 in the Restoration and Beautification fund be used for this Path improvement. They agreed! We surely thank them for this Christmas gift. They will start laying the path west of the business district and then work east for as long as the funds hold out.

*Wayne* citizens continue with their Path support. On Dec. 11 the *Robert Glen* family had their second annual Christmas tree sale to raise funds. It was a festive occasion with cookies, coffee, and hot soup served.

And so we move forward.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 7, 1971

Once again this meeting was held in the Thornhill Building, through the courtesy of *The Morton Arboretum*. In the short business meeting, the members unanimously elected to the Board of Directors the five incumbents whose terms of office ended this year: Gene Lewis, William Nemec, Charles Peterson, Jane Sindt, and May Watts.

*John Cherry* of the *Bureau of Outdoor Recreation* presented a certificate designating the Wheaton to Elmhurst section as a National Trail. *Mrs. Watts* accepted the certificate and unveiled the National Trails symbol which we are now entitled to display along 22 miles of the Path -- all of DuPage County except the piece southwest from Warrenville. *Mr. Cherry* also brought a picture to *Mrs. Watts* with a personal greeting to her from *Rogers Morton*, Secretary of the Interior.

The speaker for the program was *Henry Barkhausen*, director of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Following the program, home made apple cider and cookies were served by *Mrs. Kolze*.

(At the December board meeting the 1971 officers of the Board of Directors were reelected to serve in 1972.)

## WALKS

There were two very successful walks this fall sponsored by the Prairie Path. On the *Annual Walk*, a beautiful October 16, more than 250 with 8 leaders walked from Weisbrook Rd. to Rathje Park.

On Nov. 14 more than 40 turned out for the L-O-N-G 17 mile hike, lead by *Bob Irwin*.

*The Sierra Club* is sponsoring four walks on the Path in January and February.

## A CLASS TO BE GIVEN

We are offering a 5 week class this winter, meeting once a week, for teachers and/or Scout leaders. The purpose is to armchair explore the plants, animals and rocks that can be seen along the Path. There will be games, songs and other activities of nature study.

Time: 4 to 5 pm

Place: 616 Delles St., Wheaton

Dates: Jan. 18 and 25, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.

Leaders: Betty Nemec and Helen Turner

Since we have limited space, the class will be small, and we are asking for advance registration. If you wish to join, send a card to *The Illinois Prairie Path, 616 Delles St., Wheaton, Il. 60187*.

There is no charge for the course, but places will be assigned first to members of the Path.