

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

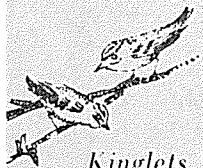
SPRING 1978



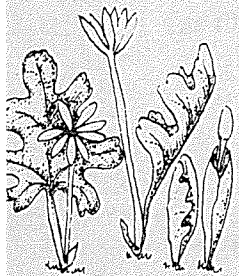
Skunk cabbage



Scarlet tanager



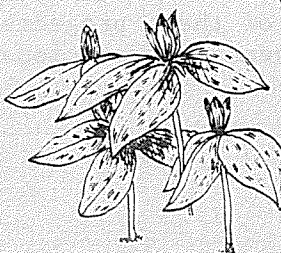
Kinglets



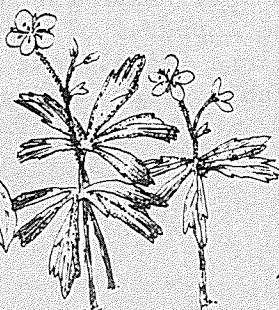
Bloodroot



Jack-in-the-pulpit



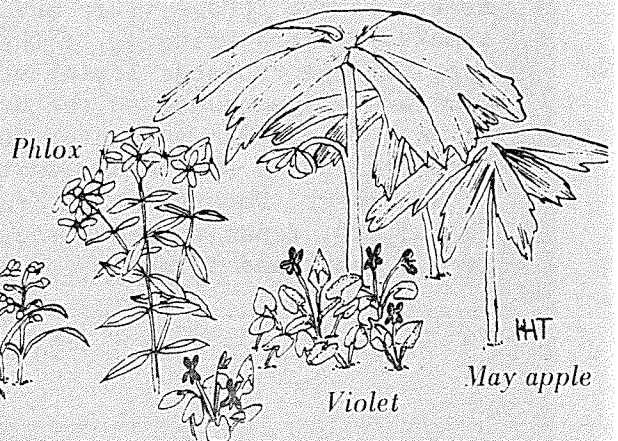
Red trillium



Wild geranium



Spring beauty



Phlox

Violet

HT  
May apple

## WHAT TO SEE--

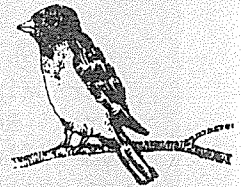
### Spring Wildflowers and Migrating Birds

The first blooming bulbs in your garden and the first wildflowers along the Prairie Path will be very welcome after such a snowy winter.

Even now *Skunk cabbage* is generating heat to push its way through the frozen mud of river bank and marsh. Its relative, the *Jack-in-the-pulpit*, comes up in late April and early May. *Bloodroot* raises its 8-petaled white head above its curled protective leaves in late April. Before the leaves on the trees grow large enough to blot out the sun, the sides of the Path and nearby woods are carpeted with purple *Violets*, red *Trilliums*, blue *Wild phlox*, pink *Spring beauties* and pink *Wild geraniums*.

Migrating birds are easier to see in the spring than later when the leaves come out.

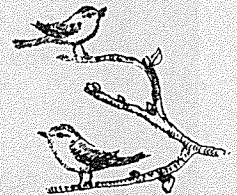
In April and early May look for *Warblers*, especially near water. Look for tiny *Kinglets* with their red and yellow caps; brilliant *Scarlet tanagers* with black wings and tails; and handsome *Rose-breasted grosbeaks* with their black heads, black and white wings, and a rosy bib across their white breasts.



Rose breasted  
grosbeak



Tennessee  
warbler



Myrtle warbler

### SPRING OUTINGS

The Illinois Prairie Path guided spring outings are scheduled to begin April 29 and end June 10 and 11 with a work weekend.

Saturday, April 29 there will be a 25 mile bike ride on the Path and through the Forest Preserve areas along the DuPage river and Fermi Lab. Participants will meet at 10:00 A.M. at the Prairie Path crossing on Army Trail Rd. in Wayne. Bring lunch and drink. In case of rain the trip will be cancelled. For questions about the weather call between 8:00 and 9:00 A.M. on the day of the trip. Leaders are Wally and Nancy Winter, 584-4633.

