

BIRDSONG CHAPTER

Vol. 7 | Issue 1 | Spring 2025

Birdsong Chapter
2025 Schedule
Meetings are held at
2:00 pm at
Amboy Marsh
1701 Mormon Rd.
Amboy, IL 61310
unless otherwise noted.

March 9- Sunday 2 pm -
Annual Birdsong Chapter
meeting

March 24 - 7pm ZOOM
Chapter-Check In.
Contact
amboymarsh@illinoisaudubon.org for details.

April 12 - Saturday -
crane count - 5:30 am -
7:30am - sign up with
Diana Rod -
birdsongilaudubon@yahoo.com

May 11 - Spring Bird
Count - - contact Diana
Rod to participate
birdsongilaudubon@yahoo.com

Green River Lowlands Sites Begin IL Calling Frog Survey



Amboy Marsh and Gremel sites have joined the Calling Frog Survey for the northern Illinois region. Before The Calling Frog Survey began, very little was known about the distribution and status of amphibians within the region. The survey is providing important information to scientists and land managers, who can use the data collected to conduct management and research that benefits amphibian populations. (Cont'd pg. 2).



From https://frogsurvey.org/?page_id=7

The Survey is developing a regional profile of frog and toad species geographic distributions and relative abundances. The volunteer community scientists who monitor the frogs and toads at our sites are Amy and Dave Brewer at Amboy Marsh and Bob Chinn at Gremel. They collect the data so the survey scientists can analyze and share results with scientists and the public.



Northern Leopard Frog - photo by Amy Brewer

For a calling frog survey, participants learn the unique calls of the 13 species of frogs and toads that occur in northern Illinois. Observers attend one educational meeting and then listen for frogs on at least three separate evenings in the spring and summer, each lasting for about two hours. Data from the Calling Frog Survey is first entered into an online database. The information is passed on to the site to aid in the land management process. Individual researchers, herpetologists, planning agencies, and students can access the data for research and planning projects.

From https://frogsurvey.org/?page_id=7



Each frog and toad species has a specific period in which chorusing and mating are most likely to occur. In northern Illinois, there are three distinct periods in which different species can be expected to breed. Monitors must conduct at least one survey for each of these periods. These periods, and the species that breed in them, are as follows:

1. **Early Spring** *February 25- April 20* – In most years this period begins in the final two weeks of March and lasts until mid-April. Species which chorus during this period includes: boreal chorus frog, spring peeper, wood frog, northern leopard frog and pickerel frog.
2. **Mid-Spring** *May 10 – May 30* – In most years this period begins in early May and lasts throughout that month. Species include: American toad, Fowler's toad, eastern gray treefrog, and Cope's gray treefrog.
3. **Late Spring/ Early Summer** *June 20 – July 10* – In northern Illinois, this period usually begins around the first week of June, lasting through July or early August. Species include: cricket frog, green frog, and bullfrog.

We hope you'll visit our sites to listen for frogs and toads too!

Gray Treefrog - photo by Amy Brewer





Volunteer Work Days

Volunteers make all of the work at Green River Lowlands Preserve happen! We can supply tools and training. You could assist with invasive plant removal, maintenance, and other general stewardship tasks. The spring work day schedule is:

March - Wednesdays 5th, 26th, Saturday 15th

April - Wednesdays 2nd, 16th, 30th
Saturday April 12

May - Wednesdays 7th, 21st, 28th
Saturday May 17

No experience is necessary. Interested?
Please contact John McCrosky@

Volunteers at the Preserve

Volunteer Jim Hampson is ready, set, go with his bird house boxes and trails. He will set up and maintain bluebird, tree swallow, house wren houses at Gremel; kestrel boxes at Gremel, Amboy, Grigalauski and Queen of the Prairie; and purple martin condos at Gremel and Amboy Marsh. Last year Jim's bird housing helped fledge 72 purple martin babies!

Volunteer Bill Rogers is a time machine in that he is restoring the sand savannas at our sites to health and vitality. These open prairies areas are studded with spreading oak trees. But during the past 100 years, invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn throttled the growth of oaks, of shrubs like hazelnut and winterberry, and of all native herbaceous flora. Bill removes the invasive species and lets the sun shine in. We are rewarded with diverse native flora, which means diverse wildlife and insects too. No seed is planted; the underlying matrix in sand and wetlands is rich and just waiting to see the light of day.

And volunteers Amy and Dave Brewer, Deb Carey, Bob Chinn, Damian Considine, Connie Dickison, Deb Doyle, Dale Eller, Mike Gallagher, Steve Gillam, Jack Hartford, John McCrosky, Cheryl Newlan, Diana, Alyssa and Gene Rod, Cassandra Rodgers, Tim and Teresa Smith, Alice and Ernie Topping, Jan Williams, and more are keeping the wheels turning at our Green River Lowlands Preserve.



Spring Has Sprung - Bio Blitz, Crane Count and Spring Bird Count

The **annual Birdsong Chapter Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, March 9 at 2 pm** at Amboy Marsh Volunteer Center, 1701 Mormon Road, Amboy, IL 61310. At this meeting we will take care for the business of our chapter, and make plans for the future. Everyone is welcome.

Don't forget our annual bird counts. On **Saturday April 12**, we will be counting **cranes** - sandhill cranes, and maybe a whooping crane if we are very fortunate. This is for the early birds – the count begins at 5:30 am and ends at 7:30 am. The **Spring Bird Count** will be scheduled in **May**. Please contact Diana Rod at birdsongilaudubon@yahoo.com if you would like to help at either or both of these counts. People are assigned specific areas, and a good time is had by all.

The **June 8 Birdsong Chapter meeting** is going to fun! We will meet at 2 pm at Amboy Marsh Volunteer Center, and then split into groups to search for flora and fauna. Whatever you can find, identify and add to your list in one hour! Sort of a mini **Biodiversity Blitz**! We will meet back at the Volunteer Center and compare lists, and maybe add some new species!



Birdsong Chapter was hatched in 2012. The chapter was created in response to the purchase by IAS of Amboy Marsh Nature Preserve, 1701 Mormon Road, Amboy. Four years later, IAS purchased Gremel Wildlife Sanctuary at 1881 Lewis Road, Amboy. Since then, Illinois Audubon Society has purchased additional parcels from willing sellers; Hatch, Ryback, Grigalauski, Queen of the Prairie and Sinadinos for a total of 1,107 acres. The total acreage is now called Green River Lowlands Preserve.

Birdsong Chapter Officers

President-Deb Carey

Vice President-Diana Rod

Secretaries - Cassandra Rodgers/Jan Williams

Treasurer-John McCrosky

Websites:

amboymarsh@illinoisaudubon.org

<https://amboymarsh.wixsite.com/amboymarsh>

FaceBook-Birdsong Chapter-Stewards of Amboy Marsh/Gremel

Contact us-amboymarsh@illinoisaudubon.org

