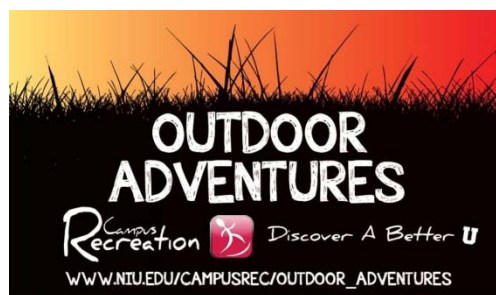
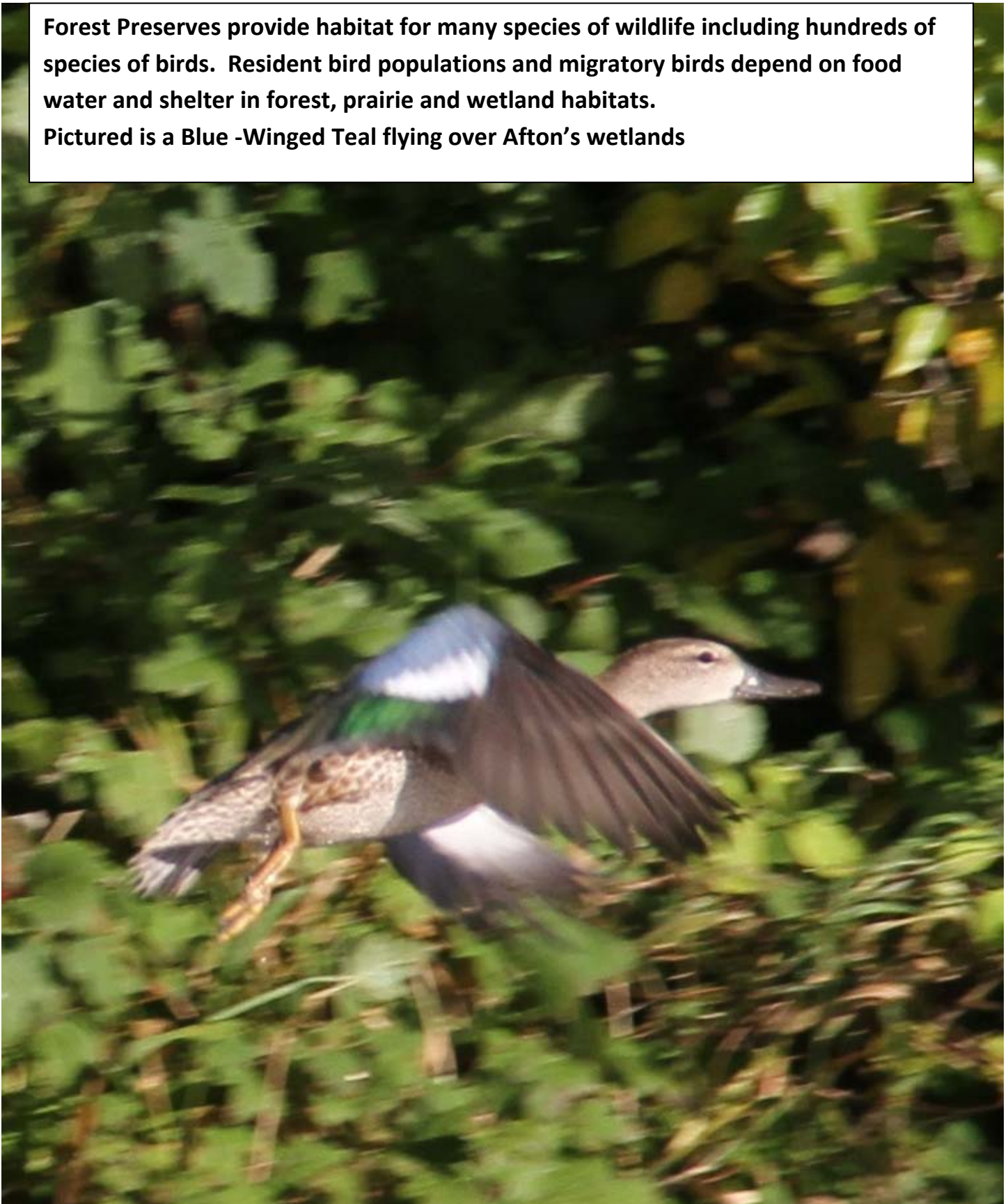


**September 2014.** Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, water sampling . Shelter houses and Lodge are used every weekend by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff teaching Fall school groups at Russell Woods and classroom visits. 1835 Miller -Ellwood Cabin work will continue with windows, doors and floor and log wall work. New siding being put on Afton maintenance shop. Annual PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and preserve safety tours this Summer and preparing for 2014 /2015 compliance. Other projects in 2014: Genoa to Russell Woods Trail, Thompson Road property clean up, water and electric upgrades and begin "Forest Garden" with DeKalb County Community Gardens.

N.I.U. and Kishwaukee College use forest preserve sites for educational field trips ranging from environmental and biological sciences , art and teacher education. N.I.U. Campus Recreation "Outdoor Adventures" also use our forest preserves. Pictured is the N.I.U. Conservation Biology class recently at the South Branch Prairie learning about forest preserve wetland and prairie restoration from Peggy Doty and Al Roloff. The Conservation Biology class has come out to forest preserve "learning environments" for the last 15 years.



**Forest Preserves provide habitat for many species of wildlife including hundreds of species of birds. Resident bird populations and migratory birds depend on food water and shelter in forest, prairie and wetland habitats.  
Pictured is a Blue -Winged Teal flying over Afton's wetlands**



**Over the years many people have donated memorial benches at forest preserves to honor family and friends. These places hold wonderful memories of people who appreciated DeKalb County Forest Preserves**



Fall colors in forest preserve stream



**Late Summer and Fall prairie seed collection.**

**Forest Preserve staff and volunteers collect many different species of seed for future prairie and wetland restorations.**

