

## Exhibit Cases Currently Available at Ryerson Woods

### **Adder's Tongue, Yellow**

Check out this pretty yellow flower—pictured here in a forest setting—that grows abundantly in the Chicago area and in the Eastern United States. The Yellow Adder's Tongue, a moisture-loving plant, blooms early in the spring in woods and thickets.

### **Anemone, Wood**

Inconspicuous and delicate, this short-lived flower relies on underground rootstocks to live between blooming seasons. Growing in a variety of climates in wooded areas, this exhibit case shows the Wood Anemone growing in a forest.

### **Black Tern**

You have to learn quickly when you're a young Black Tern. These birds nest in flocks around inland lakes and marshes, and the young are active and begin to swim soon after hatching.

### **Cabbage, Skunk**

Skunk Cabbage first appears in early spring when there may still be a frost upon the ground. These plants have a special leaf called a "spathe" which protects a small cluster of flowers. Skunk Cabbages are able to bloom so early because of a "rootstock" which stores food from the previous year. Named for its unpleasant smell, its odor is quite pungent when breaks or bruises are present on the skin. This flowering plant is depicted in a display case resembling its natural marshy environment in the early spring.

### **Deer Mouse**

Follow the tracks of this tiny rodent into the forest, where she munches on seeds, grains, grasses and berries.

### **Goldfinch**

Marvel at the bright yellow plumage and black tails of this pair of Goldfinches. Found most often in flocks, these birds spend autumn searching for their favorite food—seeds from thistles and sunflowers.

### **Ground Squirrels**

Explore three different varieties of ground squirrel whose smaller tails demarcate them from their tree-dwelling relatives.

### **Mallow, Rose**

This wild flower is found growing in sizes of up to six feet near streams and swamps of the Midwest. As a member of the valuable mallow family, which also produces cotton, okra, and the base for marshmallows, the Rose Mallow is in danger of extermination because of overzealous picking.

### **Marigold, Marsh**

This wild flower only grows in marshes. Also known as "Little Frog" because it only lives in water, blooms late spring and early and summer. Related to the Buttercup this large flower has no true petals.

### **Meadow Lark**

Observe the plaintive song of the Meadow Lark, who frequents Illinois' open prairies in summer. This handsome bird can often be found perched atop a fence, uttering its peculiar metallic notes.

### **Mushrooms, Spore-Bearing**

Mushrooms are the largest growing of the fungi kingdom, and are made up of fine threads called "mycelium." These threads have two parts: one function is spore reproduction and the other is food absorption. This display features five varieties of mushrooms, which all bear spores in different ways. This case examines the different classifications of mushrooms in regard to their spore reproduction. Contained in the case are the Honeycomb, Scarlet Fairy Cup, Bear's Head, and Horn of Plenty, with an additional explanatory text.

### **Seventeen Year Cicada**

Figure out how the Cicada spends its seventeen years on Earth—a lifespan that far exceeds that of any other insect. Spending the majority of their life as larvae, hidden underground, the Cicada only emerges as a flying insect at the very end of its life.

### **Swallow, Cliff**

Scan the face of a cliff and you're bound to spot the gourd-shaped nests of these social birds. Found in colonies of up to 150 pairs, the Cliff Swallow aids farmers by munching destructive insects like the alfalfa weevil and chinch bug.

### **Tanager and Cowbird**

The cowbird is the smallest of the blackbirds, and is a summer resident of Illinois. It's association with cattle in the pastures, where it is seen feeding about their feet and perching upon their backs, has given rise to its popular name. The cowbird never builds a nest, nor does it take any care of its young. The female lays her egg in the nest of some smaller bird while the owner is away, and it is usually this bird who hatches the egg and rears the young.

### **Teal, Blue-Winged**

The blue-winged teal is a common summer resident in Illinois and Wisconsin, where it breeds in May and June in suitable localities, generally on the ground in grassy places near water. During the winter months it is found in the southern United States, Central America, the West Indies and nearly throughout South America so far south as Chile.

### **Thrasher, Brown**

Listen carefully for the repetitious song of this common summer resident of Illinois. The Brown Thrasher sings continually, and can often be found in thick shrubbery or scratching among fallen leaves.

### **Warbler, Blackburnian**

Also known as the "Fire Throat." Black and white feathers with a hot orange stripes on head and throat. Thin needle point bills. Usually smaller than a sparrow.

### **Warbler, Yellow**

It is one of the most common of our warblers. It is one of the few members of the family which breed in Illinois. It likes thickets of willows or elder trees along small streams, and in such place its songs is heard throughout the summer.

### **Water Lily**

Take a look underneath the leaves of the Sweet-Scented Water Lily and you'll find complex rootstocks that anchor it to the bed of a pond or stream. In bloom from June to September, this attractive white water lily can reach a diameter of five inches when fully open.

### **White Lady's Slipper**

Witness the unusual beauty of this wild orchid, found only at the edge of a sphagnum bog or in low meadows. Though the blooming period is short—only a few weeks in May and June—the White Lady's Slipper is found throughout the Midwestern and Atlantic states.

### **Woodchuck**

Notice the similarities between the woodchuck and its close relative the squirrel. Find out how civilization has moved its habitat from woods to open fields.