

# Great Little-known Birding Hotspots in Illinois:

IOS members share secret birding areas near their homes

by Sheryl De Vore

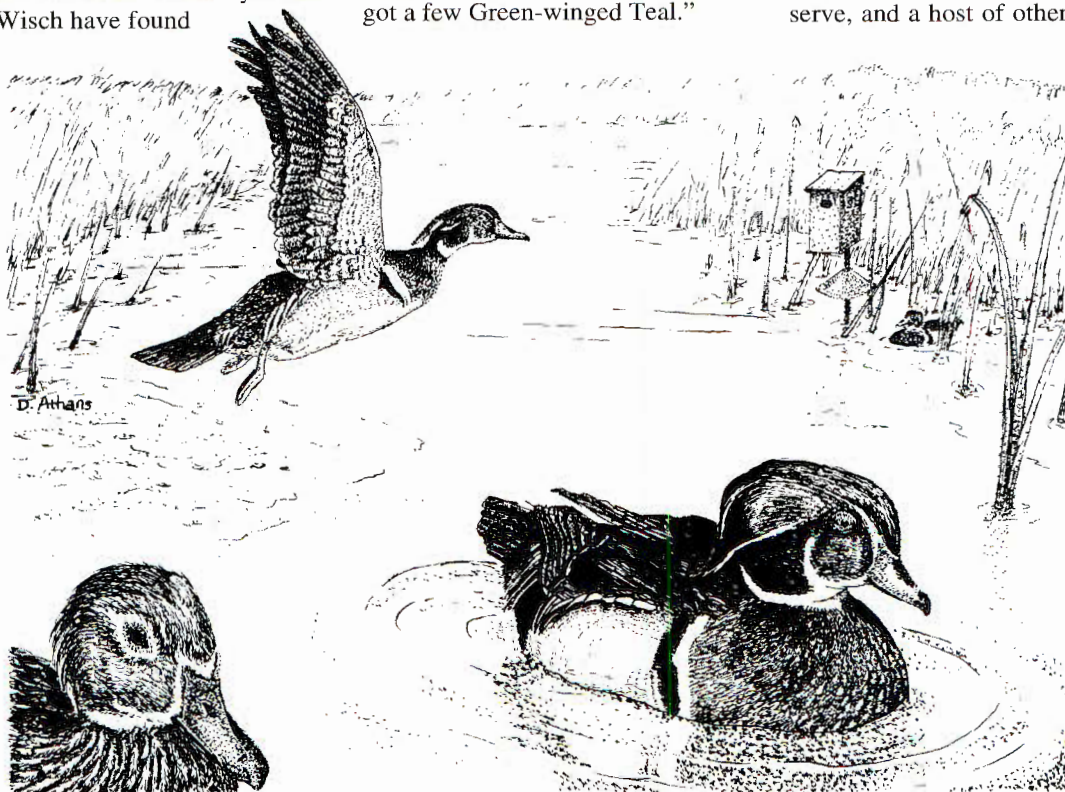
Sometimes you discover a little-known birding spot near your home that yields some nice avian finds. It might not be on Roger Tory Peterson's list of the ten best birding spots in the nation. But it's interesting enough to keep you coming back, perhaps even take an out-of-town birding friend there to your secret little spot.

IOS members Dinah Dyer and Herb Wisch have found

such a place near their home in Bannockburn, Illinois, in Lake County. Dinah Dyer was working out at the Bath and Tennis Club in Bannockburn off Waukegan Road just south of Route 22. "I'd drive in and notice a lot of ducks flying into a flooded field," said Dyer. "I went over there to look one day in the early spring of 1995 and I saw wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, and mallards. I also got a few Green-winged Teal."

## Prairie Wolf Slough, Lake County

Naturally she had to keep on looking. She learned that this area was, in fact, targeted as a new Lake County Forest Preserve called Prairie Wolf Slough. Located on Route 22 just east of Route 43, Prairie Wolf Slough is managed by the Friends of the Chicago River, the forest preserve, and a host of other organiza-



Wood Duck drawing by David Athans. Wood Ducks nest at Ryder's Woods, a little known birding hotspot in McHenry County.