

## ILYB 2014 End of the Year Impact Report

### Membership

ILYB currently has 46 active members comprised of:

- New Members in 2014 – 12!
- 37 boys (80%) and 9 girls (20%)
- 3 new adult sponsors
- 2 partner organizations

Our members are geographically dispersed as follows:

- 33 in NE IL
- 6 in NC IL
- 6 in C/WC IL
- 1 in SE WI
- 0 in Southern IL

### Field Trips

This year we ran 10 successful field trips in Illinois, with the highlight no doubt being our Iowa & Illinois Young Birder Weekend. Many months of careful planning went into this event. Here are just a few highlights from the year

- 10 expertly guided field trips to three states – Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana
- Held joint field trips with both Iowa and Indiana Young Birders
- Joint field trip with Chicago Ornithological Society
- 94 young birder participants from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana (+25% increase from 2013), 34 unique attendees (48% increase from 2013)
- 9 = average number participants (80% increase from 2013)
- 78% of our participants attended more than one field trip
- 16 fully vetted field trip leaders
- Guided field trips and Attendance by young birders and their families from three states including Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin
- 200 species of birds observed
- Donations provided by individuals and organizations like Eagle Optics, authors Richard Crossley and Margaret Barker, and others
- Event t-shirts designed by Karen Gross
- Photography and videography provided by Tim Frakes Productions
- An evening program with 2010 ABA Young Birder of Year Recipient, Rachael Butek of Colfax, WI

## Newsletters

This year ILYB moved to a new email based eNewsletter format, which allowed for a more flexible and expedient platform to communicate the status of the club. 6 Newsletters were published along with several field trip notifications.

## Donations

During the calendar year, Illinois Young Birders received 22 donations totaling \$1265. Thanks for your continued support! Without your help, we couldn't offer all of our amazing programs.

## Achievements of Our Young Birders

The achievements of our young birders are too many to list, but here are a few of their impressive accomplishments.

- Ten trailside interpretive panels were added to Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve in Grayslake, IL, highlighting the site's history, restoration efforts, and unique features. One panel features artwork by ILYBer, Nandu Dubey.
- Isoo O'Brien created his own Young Birder Blog. ILYBer, Isoo O'Brien, and his family are taking geography lessons to a whole new level, travelling the world for an entire year.

<http://www.traveltobird.com/>

- Aaron Gyllenhaal led Field Trips for Chicago Ornithological Society.
- Recent ILYB graduate, Nathan Goldberg, achieved a personal goal of observing one or more birds in all 102 of Illinois' counties.
- In August, a small but mighty group of Illinois Young Birders observed an incredible 70 Hudsonian Godwits at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge.