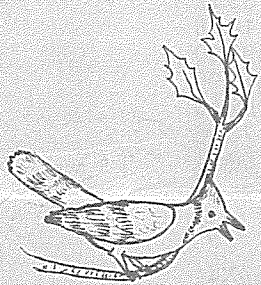


# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

SPRING, 1982



**blue jay**

## Things to look for:

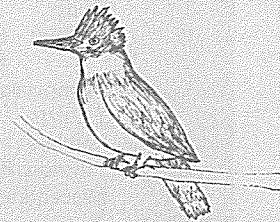
Spring is the time to look for birds -- our winter friends of the birdfeeders begin to serenade old and new wives. Spring migrations bring new birds to the Prairie Path each day. Leaves are budding so birds are easily seen as well as heard. Beginning birders are welcome on all Prairie Path outings.

Some of the ways to tell birds apart are size and shape. Crows and hawks are our largest birds -- crows flap and hawks soar. Color is also important -- jays and cardinals both have crests but jays are blue and cardinals are red. Habitat can be a clue to identity -- woodpeckers hammer on hollow trees, kingfishers are found near streams. Flocks of tiny, colorful warblers delight experienced birders making identification difficult with their constant movement. Songs can be a help in identification -- from the earliest song of the cardinal's "cheer, cheer" on a sunny morning in February, the "sweet, sweet" of the song sparrow, to the trill of the oriole called the "sound of summer".

A pair of binoculars is a big help in birding. A 7X 35mm binocular is best since it does not require great steadiness nor is it too heavy to carry. A field guide is necessary. The new Peterson "Field Guide to Birds" has excellent pictures. The "Birds of North America" by Robbins and Zim is very useful with range maps on the same page as the birds.

When birding, dress inconspicuously and move slowly, preferably with the sun at your back. Watch for movement and listen for bird sounds. The Prairie Path is a wonderful birding path as it is a slightly raised platform alongside a wide variety of habitat.

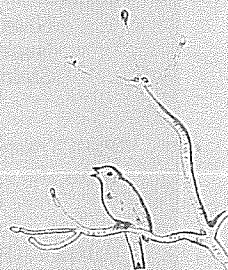
Good luck looking for birds!



