

Illinois Audubon Society Submission Guidelines for Authors

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the Illinois Audubon Society's magazine. Illinois Audubon is a quarterly publication (winter, spring, summer, fall) distributed to Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) members. Plans for publications are sketched out 12 to 24 months in advance.

Our readers are a diverse group with many interests, with the common denominator of caring about Illinois' natural resources. The articles we publish focus on the environment and enjoying the great outdoors presented in a fun, tasteful and ethical manner. We shy away from articles that are presented as personal opinion or are highly technical and read like a research paper.

The following information is designed to assist IAS members and freelancers who wish to submit a brief query, article, story series, or simply have a story idea to pass along for publication.

Writers familiar with the wildlife and habitats of Illinois are more likely to develop articles that interest our member readers. Secondary to Illinois-specific features, we publish the occasional features on birding the Midwest, North America and world. Readers appreciate features about wildlife and interesting natural areas in Illinois, as well as special places, resource conservation, environmental issues, interesting people, the cultural and historical roots of Illinois, tips for improving outdoor skills, endangered species, wildlife management and research activities.

Unsolicited articles are welcome, but are not guaranteed to appear in Illinois Audubon Society publications. It's always wise to contact the editor before investing too much time in preparing an article. Queries are advised to ensure that the subject has not been covered in the past, or is already on the production schedule. Articles may be held for future use.

Authors should be aware that articles published in the magazine may eventually be available on the Illinois Audubon Society website as a PDF. If a writer specifically desires that their work not appear on the IAS website they should notify the editor at the time of submission.

Article layout and caption content will be at the discretion of the editor and graphic designer.

Article Length: Articles range in length from one to five pages (based on 350 words per page), and page length will be determined and assigned by the editor.

Content: Authors are responsible to thoroughly research content and ensure accuracy, although the editor and invited reviewers may fact-check key points. Stories will most likely be scheduled to appear in the magazine appropriate to the season of content.

Writing Approaches: Anecdotes, quotes, humor and first-person accounts may help sell your article, as will well selected photographs. Personal essays (focus on a particular insight to the natural world or aspect of Illinois' natural resources) require first-rate writing skills. First-person narratives ("Me and Walter" stories) must be more than an account of an experience and present a unique perspective on the natural resources. IAS does, but rarely, publish fiction or poetry.

Writing Style: Manuscripts should follow Associated Press Style Manual guidelines.

Submissions: Submissions should be made as a Microsoft Word document attached to an email to the editor. (Submissions Process below)

Credit: Authors are always given a byline. Along with their story file, authors should include a short (1-3 sentence) biography statement. If you so desire, include an email address or telephone number for readers to contact you; otherwise, reader queries will be routed through the editor. Writers whose work appears in the magazine will receive three complimentary magazines.

Visuals for Story: We encourage writers to submit photographs with their story, or at a minimum, to provide suggestions and potential source contact information.

Deadlines: Our magazine issues are planned months in advance of publication, although timely subjects may bump previously planned pieces. Submit articles for the magazine as follows:

Issue Title	Approximate Publication Timeframe	Submission Deadline
Winter Issue	January	September 1
Spring Issue	March	December 1
Summer Issue	June	March 1
Fall Issue	September	June 1

Compensation: We do not pay for photos or articles except on the infrequent occasions that we make specific freelance assignments or purchase stock photography. This is not a reflection on your work, but on the fact that we are a non-profit organization and operate on a small budget. Thankfully, we have numerous talented member photographers and writers who are willing to donate their work to the magazine. Payment is at the discretion of the editor, and we pay on publication. A maximum of \$100 is paid regardless of the length of the article or size/use of a photograph or illustration.

Submission Process: Electronic submissions are preferred. For additional information, contact the Illinois Audubon Society magazine editor at editor@illinoisaudubon.org. CDs or flash drives can be mailed to Illinois Audubon Society, Attn: Editor, PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708.