The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society proudly announces its 32nd ANNUAL BANQUET AND PROGRAM
Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Seeing 748 Birds in One Year: Sanford Komito
“In 1998, Sandy Komito engaged in what serious birders call, A Big Year run. This is a year-long marathon contest where a birder tries to see as many different birds as possible in that single year. Ever since Sandy set the old record for North America in 1987, a few have challenged but none have broken his record.”

LOCATION
Embry United Methodist Church
515 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL
Parking: One parking lot off of Pleasant St. and two lots off of Iroquois, including handicapped entrance.

OUR PROGRAM
The Big Year movie hit the box office in 2011. Sanford Komito, played by Owen Wilson in The Big Year, actually had his big year in 1998 when he spotted 748 birds from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. This is the highest number of bird species spotted by any birder in one year. Our banquet program will feature Sanford Komito, who will talk about the history of the American Birding Association’s Big Year and share pictures of the highlights of his Big Year. Participants will have the opportunity to ask Sanford questions about his birding experiences.

OUR MEAL
We will have Arnold’s Farm pasture-raised turkey with all the trimmings, sweet corn from Drake’s Farm, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry salad, bread, and a selection of delectable desserts home-baked by Audubon members. A variety of beverages will be served including fair-trade, shade-grown organic coffee and organic and fair-trade teas.

ALSO FEATURED
25% discount on introductory Audubon memberships
Silent Auction to help support NIAS chapter activities
Presentation of NIAS Land Stewardship Award

RESERVATION INFORMATION. Banquet cost includes meal and program. Banquet reservation deadline is April 3rd. Those wishing to attend the program only are welcome to fill out this form OR pay at the door.

To reserve, clip and mail this form with your check (made payable to NIAS) to Judy Kurr, 492 Cedar Creek Rd., Freeport, IL 61032. For further information, call Judy Kurr at (815) 563-4984.

NIAS Spring Banquet 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># attending</th>
<th>$ owed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Banquet and Program</td>
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<td>Adults ($15.00 each)</td>
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<td>Kids 12 and under</td>
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<td>Program Only</td>
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<td>Adults ($3.00)</td>
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<td>Kids 12 and under</td>
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<td>Total Amount Enclosed</td>
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The Annual Banquet is a fundraiser for Northwest Illinois Audubon Society. (NIAS) We thank you for your support!
Lucky 13 Birdathon Challenge

Sanford Komito saw 748 bird species in one year. How many species can you see in one day? This year’s Birdathon will be on Sunday, May 5th. There are two ways to participate in the Birdathon Challenge:

- **Be a Bird Counter** and ask for pledges from your friends and family. Our goal is to have 13 birders for the 2013 Birdathon.

- **Pledge a small amount per bird** to any one of the Birders. Most Birders see about 100 species so if you pledge $1.30 cents per bird, that would be about $13.00. Or, you can pledge any amount...even a set amount like $20.13 in honor of the year 2013, hoping to make this a ‘Big Year’ for our chapter.

**Proceeds go to:** Belize Audubon, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, National Audubon Mississippi River Campaign, Natural Resources Foundation of WI, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River, and our own local birding projects.

**Contact Laura Dufford at 815-947-2720 or lauradufford@gmail.com** if you would like to be a Bird Counter or make a pledge for one of the Birders. For more information and a list of Bird Counters, check out the April/May edition of the NIAS Newsletter or the calendar of events on our website at [www nwilaubon org](http://www.nwilaubon.org).

We Challenge You to Be a Birder or Make a Pledge...and we thank you for your participation!