



# Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

*Back from the brink of extinction, the endangered Whooping Crane is making a slow recovery. (drawing by Carole Litus)*

April—May 2011 Newsletter  
www.nwilaudubon.org

## Annual NIAS Banquet

Embury United Methodist Church

April 14, 2011

Meal at 6:00 p.m. and Program at 7:15 p.m.



You won't want to miss this year's banquet so mark April 14 on your calendar. The program will be presented by Rob Mies about those mysterious and often misunderstood creatures of the night, bats. Rob co-authored the book, Stokes Beginners Guide to Bats, and has appeared on several television shows including The Today Show and Late Night with Conan O'Brien. Not only will he enlighten our knowledge about these fascinating flying mammals but he will also bring live bats, including the largest bat in the world, the Flying Fox Bat from Malaysia, which surprisingly eats fruit, nectar and pollen.

The traditional meal of pasture raised turkey from Arnold's Farm with all the trimmings will precede the program. The banquet meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. at Embury United Methodist Church. A silent auction will also be a part of this great evening. You should have already received, or will soon receive, a separate mailing about this event. **We encourage you to attend the program even if you can't partake of the meal.** The program will start around 7:15 p.m. and will be open to the public for a small fee. Children 12 and under who attend the "program only" are admitted free. This will be a great program for families with kids because it is important that we all learn about the significant role that bats play in a healthy ecosystem.

## NIAS Monthly Meetings:

- Held on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Oct.-Mar., location is St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Blvd., Freeport; 7 p.m. for announcements and reports. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by refreshments.
- April, May & Sept. special mtg. times/place.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Calendar	2
Considerations	
Crane Count	3
Ducks Field Trip	4
Toward a Cooler Planet	5
Spring Migration Guide	6
Carol's Choices	7
Birdathon and Ballot	9

## The International Crane Foundation (ICF)

NIAS Monthly Meeting—Potluck at Oakdale Nature Preserve, rural Freeport

May 3, 2011—Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; Program at 7:00 p.m.

*(Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Beverages provided.)*

Lizzie Condon, an Interpretive Naturalist from the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, will present on the history, mission, and projects of the ICF. She will highlight the work of ICF in the Annual Midwest Crane Count and their work in reintroducing Whooping Cranes to the eastern U.S.

Lizzie grew up in Glenview, Illinois and got her bachelor's degree in integrative biology at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. She spent much of her time as an undergraduate studying bird behavior at the Illinois Natural History Survey. She started working for the ICF as an education intern in March 2010, and extended the internship until March 2011. This summer, she'll head to Brazil for a research project on understory rainforest birds, followed by a master's program in Minnesota, where she will study bird migration in the Great Lakes region.



## Calendar Considerations

**March 31—Ducks Along the Mississippi Field Trip.** See article page 4.

**April 2—All About Bluebirds.** Details on page 4.

**April 5—"Talking About the Issues"** monthly discussion session at Judy and Wendell Kurr's, 492 Cedar Creek Rd., Freeport, just north of Cedarville, 7-9 p.m. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:45 or call Judy and Wendell (815-563-4984) for directions. Join us as we informally discuss a variety of environmental issues.

**April 5—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**April 7—Sixteenth Annual Boyer Colloquium,** Highland Community College. Details on page 3.

**April 11—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**April 14—Annual NIAS Banquet.** Details on front page.

**April 16—Join us when we cover Stephenson County for the annual Midwest Crane Count!** See page 3 for details.

**April 21—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**April 27—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**April 28—The NIAS Conservation Committee** and all other interested individuals will meet at Amigos Restaurant, 306 N. Galena Ave. in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and a stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30 p.m.

**May 1—Birdathon.** Details on page 9.

**May 3—NIAS Monthly Program-Spring Potluck "International Crane Foundation".** Details on front page. Oakdale Nature Preserve, rural Freeport.

