

## **ILYB 2017 End of the Year Impact Report**

### **Membership**

ILYB currently has 55 active members comprised of:

- New Members in 2016 – 5
- 43 boys (78%) and 12 girls (22%)
- 13 partner organizations!

Our members are geographically dispersed as follows:

- 52 in northern IL
- 2 in central IL
- 1 in WI

### **Field Trips**

This year we ran 10 successful field trips in Illinois to date with one more to be completed. Here are just a few highlights from the year:

- 10 expertly guided field trips
- 98 young birder participants), 33 unique attendees
- 10 = average number participants
- Majority of our participants attended more than one field trip
- 16 fully vetted field trip leaders
- Second IOS Annual Symposium with 52 participants

### **Donations**

For the calendar year, ILYB has received more than \$7000 in donations! Thank you!

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

Illinois Young Birders in conjunction with Brushwood Center offered the second Illinois Young Birders Symposium at Ryerson Conservation Area on Saturday, August 26th. The event was nearly sold out with more than 50 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. Jackie Kuroda shared her work monitoring bluebird nest boxes. Eddie Kasper regaled us with stories of his family's trip to Ecuador. Brett Kasper explained why we might want to attend the Biggest Week in American Birding. Simon Tolzmann offered evidence on how dinosaurs are related to birds. Oliver Burrus presented what inspired him to start the Whimbrel Birders Club. Andrew Sharp shared his experiences volunteering with MAPS and Bird Banding in Central Illinois.

During the event, donated items were raffled off including a brand new pair of binoculars, donated by Eagle Optics. Prior to lunch, 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.

Also on the agenda, naturalist, Jen Brumfield, inspired the young birders to live life to the fullest.

Overall it was an amazing day!

### **Bird Banding at Sand Bluff in Rockton, IL**

On Sunday, October 15th, the Illinois Young Birders visited Sand Bluff Bird Observatory's banding station. We heard great stories from its founder, Lee Johnson, learned about the process of banding birds and how banding data are used, and got some up-close and personal encounters with migrants. It was a great day and a unique field trip that left a lasting impact on all of the young birders who were there. young birder, Stas Gunkel, got to release a Red-tailed Hawk!