

Give Back to Birds - Field Trip and Workday



Photo by John Denk

Hennepin & Hopper Lakes Hennepin, Illinois

October 30, 2010

9:15am – 10:30 Bird Walk

10:30 am - Snack

10:45am - 12:45 Workday

12:45 - Brown Bag Lunch

Exciting Birds – Great People – Rewarding Work –Beautiful Landscapes

The Bird Conservation Network is sponsoring its fifth Give Back to the Birds – Field Trip/Workday at Hennepin and Hopper Lakes, an Illinois Important Bird Area, located in Hennepin near the bend of the Illinois River – about a 2-2 1/2 hour drive from the Chicago area. Partners at this unique habitat restoration project on this site have turned off the drainage pumps to return floodplain farmland to wetland.

We will learn about the project from a site ecologist, and enjoy the wide array of waterfowl and other wetland birds (a spotting scope would be helpful).

After the morning bird walk, we will enjoy a complimentary snack before we begin to collect seeds in the prairie. These seeds will be spread in other grasslands at the site at a later date, to create a good turf to fight invasives that degrade habitat. As our regular participants have often said, collecting seeds is very enjoyable and rewarding work.

This Saturday trip/workday will take place rain or shine. People of all ages will be able to find a way to help. Dress in layers, with sturdy shoes.

Bring a sack lunch if you would like to picnic after the workday. Goodies for desert will be provided!

BCN would like to know how many to plan for. Please RSVP to Joan Bruchman at pjbruchman@yahoo.com or 847-687-3108. Also let Joan know if you would like to be part of a carpool.

Directions to Hennepin and Hopper Lakes: I-80 west to I-39 south. Take I-39 south to Route 71 exit; head west. Take Route 71 west to Route 26; turn left towards Hennepin. Go approximately 2.5 miles south. Turn right onto Hennepin Farms Road (paved road before the road swings up the hill). Pass the first house on the right, then turn right onto a sand road. Follow sand road approximately 300 ft. to parking lot and Nolan Observation Tower.

Give Back to Birds is a series of “work and birding” trips sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network. The purposes: Fellowship and camaraderie among our bird conservation and birding communities. Helping out some sites that have conservation needs. And seeing some great birds and beautiful places!