



# Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

April - May 2015



www.nwilaudubon.org

## NIAS MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held on the first Tuesday of the month, May, September and October through March.

### October - March

Meetings are held at St. John United Church of Christ 1010 S. Park Blvd., Freeport

- Announcements and reports begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Program begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by refreshments.

April, May and September  
Special meeting time and place

## INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

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Board Members!
11. Membership Form
11. Annual Bird Festival

Top: Eastern Meadowlark  
Text: [allaboutbirds.org/](http://allaboutbirds.org/)  
Photo: Dominic Sherony  
Middle: Greater Prairie Chicken  
Photo: Illinois Audubon  
Bottom: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail  
Photo: Dan Barron

**Eastern Meadowlarks** (*Sturnella magna*) “walk on the ground, often concealed by grasses or crops. Males sing beautiful, flutelike songs from exposed perches, particularly fenceposts. Their flight is a distinctive sequence of rapid fluttering and short glides, usually low to the ground. In winter you may see flocks of meadowlarks hunting insects in fields.”



## THE NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SPRING BANQUET

Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
Highland Community College  
Newell Room

Tom Clay, Director of the Illinois Audubon Society will present a beautifully illustrated program “Restoring the Greater Prairie Chicken to Illinois.” The Greater Prairie Chicken, an extraordinary species of grouse native to Illinois, has declined in numbers from more than ten million in 1860 – when Illinois was truly the “prairie state” – to less than 64 in 2014.

In Tom’s presentation, you will learn what a group of partnering organizations is doing to reverse this decline and why this effort is important. At the banquet, you can enjoy the beautiful photography, silent auction and a farm-raised turkey dinner with all the trimmings and homemade desserts.

Registration Deadline: April 3

Silent Auction 5:30 p.m. | Dinner 6:00 | Program 7:15



## BUTTERFLIES: WINGED WILDFLOWERS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Tuesday, May 5th  
Spring Potluck, Community Building,  
Krape Park, Freeport

Join Don Miller, Director of Education at Severson Dells Nature Center for a night of great butterfly action. Do come and enjoy the beautiful butterfly pictures taken by one of the best nature photographers of this region, Mary Kay Rubey. The program won’t be just a field guide of local butterflies; there will be some art, music, poetry, a little comedy, and some good stories. Stories like the one about the founder of the Xerces Society, Bob Pyle, and his experience when he visited this area. Do you have a good butterfly story to share?

Don grew up in Rockton, and has never strayed far from home. He graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree from Western Illinois in Biology with a certification in secondary education, and later earned a Master’s in Outdoor Education and elementary teaching certification from NIU. Last summer Don celebrated his 25th anniversary at Severson Dells.

Potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. | The program will start around 7:15

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# CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

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**April 3** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**April 3** - Registration deadline for Spring Banquet.

*Call Tim Smith if you've misplaced your form (815-835-5109)*

**April 7** - Blooming Pasque Flowers Field Trip. *See page 3 for details.*

**April 8** - "Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Harlan and Judy Corrie in rural Cedarville (815-563-4932). The first hour topic will be "Bees and Neonicotinoids." To get a copy of the topic article call Keith Blackmore at 815-938-3204. The second hour will be discussion of whatever issues are brought forth. All are welcome to attend. Carpool at 6:30 from the Staples east lot in Freeport or call Corries for directions.

**April 10** - Night Hike at the Oakdale Nature Preserve, 7:45 p.m.

*See page 3 for details.*

**April 14** - NIAS Spring Banquet. *See page 6 for details.*

**April 16** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**April 18** - Midwest Crane Count, 5:30-7:30 a.m. *Details on page 4.*

**April 23** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**April 23** - Conservation Committee meets at Amigos Restaurant on the corner of Clark and Galena at 5:30 p.m. - Newcomers welcome. Mexican and American fare. Some friendly conversation, generally about conservation.

**April 27** - Parsnip Cut at Elkhorn Creek, 8-10 a.m. Tools, gloves, water and snacks provided. Wear long sleeves and long pants! The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd. Carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 7:30. If the weather is questionable call leaders Nancy and Randy Ocken at 815-938-3506.

**April 29** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**May 2** - Wildflowers and Birds of the Palasades Field Trip.