Sunday, April 30 there will be an 8 to 10 mile hike from Elmhurst to Maywood on the new Cook County extension of the Prairie Path. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the York State bank parking lot on York Rd. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of St. Charles Rd. in Elmhurst. Bring lunch and drink.

Saturday, May 13 is the Annual spring bird walk on the Path. Meet at the far west parking lot at Pratts Wayne Woods at 9:00 A.M. Bring binoculars, lunch and drink.

Saturday, May 27 is the Annual spring wildflower walk on the Path. Meet at 10:00 A.M. at the Grace Bible Church, Eggleston and Berkley in Elmhurst. This location is 5 blocks east of Rt. 83 and 3 blocks south of St. Charles Rd.

Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11 will be spent repairing erosion problems on the Path. Meet on the northwest corner of Geneva Rd. and County Farm Rd. at 9:00 A.M. Bring work gloves, lunch, drink and, if possible, shovels.

For questions about the outings please call the leaders: Paul Mooring, 469-4289, or Dick Wilson, 299-7882.

### MAJOR PATH IMPROVEMENTS

A contract has been signed with the Illinois Constructors Corporation for major Prairie Path improvements that should be completed by August. The improvements include: Surfacing the Path from Winfield Rd. to the West Branch of the DuPage river and west from Warrenville to the E.J.&E. railroad tracks; and the bridging of the East Branch of the DuPage river. The all steel bridge replaces former wooden structures that were repeatedly vandalized. Similar in appearance to the bridge over the West Branch of the DuPage river, it is 6' wide with a span of 50' and is well above the highest flood level. Installation of the bridge waits for the approval of the Illinois Division of Waterways, Department of Transportation. Total cost of these projects is \$43,000, funds raised through charitable grants and generous donations from members and friends.



## WARRENVILLE

Plans to improve the Prairie Path in Warrenville were discussed at an enthusiastic meeting in the office of Mayor John F. Hudetz on March 15. Plans include surfacing of the Path to Williams Rd., plantings where needed, and the building of a model of the original train station at Williams Rd. The structure at Williams Rd. will provide a safe shelter for children at the school bus stop. Also planned is a gravel bus turn-around.

Attending the meeting were Mayor Hudetz, Prairie Path President, Paul Mooring, Path Vice President, Jerry Glenn, Path member, Vi Kolze, coordinator between Warrenville City Hall and local organizations, Faye Johnson, and President of the Junior Women's Club, Letty Parsons.

Currently the Path in Warrenville is sadly neglected and unsightly. It is hoped that private funds will be forthcoming to aid in this project that will beautify the City of Warrenville as well as tie the Path together at this point. To start the ball rolling Letty Parsons presented \$50 to the cause. An additional meeting is planned soon. Invited to attend will be representatives of all Warrenville organizations and churches.

It is hoped that the Warrenville improvements will coincide with the Prairie Path improvements. With the exception of a section between Eola Rd. and the E.J.&E. tracks that was damaged by Commonwealth Edison (negotiations for repair are going on) and the new bridge anticipated to cross Finley Rd. following completion of repairs, Path improvements are essentially completed along its entire length in DuPage County.

## CLEAN UP TIME

Geneva to Prince Crossing Rds.: March 11 the bluebird houses were cleaned out by the DuPage Chapter of the National Audubon Society and the Big Bluestem Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society. The intention was to clean up the Path as well but the winter snow was still too deep. Later maybe.

Warrenville: As soon as the weather permits clean-up crews will start off the Warrenville Prairie Path project with a super clean-up.

Lombard: Clean-up day is tentatively planned for April 29.

## ENJOY THE PATH MORE

The Illinois Prairie Path - A Guide by Helen Turner (\$1.25) offers the history, geology and natural aspects of the Path. More than 100 illustrations will help you identify wild flowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, animal and bird tracks found along the Path.

Also available are Illinois Prairie Path patches (\$1.00). Please send orders with your check to The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187