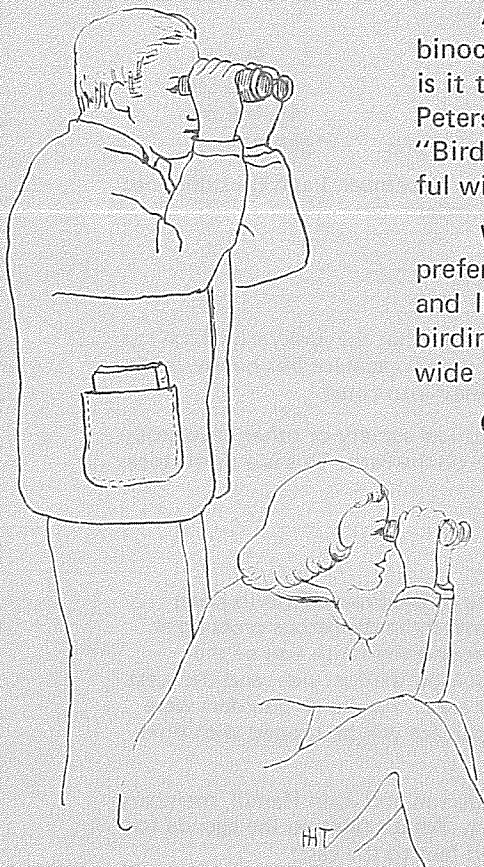
**king  
fisher**



**red-headed  
woodpecker**



**song  
sparrow**



TREASURER'S REPORT, NOVEMBER 1, 1980 - OCTOBER 31, 1981

Balance on hand, November 1, 1980	
Naperville National Bank Checking Account	\$ 64.00
Naperville National Bank Savings Account	35.13
SteinRoe Cash Reserves	17,619.43
Total	\$17,718.56
Income	
Flyers and Maps	12.50
Contributions (\$25,000 from Edward Heil)	27,543.98
Dues	10,389.00
Interest - SteinRoe	4,135.22
Nap. Nat. Bank Sav. Ac.	10.46
Memorials - Lillian Lasch and George Albue	495.00
T-shirts	315.00
Patches	92.10
"Illinois Prairie Path - A guide"	76.25
Miscellaneous	66.24
Total	\$43,135.75
Expenses	
Capital Improvements	\$ 7,577.41
Printing	2,091.92
Legal fees	1,297.82
Membership	860.98
Maintenance	576.62
Insurance	550.00
Patches purchased	518.94
Office	460.45
Stamps	204.41
Illinois Environmental Council Annual Dues	120.00
Secretary	114.60
Maps of Cook County r/w	41.47
IPP Agent badges	34.50
National Trails Council Annual Dues	25.00
Secretary of State Annual Report	5.00
Total	\$14,479.12
Balance on hand, October 31, 1981	
Naperville National Bank Checking Account	\$ 554.95
Naperville National Bank Savings Account	365.59
SteinRoe Cash Reserves	45,454.65
Total	*\$46,375.19

\*Path Treasurer Joan Hamill reminds us that this report was prepared for the annual meeting on November 1 and thus does not show the expenditure of \$14,088 for the major Path improvement at St. James Farm in November.

JUNKYARD CLEANED UP

After years of nagging by Prairie Path members and local residents, it is a pleasure to report that the junkyard which has long disfigured the old Ingaltan Station on the Path at Prince Crossing Road is being cleaned up. To achieve this happy result the DuPage County Zoning Enforcement Division finally had to take the owners of the property into court.

Looking to the future, members of the Prairie Path Board of Directors hope that a historical society or other civic group some day will restore the old red brick station to usefulness, perhaps as a rest stop for travelers on the Path. This is a prime location for such a facility, near some of the most scenic sections of the Path.

ROUTE 25 CROSSING IMPROVED

The Kane County Forest Preserve District, which has the responsibility for maintenance of the Prairie Path in Kane County by virtue of its lease with the Illinois Department of Conservation, has recently improved the dangerous crossing at Route 25 on the Elgin Branch. Safety considerations prompted relocating the trail to pass around the south end of the guardrail on each side of the highway. A new rustic wood bridge was built over the little brook on the east side, and the west side approach was improved with a culvert and considerable grading and filling in the marshy area. Two large boulders were added for aesthetic interest and to discourage encroachments by motor vehicles. The gravel surface will be topped with lime-stone screenings in the spring.

Paul Wolf, President of the Kane County Forest Preserve Commission, and Gunnar Anderson and Joan Hamill, members of the Prairie Path Kane County Committee, deserve three cheers for their part in this project. What's next on the agenda for this determined threesome? Perhaps a bridge over the Illinois Central Railroad a few hundred feet to the east!



## PROFILE

With this issue of the Newsletter we begin a new feature to be called Profile, which will highlight the valued contributions of special Prairie Path members and friends.

Henrietta Tweedie of Wheaton, naturalist and artist, heads the list of those we would like to recognize in this way. Following in the footsteps of Helen Turner and Bobbie Lively, Henri began in the autumn of 1976 to do the charming illustrations and the copy for the first page of the Newsletter so that Path members will know "What to look for" each season. She is still going strong. A graduate of Smith College where she majored in history, this mother of seven has taught art for children at the Morton Arboretum for the past several years, is co-author and illustrator with Roberta Simonds of a wildflower guide, "Wildflowers of Michigan", and excels in pen-and-ink drawings of plants and flowers. She is also an environmentalist interested in prairie remnants and is playing a leading role in preserving the Lincoln Marsh and the St. Stephens Cemetery prairie as a dedicated member of the DuPage Audubon Society. Besides all these achievements she also edited the DuPage Audubon newsletter, The Honker, for several years. We say thanks for everything, Henri. Keep up the good work!

## BOARD CHANGES

Path Vice President Jerry Glenn has been transferred to North Carolina by his employer, IBM. We send him our thanks and best wishes for continued success as we welcome our new Board member, Robert Hargis of Wheaton, an electronics engineer with Motorola in the communications division at the Schaumburg plant. Bob tries to get out on the Path to hike or bike at least once a week and will monitor the section between Roosevelt Road and St. James Farm.

