

**Hickory Hills Highlights**  
***News from the Hickory Hills Chapter of Illinois***  
***Audubon Society***  
***Stewards of Bremer Sanctuary***  
**Spring 2013**



\*\*\*\*\*

**“If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology. We must also leave them a glimpse of the world as it was created, not just as it looked when we got through with it.” Lyndon Baines Johnson (from a sign at Bryce Canyon, Utah)**

**BREMER’S BREEDING BIRDS**

**When:** Saturday June 1, 2013

**Where:** Meet at the Bremer Barn for an easy walk on Sanctuary trails.

**Time:** Birdwalk 7 a.m. followed by the Sanctuary’s famous biscuit and gravy breakfast at 9 a.m. Please RSVP Carl Savage (carl\_wildlife@yahoo.com) with your breakfast reservation by Wednesday May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Target Species:** The Sanctuary’s breeding birds including Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Cardinals and a host of others.



**Where’s spring? Geri Kinnaman snapped this photo of a Robin in flight this spring. Note the snowy background.**

**Thanks Geri for sharing this photo and for permission to use it.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Fifteen birders observed 24 bird species on the Sanctuary’s annual spring birdwalk led by Vicki Hedrick on April 6. Although the temperatures were relatively mild, it was very windy. Most birds observed or heard were resident species which are here all year. However, we also noted Canada Geese and Snow Geese, Cooper’s Hawk, Brown Thrasher, and Tree Swallows. Lingering winter birds included White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos. After the birdwalk, several of the participants drove to the Route 66 Prairie along I-55 north

of Litchfield to assist Henry Eilers with scattering prairie seed at that location.



The Route 66 Prairie seed scatterers pause for a photo op. Note the traffic on I-55 in the background.

### Hummingbird Festival

**The Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society will sponsor this year's Hummingbird Festival at the home of Jim and Ann Hefley from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup>. As in the past, Vern Kleen will band the hummers and answer questions about hummingbirds. Festival participants will be able to adopt a hummer and, if present at the time of the bird's banding, will be able to release it.**



Prairie and woodland burns April 4, 2013. Fire is one of the tools to restore and maintain native habitats for wildlife at Bremer. Fire helps to control non-native plant species, returns nutrients to the soil by releasing them from the remains of previous year's growth, and bares the soil allowing it to warm sooner which benefits new growth.



Education Chairperson, Geri Kinnaman, has been cleaning and re-doing the education exhibits in the barn (Bremer Sanctuary Education Center). Stop by and see the result of her efforts. The Education Center looks great.

There were times this spring when we could have launched a boat in the farm field south of Bremer! Photo by Geri Kinnaman





Henry Eilers leads the wildflower walk  
April 20.

***Hickory Hills Chapter of the IAS is governed by a Board of Directors:***

**Henry Eilers - Restoration**  
**Vicki Hedrick - Bluebird Trail, Newsletter**  
**Jim Hefley - Bluebird Trail, Building**  
**Gale Johnson - Building**  
**Geri Kinnaman - Education Chairperson**  
**Don Krefft - Treasurer & Restoration**  
**Sonya Lockett - Bulletin Board**  
**Jerry Prater - IAS Chapter Representative, Secretary, Building**  
**Dick Rompasky - Building**  
**Carl Savage - Membership Chairperson**  
**Ken Schaal - Restoration Chairperson**

**Bremer Calendar of Events:**

**June 1, Saturday:** 7 a.m. Birdwalk, 9 a.m. breakfast  
**July 13, Saturday:** 9 a.m. – noon Hummingbird Festival, Hefley home  
**July 20, Saturday:** 4 p.m. – Prairie Wildflower Walk and wiener roast  
**October 19, Saturday:** 5 p.m. Owl Prowl and wiener roast  
Hickory Hills Chapter Annual Meeting and Election of Officers: TBA



Cub Scouts from Patrick Schaefer's troop, visited on April 20 for a bird ID activity. Two highlights were finding 5 bluebird eggs in one of our nest boxes (Vicki Hedrick led the activity and opened the nest box) and observing very large tadpoles in Turtle Pond.



**The Bluebird Trail committee would like to remind all to avoid opening any of the nestboxes. We all know that parenting is a tough job and opening the boxes could jeopardize the safety of our young birds. The committee monitors each box weekly.**

**Join us at Hickory Hills Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society! We are the stewards of IAS' Helen and Betty Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary.** Your membership provides the Hickory Hills newsletter, chapter email updates (if email address is provided), voting privileges, the opportunity to head a committee or hold an office, Illinois Audubon Magazine, admission to IAS sanctuaries, and the opportunity to attend chapter and state-wide events.

**IAS/HICKORY HILLS CHAPTER NEW MEMBERS FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (all categories include Chapter dues):**

Friend \$ 35 \_\_\_\_\_ Steward \$ 60+ \_\_\_\_\_ Advocate \$510+ \_\_\_\_\_

Friend Plus \$ 40 \_\_\_\_\_ Guardian \$110+ \_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$1,010+ \_\_\_\_\_

Legacy \$5,010+ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Illinois Audubon Society, PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708-2457

Or by Credit Card by providing the following information:

Circle: Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date (MM) \_\_\_\_\_ (YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please do not use this form to renew your membership.** Annual renewals will be sent out by IAS approximately one month prior to due date.

You may also join online: <http://www.illinoisauduon.org/JOIN/Join.html>

OR

You may join Friends of Bremer Sanctuary: yearly membership is \$10 payable directly to membership chair Carl Savage or mailed to Hickory Hills Chapter, PO Box 395 Hillsboro, IL 62049. Membership is due each January 1. A Friend receives the chapter newsletter, email updates (if email address is provided), has sanctuary privileges, is invited to all chapter activities and events and may volunteer for the Sanctuary. A Friend does not have voting rights in chapter business nor can a Friend hold office or chair a committee.

