



The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
proudly announces its
32nd ANNUAL BANQUET AND PROGRAM
Wednesday, April 10, 2013



Seeing 748 Birds in One Year: Sanford Komito

"In 1998, Sandy Komito engaged in what serious birders call, A Big Year run. This is a year-long marathon contest where a birder tries to see as many different birds as possible in that single year. Ever since Sandy set the old record for North America in 1987, a few have challenged but none have broken his record."

SILENT AUCTION 5:30 PM	MEAL 6:00 PM	PROGRAM 7:30 PM
-------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------

LOCATION

Embury United Methodist Church
515 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL
Parking: One parking lot off of Pleasant St. and two lots off of Iroquois, including handicapped entrance.

OUR PROGRAM

The Big Year movie hit the box office in 2011. Sanford Komito, played by Owen Wilson in *The Big Year*, actually had his big year in 1998 when he spotted 748 birds from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. This is the highest number of bird species spotted by any birder in one year. Our banquet program will feature Sanford Komito, who will talk about the history of the American Birding Association's Big Year and share pictures of the highlights of his Big Year. Participants will have the opportunity to ask Sanford questions about his birding experiences.

OUR MEAL

We will have Arnold's Farm pasture-raised turkey with all the trimmings, sweet corn from Drake's Farm, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry salad, bread, and a selection of delectable desserts home-baked by Audubon members. A variety of beverages will be served including fair-trade, shade-grown organic coffee and organic and fair-trade teas.

ALSO FEATURED

- 25% discount on introductory Audubon memberships
 - Silent Auction to help support NIAS chapter activities
 - Presentation of NIAS Land Stewardship Award
- *This year's program will be presented upstairs in the Embury United Methodist Church sanctuary. For those attending the PROGRAM ONLY, sanctuary doors open at 7:00 PM. Handicapped accessible elevators are available.

RESERVATION INFORMATION. Banquet cost includes meal and program. Banquet reservation **deadline is April 3rd** Those wishing to attend the **program only** are welcome to fill out this form **OR** pay at the door.

To reserve, clip and mail this form with your check (made payable to NIAS) to Judy Kurr, 492 Cedar Creek Rd., Freeport, IL 61032. For further information, call Judy Kurr at (815) 563-4984.

NIAS Spring Banquet 2012

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____

	# attending	\$ owed
Banquet and Program		
Adults (\$15.00 each)		
Kids 12 and under		free
Total # of people		
Program Only		
Adults (\$3.00)		
Kids 12 and under		free
Total Amount Enclosed		\$ _____

*The Annual Banquet is a fundraiser for Northwest Illinois Audubon Society. (NIAS)
We thank you for your support!*

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
P.O. Box 771
Freeport, IL 61032-0771

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Freeport, IL 61032
Permit No. 97



Banquet Information Enclosed

Lucky 13 Birdathon Challenge

Sanford Komito saw 748 bird species in one year. How many species can you see in one day? This year's **Birdathon** will be on **Sunday, May 5th**. There are two ways to participate in the Birdathon Challenge:

- **Be a Bird Counter** and ask for pledges from your friends and family. Our goal is to have 13 birders for the 2013 Birdathon.
- **Pledge a small amount per bird** to any one of the Birders. Most Birders see about 100 species so if you pledge \$.13 cents per bird, that would be about \$13.00. Or, you can pledge any amount...even a set amount like \$20.13 in honor of the year 2013, hoping to make this a 'Big Year' for our chapter.

Proceeds go to: Belize Audubon, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, National Audubon Mississippi River Campaign, Natural Resources Foundation of WI, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River, and our own local birding projects.

Contact Laura Dufford at 815-947-2720 or lauradufford@gmail.com if you would like to be a Bird Counter or make a pledge for one of the Birders. For more information and a list of Bird Counters, check out the April/May edition of the NIAS Newsletter or the calendar of events on our website at www.nwilaudubon.org.

We Challenge You to Be a Birder or Make a Pledge...and we thank you for your participation!



Thanks for your donation!

If you have an item to donate, please call ahead of time so that we can prepare bid sheets and reserve table space. Please bring your auction item to the banquet, or call Keith Blackmore (815) 938-3204 to arrange for pickup.



Suggested items for the auction include books, photographs, prints, games, other items that are nature-oriented, or gift certificates (donated by the vendor or by you) from local businesses such as restaurants, bookstores, garden shops or similar merchants. Certificates for services such as a guided canoe trip, birding outing or photography lessons are also welcome.

Wanted:

Silent Auction Items