

# **More Than Grass**

Celebrating the Tallgrass Prairie



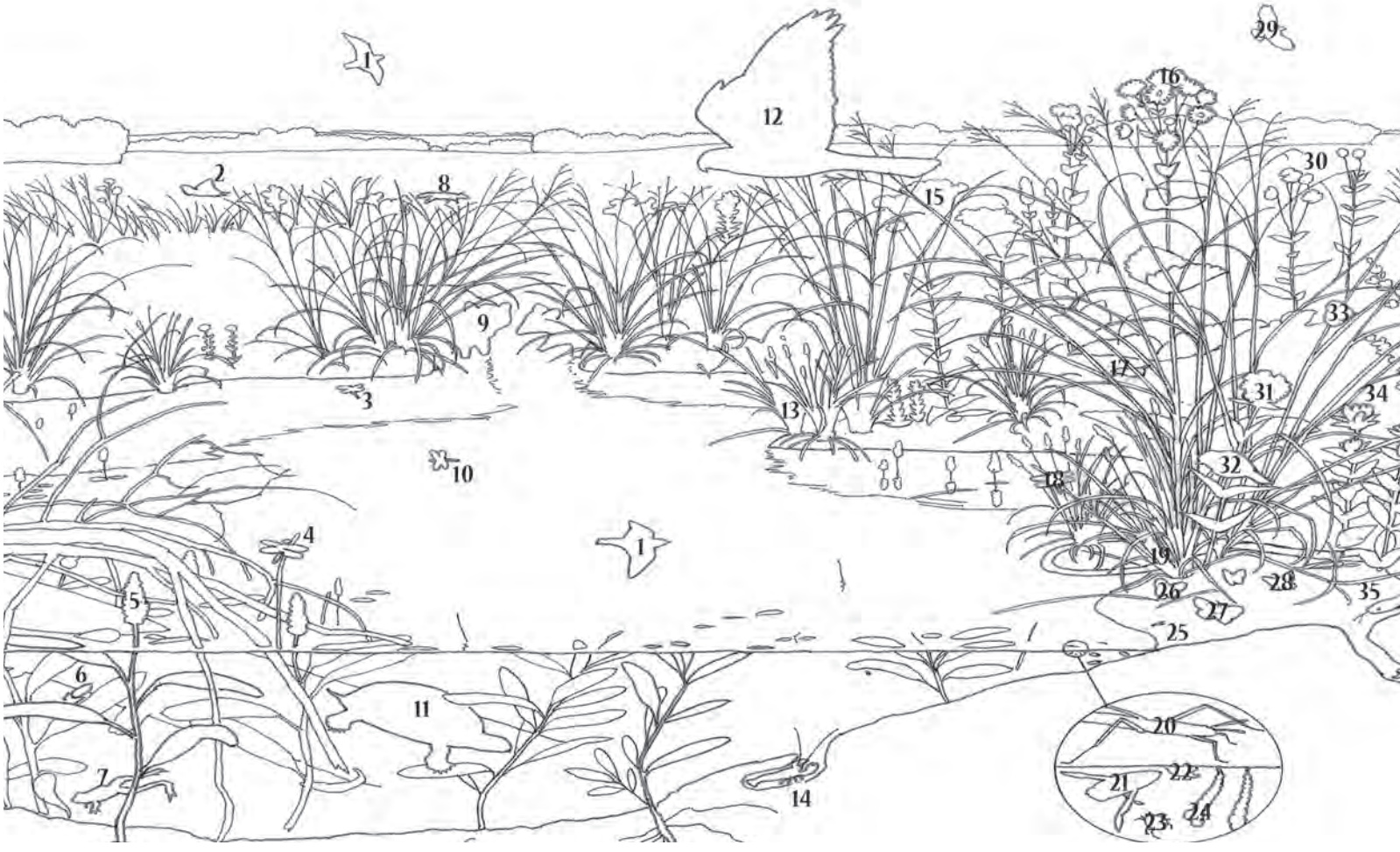
## **Orland Park Public Library**

14921 Ravinia Avenue

Orland Park, IL 60462

708-428-5100

[www.orlandparklibrary.org](http://www.orlandparklibrary.org)



