

**NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2011-2012 MEETING and FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE**

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

www.ncios.org

P.O. Box 6371, Rockford IL 61125-1371

Meeting and Potluck Supper

Thursday, September 8, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

One of the first meetings of the fall features a potluck supper followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, your own tableware and beverage. After the meeting we'll wander around the area and look for birds, insects and wildflowers. If we are lucky and the weather permits we might see some owls. Binoculars, flashlights and bug repellent are a good idea.

Field Trip – Early Fall Migrants

Saturday, September 10, 2011

8:00 a.m. Menard's parking lot on 173 in Machesney Park

We'll go to either Nine Springs near Madison, WI or to Horicon Marsh looking for early fall migrants. Leader: Phil Schwab – 815-399-5709

Field Trip – Hawk Watching

Saturday, September 24, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the parking lot overlooking Olson Lake in Rock Cut State Park.

We're going to see what we can find at the hawk watch site at Rock Cut State Park. Come for the entire three hours or drop by when you get a chance. Coordinated by Daniel and Barbara Williams at 779-537-3352

Field Trip – Ducks on the Mississippi River

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the municipal parking lot in Forreton, IL or at 9:00 a.m. at Spring Lake.

We'll visit several different spots along the river to see what we can find.

Leader: Anne Straight – 815-938-3263

Meeting

Thursday, October 13, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve

Ecuador is a spectacular birding destination because a tremendous diversity of habitats is packed into a small area. Ecuador is also the world's center of hummingbird diversity. Jack and Joyce Armstrong will share their birding experiences there.

Field Trip – Hawk Watching

Saturday, October 15, 2011

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the parking lot overlooking Olson Lake in Rock Cut State Park.

We're going to see what we can find at the hawk watch site at Rock Cut State Park. Come for the entire three hours or drop by when you get a chance. Coordinated by Daniel and Barbara Williams at 779-537-3352

Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

Barbara and Daniel Williams' slide program will take us across the sea and far away to the Galapagos Islands. The Islands are famous for their volcanic geology, rich ocean currents and dramatic radiation of species. Charles Darwin was one of the earliest naturalists to visit the islands and marvel at the marine iguanas, giant tortoises, odd plant communities and a strangely similar group of finches.

Field Trip – Local Waterfowl

Saturday, November 12, 2011

8:00 a.m. at the Lion's Club Shelterhouse at Rock Cut State Park

This is the time of year that brings a variety of waterfowl to Rock Cut State Park. We'll look over the lakes at Rock Cut first and maybe visit a few more locations to see what ducks and geese we can find. Leader: Barbara Williams – 779-537-3352

Christmas Bird Counts

Our annual winter bird censuses in Winnebago, Ogle and Boone counties improve our understanding of the populations and problems of birds locally and nationwide. Teams and area assignments will all be organized in advance of the count dates. A \$5.00 fee will be collected for each count to help defray Audubon Society's data management costs. New counters and feeder watchers are welcomed.

Rockford Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17, 2011

To participate please call Dan Williams at 815-979-8335.

Rock Cut Christmas Bird Count

Wednesday, December 28, 2011

To participate please call Eddie Callaway at 815-323-001

Kishwaukee Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 31, 2011

To participate please call Barbara Williams at 779-537-3352

Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL
Program to be announced

Field Trip – Bong State Recreation Area

Saturday, January 14, 2012

12:00 p.m. Menard's parking lot on 173 in Machesney Park

Located near Burlington, WI, Bong SRA often hosts Short-eared Owls in the winter. We'll plan on leaving Rockford at noon and we'll stay at Bong until dusk to look for those owls and maybe some others, too!

Leader: Barbara Williams – 779-537-3352

Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

Steve and Jeanne Gent will present a program called: *Is That Our Boat? The Joys of World Birding*. They will tell us about birding adventures in the Kuril Islands, Siberia, Ethiopia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Field Trip - Eagles and Gulls at Starved Rock State Park

Saturday, February 11, 2012

Depending on the river and ice conditions there can be over 100 Bald Eagles and a thousand gulls of a half a dozen different species near the lock and dam at Starved Rock. It's a great opportunity to study gulls and eagle plumages.

Leader: Mary Kisamore – 815-636-8234

Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

Fred and Hilda Stellema have been on the road, visiting, learning and exploring. They will share their experiences in a program called, "The Thailand Experience! Including Birds!"

Field Trip – Early Spring Migrants

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Time and location to be announced

Leader: Barbara Williams - 779-537-3352

Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

John Longhenry will share his photos of spring warblers and help you brush up on identification. This is just in time for the beginning of the warbler migration season.

Midwest Sandhill Crane Count

Saturday, April 14, 2012 (two hours from 5:15 to 7:30 in the morning)

This survey helps the International Crane Foundation monitor the abundance and distribution of Sandhill Cranes. In the early morning we watch and listen from carefully selected sites to count calling and displaying Sandhills. 3000 volunteers in 5 states participate in this growing effort. Please call Lynda Johnson at 815-629-2781 for information about participating.

Field Trip – Spring Sparrows and other migrants

Saturday, April 28, 2012

8:00 a.m. at Deer Run Forest Preserve

Early migrant birds will be on territories and singing. A good diversity of sparrows should be present.

Leader: Jack Armstrong – 815-398-2974

Illinois Spring Bird Count

Saturday, May 5, 2012

This statewide survey gives us a better picture of spring migration and the arrival of breeding birds in Illinois. Our group tries to census birds throughout the county during the day of the count. It's a big job, but it is the very best time of the year to be out birding. Lots of fun, lots of great birds. New counters and feeder watchers are welcomed. To participate contact Jack Armstrong at 815-398-2974 for an area assignment.

Meeting

Thursday, May 10, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Severson Dells Forest Preserve, Rockford, IL

Program to be announced

Field Trip - Nachusa Grasslands and Lowden Miller forest

Saturday, June 2, 2012

8:00 a.m. at Farm and Fleet parking lot on West State St.

Breeding birds of the forest and grasslands. Kevin is a long-time volunteer at Nachusa and knows this area well. We may get to visit some little-known sites in our search for the specialty birds of the area.

Leader: Kevin Kaltenback - 779-537-3352

Meeting and Potluck Supper

Thursday, June 14, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Sugar River Forest Preserve

The last meeting of the spring features a potluck supper followed by the business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, your own tableware and beverage. After the meeting we'll stroll around the area and look for birds, insects and wildflowers, weather permitting. Flashlights and bug repellent are a good idea.

NOTE: PLEASE CALL THE LEADER IN ADVANCE FOR THE TIME AND PLACE TO MEET FOR FIELD TRIPS. CAR POOLING IS ENCOURAGED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS. RIDERS ARE EXPECTED TO REIMBURSE DRIVERS FOR EXPENSES.

2011-2012 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Steve Gent
Vice President: Joyce Armstrong
Treasurer: Ron Callaway
Secretary: Barbara Williams
Directors: Mary Kisamore (until 2012)
John Longhenry (until 2013)
Russ Cline (until 2014)
Refreshments: Mary English

Membership dues for the 2011-2012 season are now due.

You may either bring a check payable to NCIOS to the September meeting or mail it to:

Ron Callaway
4546 Cleveland Ave.
Rockford, IL 61108

N.C.I.O.S. MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Membership Type:

_____ ACTIVE: \$10.00 _____ Student \$3.00 _____ LIFE: \$125.00

Thank you!