**May 5—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**May 6—Brush cut at the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve,** just north of the Freeport Raceway on the south edge of Freeport off of Walnut Rd., 3-5 p.m. Early leafed-out honeysuckle will be our sole target species. Tools, work gloves, and water provided. We'll go for pizza afterwards! Leader: Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**May 10—NIAS Board Mtg.** St. John United Church of Christ; 7-9 p.m.

**May 18—Garlic Mustard pulling at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve,** 8-10 a.m. on the Goats 'n Roses section. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204). Tools, gloves, water and snacks provided. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 7:30. The Preserve is located in the southeast corner of the intersection of West Grove and Freeport Rds., about 3 miles southwest of Forreston, with the parking area off of West Grove Rd.

**May 19—"Talking About the Issues"** monthly discussion session at John and Anita Nienhuis's home in rural Pearl City, 3350 S. Mill Grove Rd., 7-9 p.m. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30 or call John and Anita (815-443-2401) for directions. Join us as we informally discuss a variety of environmental issues. A special treat will be viewing Anita's Green Dragon plant.

**May 21—Kid's Nature Walk, 9-10:30 a.m.** Details on page 6.

**May 25—First Campfire of the year at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve.** At 7 p.m. we'll take a leisurely stroll to observe blooming plants and migrating birds. The campfire will start at 8 p.m. S'mores and water will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30. See May 18 above for directions. If the weather is questionable, call Blackmores at 815-938-3204.

**May 27—Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m.** Details on page 6.

## Thanks go to...

♥ **Anne Straight** for agreeing to monitor the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve bluebird trail.

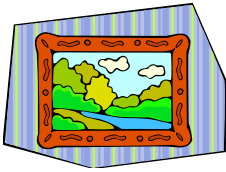
♥ **John & Anita Nienhuis, Keith & Mary Blackmore, Randy Ocken and Lynn Feaver** for readying our prairie management tools for another season of use.

♥ **Norene Caliva** for preparing each newsletter mailing for bulk mail distribution.

♥ **Mary Blackmore and Kara Gallup** for revising the enclosed Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve brochure.

## WANTED: Silent Auction Items

Each year at the annual spring banquet (see details on the front page) participants enjoy the excitement of a silent auction. Can you donate items for this event? Suggested items for the spring banquet auction include books, photographs, prints, games, other items that are nature-oriented or gift certificates (donated by the vendor or by you) from local businesses such as restaurants, bookstores, garden shops or the like. Certificates for services such as a guided canoe trip, birding outing or photography lessons are also welcome. If you have an item to donate, **please call Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204) before the banquet date of April 14** so that we can prepare bid sheets and reserve table space. Please bring your auction item to the banquet, or call Keith to arrange for pickup.



**Thanks for your donation!**

### CRANE COUNT—APRIL 16

If you'd like to help count Sandhill Cranes in Stephenson County on Saturday, April 16, call count coordinator Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204. It's an early (5:30-7:30 a.m.) yet rewarding activity! Novices are paired with veterans for counting at pre-determined sites along Stephenson County wetlands. Following the count, we meet for breakfast and finish around 9:00 a.m.



### BOYER COLLOQUIUM

Join us for the sixteenth annual Boyer Colloquium to be held on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Highland Community College in Room H201. The topic of the colloquium will be "Immigration: America's Past, Present and Future." This year we will host a panel of speakers that will include the following guests:

- Erik Camayd-Freixas—federal interpreter who was involved in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid on a meat packing plant in Postville, Iowa.
- Donald Harstad—retired deputy sheriff from Clayton county Iowa and author of *The Long December*.
- Sara Dady—immigration lawyer from Rockford.
- Dale Watson—retired history instructor.

An additional session will be held on Friday, April 8 from 11:00 to 12:30 at HCC. Our panelists will return for a discussion with students and the public. A location will be announced.