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| 1. Tree Swallow<br>( <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i> )          | 14. Crayfish<br>( <i>Cambarus bartonii</i> )            | 27. Viceroy<br>( <i>Basilarchia archippus</i> )              |
| 2. Tiger Swallowtail<br>( <i>Pterourus glaucus</i> )       | 15. Ironweed<br>( <i>Veronia fasciculata</i> )          | 28. Aphrodite<br>( <i>Speyeria aphrodite</i> )               |
| 3. Eastern pondhawk<br>( <i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i> ) | 16. Cup Plant<br>( <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> )        | 29. Red-tailed Hawk<br>( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )          |
| 4. Green Darner<br>( <i>Anajunius</i> )                    | 17. Sedge Wren<br>( <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> )      | 30. Prairie Sunflower<br>( <i>Helianthus pauciflorus</i> )   |
| 5. Water Smartweed<br>( <i>Polygonum amphibium</i> )       | 18. Widow<br>( <i>Libellula luctuosa</i> )              | 31. Marsh Phlox<br>( <i>Phlox glaberrima</i> )               |
| 6. Giant waterbug<br>( <i>Lethocerus americanus</i> )      | 19. Cordgrass<br>( <i>Spartina pectinata</i> )          | 32. Savannah Sparrow<br>( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> ) |
| 7. Leopard Frog<br>( <i>Rana pipiens</i> )                 | 20. Common Waterstrider<br>( <i>Gerris remigis</i> )    | 33. Wood Nymph<br>( <i>Cercyonis pegala</i> )                |
| 8. Coyote<br>( <i>Canis latrans</i> )                      | 21. Common Backswimmer<br>( <i>Notonecta undulata</i> ) | 34. Closed Gentain<br>( <i>Gentiana andrewsii</i> )          |
| 9. Raccoon<br>( <i>Procyon lotor</i> )                     | 22. Water flea<br>( <i>Daphnia pulex</i> )              | 35. Plains Garter Snake<br>( <i>Thamnophis radix</i> )       |
| 10. Halloween Pennant<br>( <i>Celithemis eponina</i> )     | 23. Freshwater Mite<br>( <i>Limnochares americana</i> ) | 36. Masked Shrew<br>( <i>Sorex cinereus</i> )                |
| 11. Blandings Turtle<br>( <i>Emydoidea blandingi</i> )     | 24. Mosquito Larvae<br>( <i>Aedes species</i> )         | 37. Wild White Indigo<br>( <i>Baptisia alba</i> )            |
| 12. Northern Harrier<br>( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> )          | 25. Blue Muddauber<br>( <i>Chalybion californicum</i> ) | 38. Prairie Lily<br>( <i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> )         |
| 13. Mead's Sedge<br>( <i>Carex meadii</i> )                | 26. Common Sulphur<br>( <i>Colias philodice</i> )       | 39. Banana Spider on Web<br>( <i>Tetragnatha elongata</i> )  |



40. Western Chorus Frog  
(*Pseudacris triseriata*)
41. Beetle Larvae  
(*Polyphaga*)
42. Upland Sandpiper  
(*Bartramia longicauda*)
43. Purple Prairie Clover  
(*Purpurea dealea*)
44. Young Franklin's  
Ground Squirrel  
(*Spermophilus franklinii*)
45. Compass Plant  
(*Silphium laciniatum*)
46. American Toad  
(*Bufo americanus*)
47. Prairie Vole  
(*Microtus ochrogaster*)
- 47A. Storage Chamber
48. Stiff Goldenrod  
(*Solidago rigida*)
49. Sandhill Cranes  
(*Grus Canadensis*)
50. Wild Quinine  
(*Parthenium integrifolium*)

