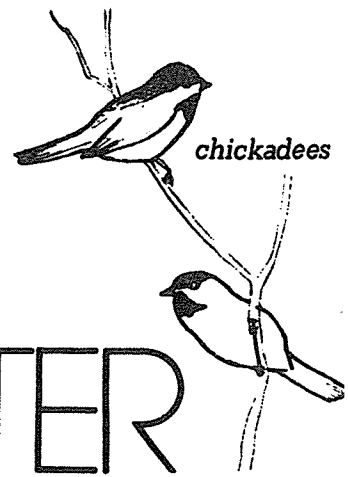




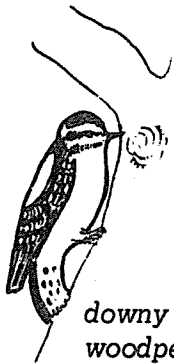
cardinal



chickadees

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1980



downy
woodpecker

What to Look for:

When the leaves begin to fall it is easy to spot our year-round resident birds.

Because of backyard feeding stations, the *cardinal* stays all winter, delighting in sunflower seeds from bird feeders and sumac seeds from the Prairie Path.

The *downy woodpecker* eats worms and grubs from tree bark and will visit a suet holder. The male has the red patch on the back of his head. The *hairy woodpeckers* look very much like the downys but are much larger.

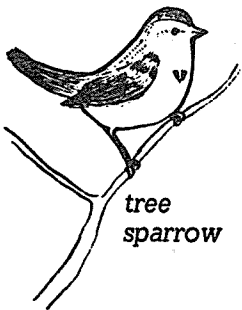
Goldfinches stay year round, putting on grey-green coats in the fall. They eat thistle seeds and goldenrod seeds along the Prairie Path.

Chickadees buzz cheerfully in their busy ways, eating to create energy to stay alive. *Nuthatches* usually walk down a tree trunk in search of bugs. Both like sunflower seeds and suet.

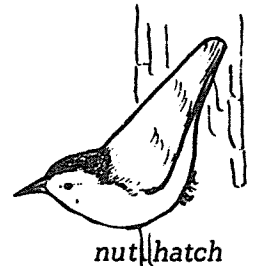
Winter visitors who come each year are juncos -- grey birds with white breasts and flashes of white on their tails -- arriving in late October; tree sparrows with rusty caps on their heads; and pine siskins -- tiny finches that whisper in the pine trees. Sometimes evening grosbeaks -- large yellow, white, and black birds -- sail down to eat box elder seeds when winter snows linger up north; and rosy redpolls may brighten the Prairie Path.



evening
grosbeak



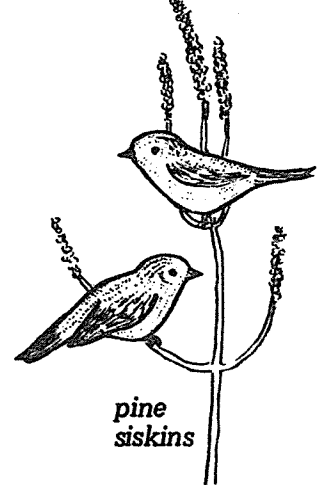
tree
sparrow



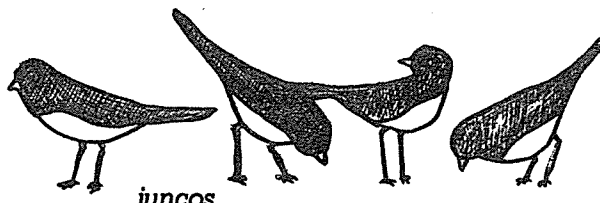
nuthatch



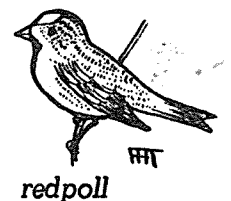
goldfinch



pine
siskins



juncos



redpoll

ANNUAL MEETING

Enthusiasm for trails is growing fast in Chicago's western suburbs, according to Philip B. Elfstrom, Chairman of the Kane County Board and guest speaker at the Prairie Path annual meeting on November 2. Proving his point, Mr. Elfstrom showed slides of the successful new Great Western Trail, which runs from St. Charles in Kane County to Sycamore in DeKalb County and has already attracted hundreds of hikers and bicycle riders since its opening last spring. He also described plans, now nearing completion, for a Fox River trail from Dundee, north of Elgin, to Montgomery, south of Aurora. The Kane County Board and Forest Preserve District are working with the Illinois Department of Conservation and several local park districts to respond to the strong public demand for more recreational trails, said Mr. Elfstrom.

To illustrate his annual progress report President Paul Mooring showed slides of notable achievements on the Prairie Path this year, including the new steps at the E. J. and E. tracks in Wayne, the Path reconstruction at the North Avenue underpass, repainting of the bridge over the East DuPage River, two prairie restoration projects, a connecting trail in the Lincoln Marsh built by the Wheaton Park District, a connecting bike lane on Winfield Road built by the DuPage County Highway Department, and resurfacing projects carried out by the municipalities of Glen Ellyn, Elmhurst, Lombard, and Villa Park.

