

Blue Jay



THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1977

WHAT TO SEE. . .

Bird watching on the Prairie Path is much easier in winter — without leaves to obscure the view. Take your binoculars and bird book on your next walk and be amazed at the number and variety of birds who enjoy our rigorous winters.

Year-round residents who are easy to recognize are *cardinals*, *blue jays*, *starlings*, and *mourning doves*. Gregarious *chickadees* flit from bush to bush. *Downy woodpeckers* can easily be seen and heard. Favorite foods of these birds are the seeds of the staghorn sumac, the tall sunflower, and wild parsnip.

Goldfinches are plentiful, but look different as their black and gold feathers have changed to olive green. Look for them clinging to the tops of goldenrods or thistles.

Flocks of *juncoes* are winter visitors. They are dark grey with white breasts and with a flash of white on the sides of their tails as they fly ahead of you down the Path. *Pine siskins* can be heard whispering in the evergreens, but seldom seen. In hawthornes and willows, you may see a flock of *tree sparrows* who have rust colored caps and a single spot on their breasts.

If it gets very cold for a long period of time look for big yellow, black, and white *evening grosbeaks* who like box elder seeds; and small brown birds with red heads, the *red polls*, who come south from northern forests when seeds there get buried by snow.

Downy
Woodpecker



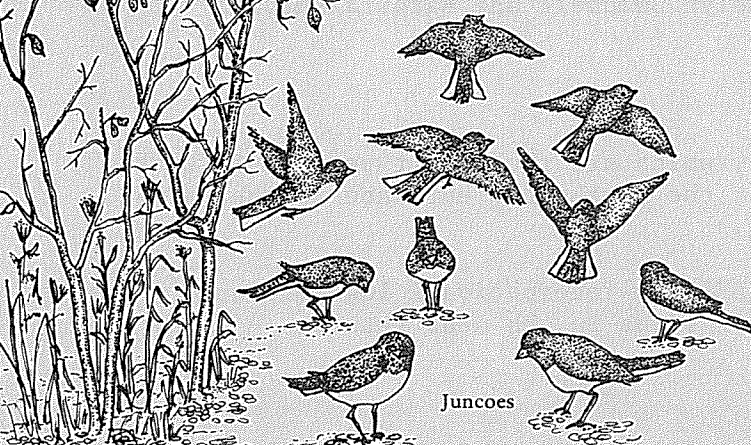
Mourning Dove



Chickadees



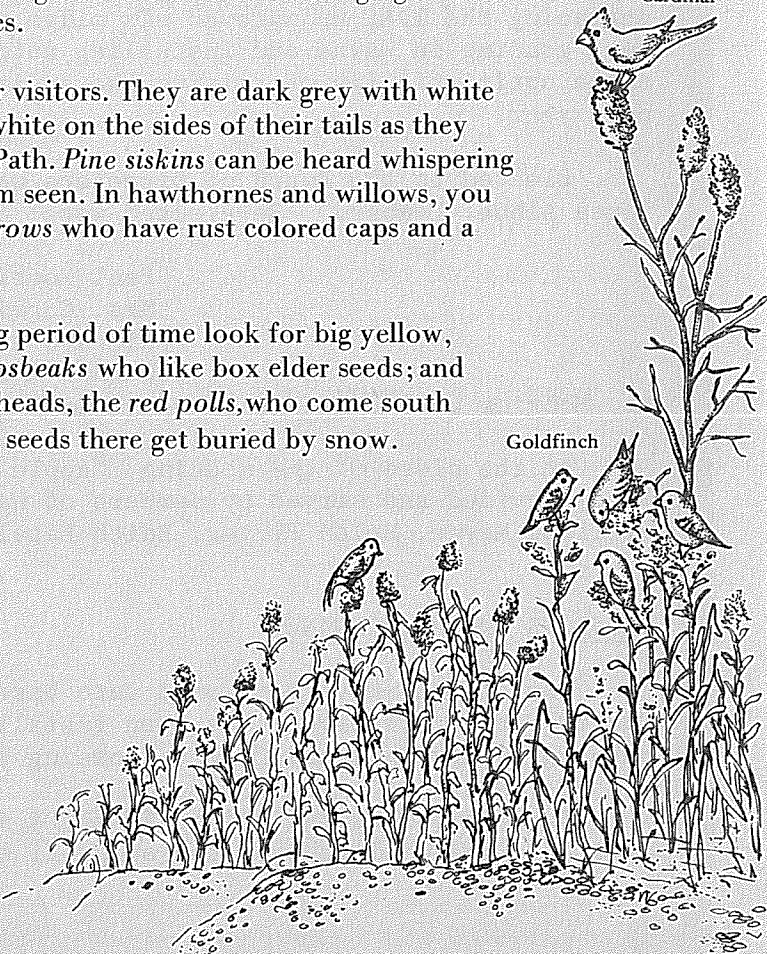
Juncoes



Cardinal



Goldfinch



1976 ANNUAL MEETING:

The Illinois Prairie Path was assured of permanence by DuPage County Board members Robert Raymond and Frank Bellinger at the annual meeting of the Prairie Path on November 7. "DuPage County never intends to put a road through here", said Raymond, dispelling fear of any such possibility.