51. Prairie Dropseed  
(*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
52. Deer Mouse  
(*Peromyscus maniculatus bairdii*)
53. Henslow's Sparrow  
(*Ammodramus henslowii*)
54. Earthworm  
(*Lumbricus terrestris*)
55. Eastern Mole  
(*Scalopus aquaticus*)
56. Eastern Bluebird  
(*Sialia sialis*)
57. Wild Bergamot  
(*Monarda fistulosa*)
58. Compass Plant  
(*Silphium laciniatum*)
59. Eastern Cottontail  
(*Sylvilagus floridanus*)
60. Big Bluestem  
(*Andropogon gerardii*)
61. Horned Larks  
(*Eremophila alpestris*)
62. Bobolink  
(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)
63. Grasshopper  
(*Schistocerca species*)

64. Prairie Walking Stick  
(*Megaphasma denticrus*)
65. Meadow Vole  
(*Microtus pennsylvanicus*)
- 66A. Ant  
(*Formica montana*)
- 66B. Ant Pupae
- 66C. Ant Eggs
- 66D. Ant Larvae
- 66E. Ant Nest
67. Rattlesnake Master  
(*Eryngium yuccifolium*)
68. Grasshopper Sparrow  
(*Ammodramus savannarum*)
69. Round-headed Bush Clover  
(*Lespedeza capitata*)
70. Purple Cone Flower  
(*Echinacea pallida*)
71. Ottoe Skipper  
(*Hesperia ottoe*)
72. Prairie Dock  
(*Silphium terebinthinaceum*)



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| 73. Short-eared Owl<br>( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )                      | 86. Smooth Green Snake<br>( <i>Ophedrys vernalis</i> )                         | 97. White Prairie Clover<br>( <i>Dalea candidum</i> )         |
| 74. Prairie Coreopsis<br>( <i>Coreopsis palmata</i> )                | 87. Decomposers  | 98. Field Sparrow<br>( <i>Spizella pusilla</i> )              |
| 75. Yellow Coneflower<br>( <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> )                 | 87A. Nematodes   | 99. New England Aster<br>( <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> )       |
| 76. Franklin's Ground Squirrel<br>( <i>Spermophilus franklinii</i> ) | 87B. Springtail<br>( <i>Hypogastrura species</i> )                             | 100. Red Fox<br>( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )                      |
| 77. Prairie Blazing Star<br>( <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> )          | 87C. Mite<br>( <i>Trombidium species</i> )                                     | 101. Downy Woodpecker<br>( <i>Picoides pubescens</i> )        |
| 78. Little Bluestem<br>( <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> )            | 88. Black-Eyed Susans<br>( <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> )                            | 102. Silvery Crescent Spot<br>( <i>Charidryas nycteis</i> )   |
| 79. Dickcissel<br>( <i>Spiza americana</i> )                         | 89. Sedge<br>( <i>Carex species</i> )  | 103. Prairie Phlox<br>( <i>Phlox pilosa</i> )                 |
| 80. Showy Goldenrod<br>( <i>Solidago speciosa</i> )                  | 90. Culver's Root<br>( <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> )                       | 104. Hoary Puccoon<br>( <i>Lithospermum canescens</i> )       |
| 81. Prairie Gentian<br>( <i>Gentiana puberulenta</i> )               | 91. Bumblebee<br>( <i>Bombus species</i> )                                     | 105. Smooth Aster<br>( <i>Aster laevis</i> )                  |
| 82. Yellow Jacket and nest<br>( <i>Vespula species</i> )             | 92. Burr Oak<br>( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> )                                  | 106. Painted Lady<br>( <i>Cynthia cardui</i> )                |
| 83. Eastern Meadowlark<br>( <i>Sturnella magna</i> )                 | 93. Human Invaders<br>(John and Kathy Dawson)                                  | 107. Periodical Cicada Nymph<br>( <i>Magicicada species</i> ) |
| 84. Monarch<br>( <i>Danaus plexippus</i> )                           | 94. Lead Plant<br>( <i>Amorpha canescens</i> )                                 | 108. Woodchuck<br>( <i>Marmota monax</i> )                    |
| 85. Prairie Milkweed<br>( <i>Asclepias sullivantii</i> )             | 95. Burr Oak Seedling<br>( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> )                         | 109. Pearly Crescent Spot<br>( <i>Phyciodes tharos</i> )      |
|  | 96. Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel<br>( <i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i> ) |   |

be in such close proximity to each other.