Doc Boyer, who endowed this series, was interested in how the three "E's", economics, environment and ethics interact. We think the impact of immigration, legal and otherwise, affects each of those symbiotically. It's our belief that if communities understand the issues, the history of previous decisions, and ramifications of prior actions, they will be better positioned to support or oppose policy proposals. There is no fee to attend either presentation. For additional information, you may contact Judy Moore at 599-3457 or Martha Ebbesmeyer at 235-2165.



## ALL ABOUT BLUEBIRDS

Saturday, April 2, 2011

9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

St. John United Church of Christ

1010 S. Park Blvd., Freeport

Everything you want to know about bluebirds; how to attract, monitor, and enjoy them.

**\*Three local experts will share their knowledge\***

Doors open at 9:00 so you can view displays, talk with experts, and pick up hand-outs. Program begins at 9:30 a.m. Bluebird boxes and other items will be for sale.

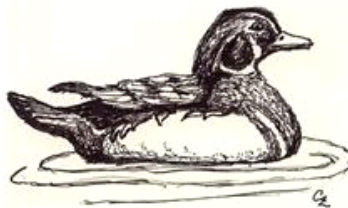
Sponsored by Northwest Illinois Audubon Society in conjunction with Conservation Guardians of Northwest IL and Wildbirds Unlimited of Galena. For more information, call: 815-947-2720.

## Ducks Along the Mississippi—Field Trip

March 31, 2011

Join leader Anne Straight at 8:00 a.m. to carpool from the city parking lot by the library in Forreston (intersection Rts 26 and 72). Duck viewing begins at Spring Lake, moving on to Thomson Causeway. Participants will find a place for lunch around noon. Those wishing to continue can end the day with a visit to Lock and Dam 13. Return time to Forreston for carpoolers will be around 3:00 p.m. Previous participants have seen Trumpeter Swans, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Dabblers, Teals, and divers such as Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, and Mergansers. The Mississippi Flyway route is followed by many North American waterfowl and this is a great way to see birds at their rest stops along the quiet backwaters of the Mississippi River. *Call Anne Straight to confirm your attendance:*

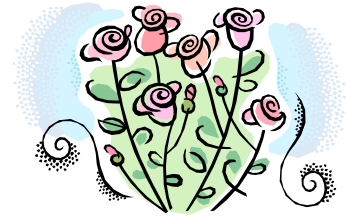
**815-938-3263.**



Drawing by Carole Litus

# Toward a Cooler Planet

22nd in a series



## PLAN AHEAD, SLOW DOWN AND SMELL THE ROSES

As speculators once more drive gas prices up, cars which offer more miles per gallon are again in great demand. If one is in the market for a new car, getting one which gets 45-55 mpg would take a bit of the sting out of filling up. Reducing carbon dioxide output by more than 19 lbs. per gallon of gasoline not used is a planetary bonus. Most of us are probably not currently shopping for a new conveyance, however. For us, it's time for Plan B: ways you can use less gas in the car you already have.

### Consider the following:

- **Think about your driving needs** and consolidate your trips. Fewer miles driven = less gas used.
- **Check your tire pressure** frequently. Properly inflated tires result in significantly better gas mileage.
- **Avoid excessive idling** to "warm up" the car. On the coolest winter day, 30 seconds of idling is plenty. Under most other conditions, no idling is needed.
- **Drive consciously**, avoiding rapid acceleration and braking.

Once on the way, obey the speed limit. Remember the posted numbers are upper limits and that for every mile per hour of reduced speed, one saves about 1% of fuel. This means, in practice, that if you drive 65 instead of 55, you make \$4 gasoline \$4.40. If you usually drive 65 and reduce your speed to 55, \$4 per gallon gasoline becomes \$3.60. Such a deal! And the 10% savings is also a 10% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

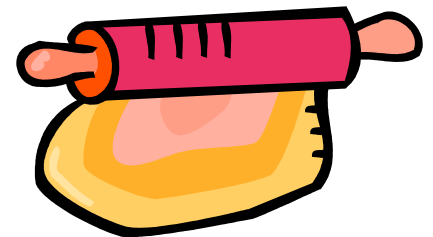
The time differential for driving at lower speeds is certainly manageable. For Mary and me, the most frequent trip is a 22-mile trip to Freeport. If one were to average 65 mph, the trip would take 20.3 minutes. At 55 mph, the trip would be 3.7 minutes longer. Surely we can afford that.

