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Common Loon, Emerald Lake, British Columbia

Fall and Winter 2011-12 Field Trips

- Saturday Sept. 10** **Aroma Forest Preserve** - This is a beautiful area with a variety of habitats. The trail is an easy walk to the Kankakee River and back. Meet at the Parking area on Hieland Road, 1.4 miles south of IL 17, at 8:30 A.M.
- Saturday Sept. 17** **Perry Farm** - We will walk through the prairie and wooded areas to the river. Meet in the parking lot by the Exploration Station at 8:30 A.M.
- Saturday Sept. 24** **Kankakee River State Park** - Meet in the parking lot at the suspension bridge at 8:30 A.M.
- Saturday Oct. 1** **Whispering Willows (Willowhaven) Park** - There are short trails around ponds and we can expect to see a variety of birds. Willowhaven is located on 4000E Rd in Kankakee County just south of North Street (2000N Rd). Meet at 8:30 A.M.

Inclement Weather Policy - In the event that the weather is questionable on the day of a field trip we will make a decision by 7 AM. Call one of the KVAS officers anytime after 7 AM.

Jasper-Pulaski Wildlife Area - Jasper-Pulaski is a fall gathering place for migrating sandhill cranes. At dusk cranes fly into the area by the thousands from every direction. The peak number of cranes occurs the last week of October to mid November. Take IL 114 east from Momence and proceed on IN 10. Keep going straight (regardless of the route numbers) until you must turn. Then go south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and turn east again. It is then about 3 miles to Jasper Pulaski. It is a one hour drive from Momence. It is best to arrive a little before the sun begins to set.

2011 Spring Count - Thanks to all who participated in the spring count on May 7, 2011. We observed 130 species in Kankakee County. This was short of our record 161 species observer in 2009 but this is due to the very poor weather conditions that day.

Christmas Count - Jed Hertz is organizing the annual Christmas Count again this year. The date for the count is Monday, December 26, 2011. Contact Jed at jhh_60910@yahoo.com or call him at 815-937-9530 if you'd like to participate.

Starved Rock Lock & Dam - Bald eagles regularly congregate here in the winter. The best time to go is after a cold spell when the river is frozen. Check online at www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/eagle.html.

KVAS Officers	E-mail Address	Phone (815)	Annual Dues
David Atkinson, President	datkinsn@olivet.edu	932-6457	\$5.00 Single
Roberta Slaby, Secretary-Treasurer	robertaslaby@gmail.com	937-9889	\$8.00 Family
John Baxter, Field Trip Chairman	Xxjb7z@aol.com	937-5059	

Send correspondence to Roberta Slaby, 3956A N 3000W Rd, Bourbonnais, IL 60914. Please make checks for dues payable to Kankakee Valley Audubon Society.

Kankakee Valley Audubon Society is an affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society.

Common loon photo by Dave Atkinson on August 2, 2011.