# Celebrating the Tallgrass Prairie

In planning the new Orland Park Public Library, we had the opportunity to develop a theme in the Youth Services Department. We chose to depict the tallgrass prairie for its timeless quality and endless beauty. We wanted the children to have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment of Orland Park and we were excited to partner with the Orland Grasslands volunteers. Pat Hayes, of the volunteers, was our first resource person for identifying flora and fauna native to our area. We also contacted author and illustrator of children's nature books Carol Lerner to help us compile a list of native species. Ms. Lerner wrote the children's book, *Seasons of the Tallgrass Prairie*, which she illustrated with very detailed black and white drawings of prairie plants.

Our next step was to find a muralist who could illustrate our vision of the Orland area flora and fauna as it varies from wetlands to prairie. We soon discovered the art of John Dawson. John's experience illustrating *National Geographic* articles and designing stamps for the United States Postal Service was perfect. His series of stamps, "Nature of America", is meticulous in detail and scope and awe-inspiring in artistry. These qualities made him an ideal choice for our project.

In June 2004, we commissioned John to create a painting of the tallgrass prairie with a list of flora and fauna we had chosen for inclusion. He sent a sample sketch that delighted the Library Board of Trustees and staff. John and his wife Kathy, partners in Dawson and Dawson, Ltd., flew here in September 2004 and hiked the Orland Grassland project on 179th and LaGrange Road, taking hundreds of snapshots to be used to design the painting. With Pat Hayes as our guide, we spent many hours enjoying the plants and wildlife; the larger animals stayed clear of us, but we enjoyed the flight of birds and the sounds of insects hovering.

Over the next several months, John painted his vision of the tallgrass prairie using acrylic paints on masonite. We received the painting in early spring. The completed painting is proportionally one-fourth the size of the approximately 9-foot tall by 26-foot wide mural that stretches across the Youth Services wall. Skyline Designs of Chicago was chosen to digitally reproduce it onto wallpaper and install it.

This project was made possible through the generous contributions to our Capital Campaign. A complete list of donors is available on the library's website. Our mural would not exist without the talents of John and Kathy Dawson, the expertise of Carol Lerner, the enthusiasm and knowledge of Pat Hayes and the Orland Grassland Volunteers, and the desire of the people of Orland Park to conserve open lands. We hope the Orland Park community enjoys this lasting tribute to the tallgrass prairie and learns more about the animal and plants we see everyday.



# John D. Dawson

John D. Dawson is a nationally known wildlife artist. Since 1978, he has illustrated for a variety of national clients. His illustrations are all natural history subjects, ranging from ants to dinosaurs and from moss to giant redwood trees.

Dawson owes his love of art, sports, and nature to his parents. His mother and father were responsible for supporting and nurturing his interests from the beginning. By the time he could walk, the Dawsons were visiting the family cabin in the Laguna Mountains of San Diego County. Summer vacations were always spent camping, hiking, and exploring somewhere in the Sierra Mountains or other areas in the west.

The family reports that as a young child, John began drawing endlessly. Art became more and more important as he continued through school and graduated from the Art Center College of Los Angeles (now the Art Center College of Art and Design in Pasadena, California). He began his career working for an advertising agency.

In 1975, John moved on from advertising illustration in San Diego into full-time freelance contract artwork with his wife and business partner Kathy. Based in his studio on the Wood River of central Idaho, John and Kathy learned a lot about the outdoors, not just in Idaho, but across the country on assignments for many clients and during research travels of their own. After twelve years of the mountain life, the two moved on to the oceans and tropical rainforests of Hawaii. Now fifteen years later, as full-time island residents, they continue to live and work from their studio in Hilo on the big island of Hawaii. To this day, John is never without his sketchbook, pens and paints. Whether the environment is outdoors or in, he feels there is always something or someone to add to his list of art memories.

Dawson & Dawson, Ltd. clients include the National Geographic Society, the National Park Service, the United States Postal Service, Ranger Rick Magazine published by the National Wildlife Federation, the United Nations, the Environmental Protection Agency, Golden Guides and, most recently, the Orland Park Public Library.