Lastly, about the roses. H. D. Thoreau said of beauty, "...if we seek her elsewhere because we do not find her at home, our search will prove a fruitless one." To the extent that we heed his advice, much beauty and enjoyment can be had close to home. The flowers will soon be up; the birds are already returning. Enjoy!

— Keith Blackmore

## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Each year Audubon members provide the delicious homemade desserts at our annual spring banquet. If you'd be willing to bake a pie or a cake for our April 14 banquet, please call Anita Nienhuis at 815-443-2401.



## Enjoy the Spring Migration!

From the first Red-winged Blackbird (seen this year on February 19 at our Elkhorn Creek Preserve) to the last warbler in May, the spring migration is a phenomenon of wonder. Every year our chapter schedules weekly bird walks to observe, enjoy and learn about these migratory species. Last year, our sightings ranged from the common (Indigo Bunting) to the unusual (Blue-winged Warbler), with a bit of serendipity as well (side-by-side Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs!). Join us this year!

All of the walks below — except May 21 — will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m. Following the walks, those who would like to will gather at a local restaurant for an early lunch. Contact the respective walk leader if the weather is questionable or if you need further directions to the site. Happy Birding!

**April 5** — Wetland areas of eastern Stephenson county. Carpool at 8 a.m. from the east end of the Staples parking lot off of HWY 26 in Freeport. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**April 11** — Duck's Misery and the southern Jane Addams Trail. Carpool as above at 7:45 a.m. Leader: Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**April 21** — Jane Addams Trail and Orangeville Wetlands. Meet at the trail-head in Orangeville, just east of the BP gas station. Carpool as above at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Somer Bozovsky (815-821-5178).

**April 27** — Newell Tract, Oakdale Nature Preserve, rural Freeport. Meet in the parking area of the Newell Tract (the part of Oakdale on the west side of Crane's Grove Rd.) Leader: Anne Straight (815-938-3263).

**May 5** — Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, rural Forreston. Carpool as above at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**May 11** — Krape Park, Freeport. Meet in the parking lot by the dam. Leaders: Dick Luthin (815-232-8624) and Laura Dufford (815-947-2720).

**May 21** — SPECIAL CHILDREN'S NATURE WALK! Meet in the parking area of the Newell Tract of the Oakdale Nature Preserve (as described above) at 9 a.m. Kids will look for birds and other neat stuff until 10:30 a.m. Leaders: Carol Redmore (815-233-9105) and Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**May 27** — Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park, rural Lena. Meet in the parking lot next to the dam at the east end of the lake or carpool as above at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204).



# Carol's Choices



Let's get in a 'spring' mood with some of these selections for the kids.

- **I Took a Walk**, Henry Cole. This book has kids try to find various listed birds, ducks, insects, etc. in pictures of a wetland, a meadow, etc. It's beautiful; it's fun — and the answers are in the back.
- **A Place for Butterflies**, Melissa Stewart. Peachtree Publishers. Beautifully illustrated and written.
- **Born to be a Butterfly**, Karen Wallace, Beginning Reading, Level 1, DK Readers.
- **Butterflies and Moths**, Rosamund Kidman Cox, Usborne First Nature Books.
- **Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies**, Mel Boring, Take-Along Guide.
- **Bugs and Other Insects**, Bobbie Kalman, Crabtree Publishing.
- **Wildflowers, Blooms and Blossoms**, Diane Burns, Take-Along Guide.
- **Wildflowers**, Pam Foray Science Nature Guides—has 20 easy-to-do science projects; Thunder Bay Press.
- **Song of the Hermit Thrush: An Iroquois Legend**, as told by Gloria Dominic. This has been listed before. The legend of how the hermit thrush got its beautiful song.
- **Catch the Wind**, Mortenson Construction, Renewable Energy Groups. Clearly, this is a Mortenson promotion but it is much more than advertisement; it gives a thorough explanation, at the elementary school level, of wind energy.
- **Granddad's Prayers of the Earth**, Douglas Wood. This is not a "prayer book" as you might think from the title — it is more of a natural psalm of praise and gratitude for the earth...well-written and beautiful illustrations.