## LAKE MICHIGAN WATER PIPELINE ON PATH?

At the joint meeting of the DuPage Water Commission and the DuPage County Board on February 10, Path President Paul Mooring read a statement expressing the concern of the Prairie Path Board about the impact the Lake Michigan water pipeline would have on the Path. He said, "We anticipate disruption of trail use during construction, as well as disturbance to adjacent residential neighborhoods; almost total annihilation of the existing vegetation; a long period when the Path will be almost treeless; difficulty in restoring a smoothly-crowned railroad grade, resulting in drainage problems; and unknown problems of pipeline maintenance in the future which will certainly involve encroachments on the Path by motorized vehicles to maintain the pipeline and various pumping stations." In a spirit of cooperation, President Mooring also explained the plans of the Path Board for developing a first-class biking-hiking trail on the Cook County section in response to a suggestion from the Water Commission's engineers that such trail development might be done as a part of the pipeline project.

The Prairie Path Board will continue to monitor this project closely on behalf of our members, loyal friends, and thousands of Path users.

## WHEATON BRIDGE COMMITTEE FORMED

In the fall of 1981 a group of Prairie Path friends began meeting informally in Wheaton to discuss ways of improving the Path in the Wheaton central business district, with a special focus on adapting the old C.A. and E. iron truss bridge over the North Western Railroad for use by Prairie Path hikers, bikers and equestrians. Current chairman of the group is Greg Dreyer, Senior Planner with the DuPage County Regional Planning Commission. The membership includes representatives of the County Highway Department, the Wheaton Park District, the Prairie Path, the DuPage County Historical Society, and the Wheaton Historical Preservation Society. The City of Wheaton, the Chamber of Commerce, and the North Western Railroad have all expressed their interest in this ambitious project. Plans are to contact private foundations and other civic groups to promote funding.

Interested persons are urged to call Greg Dreyer at 682-7230 for information about meetings. As Greg says, "People of good will, working together, can make this grand old bridge useful again."

## PRAIRIE PATH SPRING ACTIVITIES, rain or shine

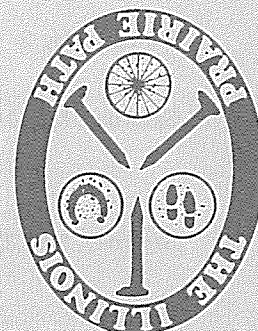
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|--------------------|---|
| Saturday, April 24 | - <u>Spring Cleanups</u> in villages. Contact: Larry Sheaffer, 665-4408.  |
| Saturday, May 1    | - <u>Lincoln Marsh Work Day</u> , to repair bridge over Winfield Creek. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Lincoln and Path in Wheaton. Bring picks, shovels, pruning shears, and saws; also lunch and drink. Leaders: Nancy Hesler, 293-1062, and Dick Wilson, 299-7882.   |
| Sunday, May 2      | - <u>Spring Wildflower Walk</u> . Meet at 1:00 p.m. in parking lot next to Path north of Walnut at end of Longfellow in Glen Ellyn. (Two blocks east of Bryant.) Easy one-mile hike. Leader: Larry Sheaffer.  |
| Saturday, May 15   | - <u>Bird Walk</u> . This should be the height of the spring bird migration. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the far north-west parking lot at Pratts Wayne Woods Forest Preserve, about one mile north of Army Trail Road on Powis. Bring lunch, drink, and binoculars. Leaders: Paul Mooring, 469-4289, Murial Smith, 393-3351, and Dick Wilson.                                     |
| Saturday, May 22   | - <u>Bike Ride</u> , to inspect Batavia Spur in DuPage County as connecting link to new bicycle trail in Kane County. Leisurely 15-mile round trip via St. James Farm and Batavia Junction Detour. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in parking lot of Wheaton-Warrenville High School on Weisbrook Road just north of Butterfield. Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Jean Mooring, 469-4289. |

- Sunday, June 6 - Hike in Kane County, Elgin Branch. This will be an 8-mile round trip to the model railroad museum at Kenyon Road. Meet at 9:30 a.m., far northwest parking lot, Pratts Wayne Woods. Bring lunch and drink. Leader: Dick Wilson.
- Saturday, June 12 - Work Day, to build steps at E.J. and E. tracks on Aurora Branch east of Batavia Junction. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Frontenac and Path (1/8 mile south of Diehl and one mile west of Rte. 59). Bring picks, shovels, wheelbarrows; also lunch and drink. Leader: Paul Mooring.
- Sunday, July 11 - Prairie Wildflower Walk, to see the prairie in all its summer glory. Meet at 1:00 p.m., Elmer J. Hoffman Park in Wheaton (#11 on Prairie Path map). Leader: Larry Sheaffer.

— Jean Mooring, Editor —

DATED MATERIAL  
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