*See page 3 for details.*

**May 3** - ANNUAL BIRDATHON FUNDRAISER! Your pledge is MOST welcome! *See page 8 for how you can make a contribution that will help birds on their wintering grounds, migration corridors and nesting habitats.*

**May 5** - NIAS Monthly program, "Winged Wildflowers of Northern Illinois." *See front cover for details.* Join us at 6:00 p.m. for the potluck. Bring a dish to pass and table service. Beverages will be provided. The program will begin at 7:15. Our new May and September meeting site is the Community Building (formerly the ice-skating warming house) in Freeport's Krape Park. Park in the lot next to Yellow Creek, just before you get to the building.

**May 7** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**May 8** - Annual honeysuckle cut at the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve on the south edge of Freeport off of Walnut Rd., 9-11 a.m., with optional lunch out after. Tools, gloves and water provided. If weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

**May 11** - Parsnip Cut and Garlic Mustard pull at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 8-10 a.m. Tools, gloves, water and snacks provided. Wear long sleeves and long pants! *See April 27 for directions.* Carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 7:30. If weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

**May 12** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**May 13** - "Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m., at the home of Richard Benning, 704 N. Davis St., Davis, 815-865-5279. The first hour topic will be "Land Preservation in Stephenson County." To get a copy of the topic article, call Richard. The second hour will be discussion of whatever issues are brought forth. All are welcome to attend. Carpool at 6:30 from the Staples east lot in Freeport or call Richard for directions.

**May 16** - Annual NIAS Bird Festival, 8-11 a.m. at the Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve. *See page 11 for complete information.*

**May 18** - New Moon first campfire of the year at the Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve. At 7 p.m. we'll take a leisurely stroll to observe blooming plants and nesting birds. The campfire will start at 8 p.m. S'mores and water will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. Carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 6:20. The Preserve is located about 2 miles south of Leaf River, with the parking area just off of Leaf River Rd. If weather is questionable, call Mary at 815-938-3204.

**May 19** - Campfire raindate - details as above.

**May 21** - An Evening of Birding at Lost Mound Field Trip, 5:30 p.m. *See page 3 for details.*

**May 23** - Bird Walk, 8-11 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

**May 27** - Sweet Clover Cut at Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 8-10 a.m. Tools, gloves, snacks and water provided. For directions to the site see May 18. Carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 7:20. If weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

**May 28** - Conservation Committee meets at Amigos Restaurant on the corner of Clark and Galena at 5:30 p.m. - Newcomers welcome. Mexican and American fare. Some friendly conversation, generally about conservation.

**May 29** - Sweet Clover Cut at Silver Creek. *Details same as above.*

**May 30** - Kid's Nature Walk, 9-10:30 a.m. *See page 5 for details.*

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# Field Trips

FEBRUARY AND MARCH



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## **Blooming Pasque Flowers Field Trip at Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve**

*Tuesday April 7 | 3 p.m. -  
Leader: Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204)*

Join us as we admire one of the prairie's harbingers of spring, the Pasque Flower. Unlike the crocus it resembles, a Pasque Flower, *Anemone patens*, is a member of the buttercup family. In early spring the plant sends up a flower stalk in advance of leaves so what you see are delicate pale violet blooms nestled in the muted tan tangle of last year's prairie grasses.

Come and see how Pasque Flower blooms actually move to track the sun. We'll meet in the prairie's parking lot just off of Walnut Rd. at 3 pm. After our prairie stroll we'll go for pizza.

## **Night Hike at the Oakdale Nature Preserve**

*Friday April 10 | 7:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Leader: Richard Benning (815-865-5279)*

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society will hold a night hike at the Oakdale Nature Preserve, starting at the Mogle Center. Besides walking some of Oakdale's trails at a time of day that stimulates our senses, we will learn about owls, night vision, night sounds, threats to the night sky and why people sometimes fear being outside in the night.

It is hoped that participants will leave with a greater appreciation and sense of wonder about this time of day. Oakdale is located three miles south of Freeport on Baileyville Road.

## **Wildflowers and Birds of the Palasades**

*Saturday May 2 | 8 a.m. -  
Leader Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204)*

Each spring the Mississippi Palasades State Park just north of Savanna is a destination of choice for birders and botanists alike. Due to its unique topography, unusual birds such as the Yellow-throated Warbler and Northern Parula Warbler, and uncommon plants like Large-Flowered Trillium and Amethyst Shooting Star are found. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 8 am or meet our group at the first parking lot inside the south entrance to the Palasades. We'll eat lunch in Savanna and return to Freeport around 2 pm.