During the business meeting the following members were re-elected to the Board of Directors: Sophie Abenante, Eldon Frydendall, Jerry Glenn, Nancy Hesler, and Larry Nilles.

At the close of the meeting former Board member Vi Kolze, assisted by Edith Latal and members of the Warrenville Junior Women's Club, Nancy Bennett, Nancy Huck, Paula Mann, and Elise Ward, served homemade cider and delicious country breads to the appreciative crowd. As a tribute to the Warrenville Friends of the Prairie Path, whose talents help make each annual meeting so enjoyable, we reprint here one of their favorite recipes:

Zucchini Bread

3 eggs	Beat eggs until foamy.
1 cup oil	Add oil, sugar, zucchini, vanilla.
2 cups sugar	Add dry ingredients.
1 tsp. vanilla	Pour into 2 greased bread pans.
2 cups grated, peeled zucchini	Bake 325° about 1 hr.
½ tsp. baking powder	Makes 2 loaves.
1 tsp. soda	
½ cup chopped nuts	
3 tsp. cinnamon	
3 cups flour	
1 tsp. salt	

NEW STEPS

The ambitious step-building project at the E. J. and E. tracks in Wayne, begun last spring, was completed on two beautiful days in October. Total cost to the Prairie Path for materials was \$1307.41. This Path project was typical in that the value of the time and labor of our friends and supporters greatly exceeded the monetary cost. More than twenty persons turned out on each of the three official work days; and in addition members of Boy Scout Troop 403 of Addison under the direction of Eagle Scout candidate Al Olsen worked many extra hours clearing brush and debris from the trail, installing signs and a rustic bench, and building a bicycle ramp of railroad ties. The following persons deserve thanks for their special contributions: Boy Scout leaders Jim Heirty and Ron Olsen; Ralph Franzen, who donated several truckloads of stone last spring; Rick Alex of Wayne, whose power shovel supplanted our regular bucket brigade; Nancy Hesler, owner of the first officially-designated Prairie Path truck, who also provided an electric generator and recruited family and friends to work on this job; Dick Wilson, Chairman of the Projects and Maintenance Committee; and Paul and Jean Mooring, chief planner and purchasing agent, respectively.

BRIDGE REPAINTING

On the sunny weekend of August 23, members of Boy Scout Troop 128 from Bellwood in Cook County wire-brushed and repainted the rusting steel bridge over the East Branch of the DuPage River between Glen Ellyn and Lombard. This was an Eagle Scout project for Jim Krutsch of Bellwood. The boys did a thorough job, even standing on rope-supported planks to paint the underside of the bridge. They also painted over the unsightly graffiti on the bridge abutment. All paint was donated as a public service by the Rustoleum Corporation of Evanston.

WHEATON'S NEW TRAIL

The Lincoln Marsh Access Area bicycle trail was added to the Prairie Path trail system this summer. It winds for a quarter-mile through the Lincoln Marsh (formerly known as the Goose Island Marsh) on Wheaton's northwest side and connects the Prairie Path to Harrison Street. It is similar to the trail in Hoffman Park connecting the Path to Prospect Street. Funds to purchase the Lincoln Marsh land came from the Illinois Department of Conservation and the federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. The Wheaton Park District built the new trail with the help of the U.S. Youth Conservation Corps, a federally-assisted grant program to hire youth to work on conservation projects improving our natural resources. It is hoped that other communities will follow Wheaton's lead in developing a county-wide network of trails connecting to the Prairie Path.

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TO MAKE A PRAIRIE

"To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee, -- And revery," wrote Emily Dickinson. Glenbard West ecology students would add one more ingredient to this list: hard work. In 1975 a demonstration prairie was planted on the Path at Taylor Avenue in Glen Ellyn by students under the direction of biology teacher Rick Billings. Each year since then the students have weeded, added new plants, repaired the rustic fences, and done other Path maintenance as needed there. This year all the tender, loving care began to show results as amber stalks of Indian grass swayed in the wind, interspersed with big blue-stem, yellow coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, and clover. Hikers and bicycle riders admired the tall grasses as did local residents driving by on Taylor Avenue; and photographers tried to capture on film the subtle colors changing from green to gold to purple. On behalf of all these delighted people we thank the Glenbard students and their teacher for re-creating a bit of native Illinois landscape in the heart of Glen Ellyn. Now we can imagine with the poet what the land was like before the settlers came: "The revery alone will do If bees are few."

IN MEMORIAM

William T. Stewart, former executive vice president of the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railway who had been employed by the railroad for more than sixty years at the time of his retirement, passed away October 7 in Elgin at the age of 89. Mr. Stewart was also a charter member of The Illinois Prairie Path and a steadfast, helpful friend, remembered warmly for the vital information about the ownership of the right-of-way which he provided to Helen Turner and Lil Lasch in the early years. The Prairie Path Board of Directors extends condolences to Mr. Stewart's family and friends and thanks them for their generous donations to the Path in his memory.