## Newsletter For a Friend

If you would like your friends to receive the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society (NIAS) newsletter, you can e-mail or call Teresa Smith and your friends will receive the newsletter for 9 months at no cost. Offering the newsletter to your friends is a great way for them to find out about the programs and field trips offered by NIAS. You can contact Teresa at [tsmith31@frontier.com](mailto:tsmith31@frontier.com) or 815-238-3963 with your friend's name and address.



## LOCAL RECYCLING — IT'S ABOUT THE SUBSIDY

During the last couple of years, recycling services in some parts of northwest Illinois — notably rural Stephenson County — have declined. A drop-off site in Freeport, the Freeport Recycling Center, used to freely accept just about all recyclables from people without curbside service. Why has this service changed? And why are the different types of recyclables dumped together in the same bin? Are the items really being recycled?

According to Kevin Moring of Moring Disposal, Inc., the changes in service are all due to the subsidy of recycling, or perhaps more to the point, the lack of subsidy. Moring indicated that businesses such as his are unable to pay for their recycling pickup costs simply from the return they get on the recyclables. With curbside pickup contracts, municipalities pay pickup firms such as Moring Disposal a fee in addition to the money that those firms get from the recyclables. With the city of Freeport, that fee is passed on to citizens through their water and sewer bills. The exception is apartment buildings with 7 or more units. Those buildings are classed as commercial accounts with the hauler and must contract with the hauler separately for pickup of recyclables. That fee can then be divided among the apartment building's residents.

Ogle county recycling operates in a different way. According to Clyde Gelderloos of Rochelle Disposal Service Inc., the county's widespread system of free drop-off sites for recyclables is possible because the county funds that system through tipping fees (fees that disposal firms pay to dump — or tip — a load of garbage) from the two landfills located in the county. All typical recyclables are accepted at those sites with the exception of Styrofoam. Drop-off sites are in many county villages including Forreston and Oregon. Gelderloos also emphasized that firms such as his could not meet their recycling pickup expenses from only the return on the recyclables.

When recycling programs first began many years ago, there were strict guidelines for the separation of materials by the consumer for both curbside pickup and drop-off of recyclables. The recent co-mingling of recyclables has led some citizens to wonder if the recyclables are being landfilled instead of recycled. Typically, disposal firms take co-mingled recyclables to a separation site operated by another contractor. This contractor then sells the separated recyclables. When asked if the recyclables ever end up in a landfill, Moring stated, "Definitely not with Moring Disposal."

What are the options for rural residents or those townspeople without curbside pickup? The Freeport Recycling Center at 657 N. VanBuren Ave. is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.—4 p.m. and accepts newspaper, cardboard and junk mail, free of charge. Glass, plastic and steel cans may be taken to the landfill transfer station at 2133 S. Walnut Rd. on the south edge of Freeport. They charge \$4 per 30-gallon bag. By flattening the steel cans and plastic, where feasible, quite a lot of recyclables can fit into a 30-gallon bag. Aluminum cans also can be taken to the transfer station or to any of several local sites that will pay a nominal sum for aluminum.

— Mary Blackmore

## It's Birdathon Time Again !!!

The date for this year's Birdathon has been set for Sunday, May 1st. Interested birders will be out birding to raise money to benefit some important birding conservation projects. Please help out by sponsoring a birder this year. Birdathoners are listed on the form below. Your pledge is per species, not per individual bird. The maximum number of species seen is usually 70-100 species. Or you may donate a lump sum. Your birdathoner will contact you after the event is over.