The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Prairie Path lease with the County and was made notable by the participation of Raymond, Chairman of the Planning, Roads, Zoning and Building Committee; Bellinger, President of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District; and Joseph Abel, Regional Planner for DuPage County. Path members were also proud to find in attendance Mary Eleanor Wall and Jane N. Spirgel of the DuPage County Board, as well as Frank Miller and Carl Bower representing the Kane County Board.

Highlights of the Year were reported by Eugene Lewis, Path Secretary. The major improvement was the building of a sturdy and handsome foot-bridge across the West branch of the DuPage River. Response to our appeal for funds (in part) to defray the cost of the \$30,000 bridge has been terrific; more than half of our members have sent contributions. By means of these hundreds of donations, plus two anonymous gifts and a one-for-two matching grant (\$15,000), the bridge is fully paid for with a substantial sum remaining for additional improvements. These projects, as outlined in our appeal, are: surfacing the last unimproved six miles of the Path in DuPage County, doing some necessary grading in Wayne and installing automobile barriers. Mrs. Hamill, Path Treasurer, spoke optimistically of raising the additional funds to complete these tasks within the next year.

Elected to the Board of Directors were Mr. Russell Stemple, Elmhurst, and Mrs. Donna Albue, Lombard. Re-elected were:

Paul Mooring, Glen Ellyn
Mrs. Corwith Hamill, Wayne
Richard Wilson, Des Plaines
Gunnar Anderson, Dundee

Mr. Mooring will continue to serve as President for 1977.

At the close of the meeting, "apple squeezin's" and "country bread and cake" were provided and served by members of Warrenville Friends of the Path: Violet Kolze, Winifred Mayne, Helen Player, Edith Latal, Evelyn Campbell and Barbara Kurylo.

PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE:

One of the above mentioned auto barriers, which are the same type used in Cook County Forest Preserves, has been installed at the Northwoods entrance to the Path, between County Farm and Prince Crossing Roads.

Bold new signs depicting "NO MOTOR VEHICLES" in international logo are now available and will replace the original smaller signs in the near future.

COOK COUNTY

Reappraisal of the Aurora Corporation's right-of-way, as required by the State of Illinois, has resulted in changed financial commitments by state and by local municipalities. Consequently, our long hoped for extension of the Path eastward is still in limbo, perhaps temporarily "frozen" along with our pipes and cars and noses!

AHHH - SPRING!

During this sub-zero waiting period, why not prepare for Spring walks and rides by exploring Helen Turner's 32-page booklet, "Guide to the Illinois Prairie Path" (\$1.25). Members will find much more to look for - and at - if they have absorbed details of our local geology, history, botany and biology. The "Guide" includes a list of indigenous and migratory birds to be seen along the Path.

KANE COUNTY:

Real progress is reported in the efforts of Kane County's Forest Preserve Commission to clear away legal (and physical) obstructions hampering Prairie Path use of the CA&E right-of-way along the east bank of the Fox River. This extension into the city of Elgin would link the Prairie Path to the Fox Path being developed northward toward Algonquin.

RESIGNATIONS:

Regretfully we announce the resignation from the Path Board of Directors of Charles J. Peterson, Chairman of Security, and of Mary Lencioni, Recording Secretary. "Chuck" was one of the original Path Directors and has served in many vital capacities over the years. Other commitments make it impossible for them to continue as Board members, but we deeply appreciate their valuable services to the Path.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased to learn that Mrs. Jean Mooring's phenomenal recovery from her serious auto accident in November now permits her to resume many of her activities, including even a brief visit to the Prairie Path.

CHANGES:

Maintenance costs have finally made it necessary to raise our membership dues by a modest amount. The new rates are:

Patron	\$100.00	Supporting	\$15.00
Sustaining	50.00	Organization	15.00
Contributing	25.00	Family	10.00
Individual -- \$5.00			

Green-and-white Path PATCHES are still priced at \$1.00; orders should be addressed to the Path -- P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, Il.-60187.