## **An Evening of Birding at Lost Mound**

*Thursday, May 21 | 5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Leader: Anne Straight (815-938-3263)*

Join us as we travel alongside sand prairies, sand savannas and the mighty Mississippi in search of birds at the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge just north of Savanna. Of primary interest will be nocturnal and crepuscular species such as Common Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will and American Woodcock, but there will be enough time to observe many of the grassland species of Lost Mound as well.

Meet at the Fish and Wildlife Office Building at Lost Mound at 6:30 or carpool from the Staples east lot in Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Return time to Freeport around 10:30 p.m.

*Mark your calendar and save the date for these upcoming field trips!*

Watch for details in upcoming newsletters or contact Chris at 815-238-9259 for more info.

**Nygren Wetlands and Bushel & Peck's Local Market - Wednesday, June 17**

**Nachusa Grasslands - Sunday, June 28**

**Local Prairie Hop - Saturday, July 11**

**Leopold Shack & Leopold Center and International Crane Foundation - Saturday October 3**

# JOIN US FOR CRANE COUNT

Mark your calendar now for Saturday, April 18 when we'll once again be counting Sandhill Cranes in Stephenson County. Our count is part of the larger Midwest Crane Count organized by the International Crane Foundation. Following the count we'll gather at a local restaurant for breakfast and to turn in count forms. No experience is necessary! If you are new to Crane Count you will have a veteran counting partner. Last year 28 counters at 13 sites observed a total of 69 cranes, including 26 pairs.

*Volunteers make this count happen so we hope you can join us!  
To participate, call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 before April 12.*

*The count is early, brief and rewarding.  
Counters are on site from 5:30- 7:30 a.m. on count day to listen and watch for cranes.*



Photo: Wyman Meinzer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Digital Library

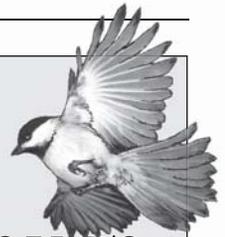
## **Sandhill Crane** (*Grus canadensis*)

*BEHAVIOR: Sandhill Cranes mate for life, choosing their partners based on dancing displays. Displaying birds stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air. Although each female usually lays two eggs, only one nestling typically survives to fledge. Mated pairs and their juvenile offspring stay together all through the winter, until the 9 to 10-month-old juveniles finally separate from their parents the following spring.*

*During migration and winter the family units group together with other families and nonbreeders, forming loose roosting and feeding flocks—in some places numbering in the tens of thousands. Eggs, nestlings, and injured or sick adults may be hunted by foxes, raccoons, coyotes, wolves, bobcats, crows, ravens, eagles, and owls. Cranes attack aerial predators by leaping into the air and kicking their feet forward. They threaten terrestrial predators by spreading their wings and hissing, eventually resorting to kicking.*

Behavioral information by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

For more information visit: [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/sandhill\\_crane/lifehistory](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/sandhill_crane/lifehistory)



## *THANK YOU TO:*

The volunteers who provided delicious treats for our monthly meetings over this past program year:

**Sandy Feaver, Phyllis Seffrood,  
Gay Brooks, Anne Straight,  
Della Moen, John Walt,  
Deb Barron, Mary Blackmore,  
Anita Nienhuis, Diana Nye,  
Carol Redmore, Ronnie Clock,  
Judy Corrie, Candy Colby  
and Juliet D' Souza**

Recent field trip leaders:

**Chris Kruger and Laura Dufford**

Volunteers at our chapter's display in Clinton Iowa at the Annual Bald Eagle Watch in January:

**Lynn and Sandy Feaver,  
Laura Dufford  
and Juliet D' Souza**

# ENJOY THE SPRING MIGRATION!

From the first Eastern Meadowlark in March to the last Willow Flycatcher in May, the spring migration is a phenomenon of wonder. Every year our chapter schedules spring birdwalks to leisurely observe, enjoy and learn about these migratory species. Last year's walks included some uncommon sightings like Western Meadowlark and Golden-winged Warbler, as well as more common species exhibiting interesting behaviors such as a White breasted Nuthatch feeding young and several fishing Ospreys.

All of the walks below EXCEPT MAY 30 will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m.

Following the walks, those who would like to will gather at a local restaurant for an early lunch. Contact the respective walk leader if the weather is questionable or if you need further directions to the site. And don't forget our ANNUAL BIRD FESTIVAL at Silver Creek on May 16 (*see page 6 for details*).

