

## **ILYB 2016 End of the Year Impact Report**

### **Membership**

ILYB currently has 57 active members comprised of:

- New Members in 2016 – 16
- 44 boys (78%) and 13 girls (22%)
- 13 partner organizations!

Our members are geographically dispersed as follows:

- 53 in northern IL
- 3 in central IL
- 1 in WI

### **Field Trips**

This year we ran 11 successful field trips in Illinois. Our young birders led several more on their own! Here are just a few highlights from the year

- 11 expertly guided field trips
- 147 young birder participants (52 more than 2015), 68 unique attendees (51% increase from 2014)
- 13 = average number participants (18% increase from 2015)
- Majority of our participants attended more than one field trip
- 16 fully vetted field trip leaders
- First IOS Annual Symposium with more than 60 attendees

### **Donations**

For the calendar year, ILYB has received \$7341.75 in donations! Thank you!

### **Illinois Young Birders Symposium, Ryerson Woods, Riverwoods, IL**

Illinois Young Birders in conjunction with Brushwood Center offered the first Illinois Young Birders Symposium at Ryerson Conservation Area on Saturday, August 27th. The event was nearly sold out with more than 60 people in attendance!

The packed house got to enjoy complimentary breakfast, lunch, and snacks from Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, while young birders presented polished and impactful personal stories of how birds have affected their lives. Isoo O'Brien spoke about his year long adventure, birding around the world in more than 20 countries. Jackie Kuroda debunked the stigma surrounding pigeons, proving to us how intelligent pigeons are. Eddie Kasper regaled us with stories of the ABA's Camp Colorado and birding from the arid grasslands to the mountain tops. Ryan Treves gave a moving speech of the struggle to start Wisconsin Young Birders, taking a dream and making it a reality. Jake Cvetas taught everyone how to get the most out of eBird from tracking your life list to calculating the probability of finding Eurasian Wigeon

in Illinois. Finally, Kalman Strauss talked of his selfless work with the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors and how it once took six monitors to rescue a Virginia Rail in downtown Chicago.

Also on the agenda, author and naturalist, Joel Greenberg, moderated a panel discussion of professionals who have turned their passion into a career with birds: Sulli Gibson - recent graduate of Cornell University, Vickie Iglesias - Zookeeper at Lincoln Park Zoo, and Peggy Macnamara - Resident Artist at the Field Museum.

Finally, key note speaker, Josh Engel, recounted tales from his life and career from an early age through college and into professional life. Josh told us how his focus, friendships, and a bit of luck took him around the world from Chicago to Ecuador and South Africa, all while working with birds. After the talks ended and donated items were raffled off including a signed copy of a Sibley's field guide, the group headed to Brushwood Center for an art reception. The walls of Brushwood proudly displayed photography, drawings, paintings and more by several young birders including Lucas Haberkorn, Nandu Dubey, and Brett Kasper.

Overall it was an amazing day!