If you are interested in being a birder this year, please contact Laura Dufford at [lldufford@dishmail.net](mailto:lldufford@dishmail.net) or 815-947-2720. This year's birdathon proceeds will go to these groups: Belize Audu-

bon, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, National Audubon Mississippi River Campaign, Natural Resources Foundation of WI, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, and our ongoing projects with our local Audubon Chapter. Thanks for your support!



### 2011 Birdathon Pledge Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am pledging \_\_\_\_\_ \$ per species sighted by that (those) birder(s) marked below:

\_\_\_\_\_ Keith Blackmore

\_\_\_\_\_ Kent Lewis

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Blackmore

\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Gordon

\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Benning

\_\_\_\_\_ Jesse Akins

\_\_\_\_\_ Anne Straight

\_\_\_\_\_ Laura Dufford

### 2011 BALLOT

The individuals listed below have been nominated to serve the indicated positions. All terms are for one year. There is no presidential opening because Lucas Bradley, the current president, is serving the 2nd year of his 2-year term. Blanks may be used for write-in candidates. Send your ballot along with your Birdathon form, or send it separately to NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport IL 61032. Election results will be announced in the next newsletter. New officers will assume their duties following the May meeting.

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

\_\_\_\_\_ Teresa Smith

#### MEMBERS AT LARGE: (vote for six)

\_\_\_\_\_ Steve Simpson

\_\_\_\_\_ Tony Grahme

#### SECRETARY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Judy Kurr

\_\_\_\_\_ Willem Dijstelbergen

\_\_\_\_\_ Tim Smith

\_\_\_\_\_ Sharon Shaw

\_\_\_\_\_ Chris Hartung

#### TREASURER:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Blackmore



**Board Members:**

**President**—Lucas Bradley  
4205 Beach St. #203  
Rockford, IL 61108  
Home: (815) 238-7120  
**Vice President**—Lynn Feaver  
**Secretary**—Anita Nienhuis  
**Treasurer**—Judy Kurr  
**At large**—Steve Simpson, John Nienhuis, Tony Gra-hame, Tim Smith, Sharon Shaw and Willem Dijstel-bergen

**Committee Chairs:**  
**Conservation** —Keith Blackmore

**Programs**—Eve Wilczewski  
**Education**—Laura Dufford  
**Publicity**—Dan Barron  
**Membership**—Teresa Smith  
**Field Trips**—Rick Weber  
**Sustainable Agriculture**—Dick Benning, Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp

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**Regular Contributors**

Keith Blackmore  
Carol Redmore

Yes, I would like to give a gift membership in the National Audubon Society/  
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to:

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

School (if student): \_\_\_\_\_

Gift card to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

- Individual \_\_\_\_ (\$20)
- Student \_\_\_\_ (\$9)
- Senior Citizen \_\_\_\_ (\$15)
- Chapter only \_\_\_\_ (\$15)

Make check payable to NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:  
Treasurer, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

*X Sorry, this discount does not apply to renewals*

**ADDRESSES OF YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**Federal**

Senator Richard Durbin  
Kluczynski Building 38th Floor  
230 S. Dearborn  
Chicago, IL 60604

Senator Mark Kirk  
Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

(16th District)  
Rep. Don Manzullo  
415 S. Mulford Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61108

(17th District)  
Rep. Phil Hare  
1535 47th Ave., Suite 5  
Moline, IL 61265

**State**

Sen. Tim Bivins  
State House  
Springfield, IL 62706 (45th District)

Sen. Mike Jacobs  
State House  
Springfield, IL 62706 (36th District)

Rep. Jim Sacia  
State House  
Springfield, IL 62706 (89th District)

Rep. Jerry Mitchell  
State House  
Springfield, IL 62706 (90th District)

Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121  
State House Switchboard (217) 782-2000  
(When using either switchboard, simply ask to be connected to the legislator's office.)

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