*Happy Birding!*

**April 3** - Wetland areas of eastern Stephenson county. Carpool at 8 a.m. from the Staples east lot in Freeport. Leader: Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**April 16** - Duck's Misery and the southern Jane Addams Trail. *Carpool as above at 7:40 a.m.* Leader: Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204).

**April 23** - Northern Jane Addams Trail and the Orangeville Wetlands. Meet at the trailhead in Orangeville, just east of the BP gas station. *Car pool as above at 7:30 a.m.* Leader : Somer Bozovsky (815-275-0719).

**April 29** - Pecatonica River Forest Preserve (main entrance by the barn). A special likely bonus of this walk will be stunning wildflowers and singing frogs! *Carpool as above at 7:30 a.m.* Leader: Richard Benning (815-865-5279).

**May 7** - Krape Park, Freeport. Meet in the parking lot by the dam. Leader: Laura Dufford (815-947-2720).

**May 12** - Newell Tract, Oakdale Nature Preserve, rural Freeport. Meet in the parking area of the Newell Tract (*the part of Oakdale on the west side of Crane's Grove Rd.*). Leader: Anne Straight (815-938-3263).

**May 23** - Harry and Dorothy Espenscheid Forest Preserve, northeast of Freeport. Carpool as above at 7:30 a.m. or follow these directions: from the junction of HWY 20 bypass and HWY 75, take HWY 75 about 5 miles to Cedarville Rd., turn right (east) on Cedarville Rd. and drive 4.2 miles to Eggert Rd., turn left (north) on Eggert and go 1.8 miles to Farm School Rd., turn right (east) and go 0.3 miles to the preserve (on north side of the road). Leader : Richard Benning (815-865-5279).

**May 30** - SPECIAL CHILDREN ' S NATURE WALK! Meet in the parking area of the Newell Tract of the Oakdale Nature Preserve (*as described in the May 12 bird-walk*) at 9 a.m. Kids will look for birds and other neat stuff until 10:30 a.m. Leaders: Carol Rednre (815-721-3375) and Keith Blackmore (815-938-3204).



# Field Trips 2014 RECAP



*Trillium grandiflorum* (Large-flowered Trillium)  
photo by: Chris Kruger



Keith Blackmore, Laura Dufford, Anne Straight and Mary Blackmore at Black Oak Dune Overlook, Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge | photo by: Chris Kruger



*Dodecatheon amethystinum* (Amethyst Shooting Star)  
photo by: Chris Kruger



Eagle watching at Lock and Dam 13  
photo by: Chris Kruger

To see these wildflowers and more attend:  
**Wildflowers and Birds of the Palasades**

Saturday May 2 | 8 a.m. -  
Leader Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204)

Be sure to attend:  
**An Evening of Birding at Lost Mound**

Thursday, May 21 | 5:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.  
Leader: Anne Straight (815-938-3263)

(see page 3 for more field trip details)



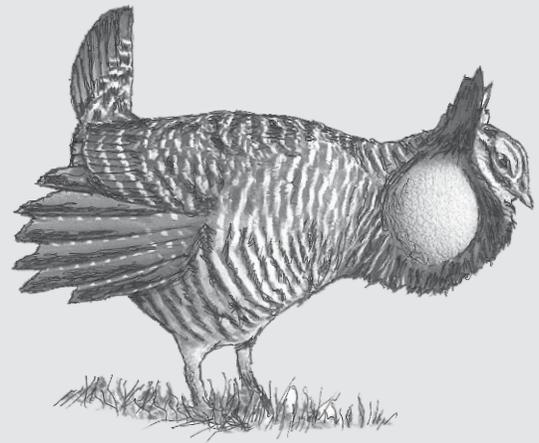
# Welcome New Members!

Corben and Sarah Webb – Freeport  
Gordon and Judith Ross – Freeport  
Jack and Candace Colby – Freeport  
Joseph Appell – Freeport  
Connie Smith – Freeport  
Leslie Herendeen – Freeport  
Karen Hagen – Elizabeth  
Vada Ferry – Leaf River  
Aby Breed – Stockton  
Miriam Bahr – Lena  
Riley Reynolds – Clinton



Thanks to all for attending our March meeting!

Richard Benning presents “Raptors: Avian Hunters Extraordinaire” at the March NIAS monthly meeting  
photo by: Juliet D’ Souza



## The Northwest Illinois Audubon Spring Banquet

Tuesday April 14  
Highland Community College  
Newell Room

Silent Auction: 5:30  
Dinner: 6:00  
Program: 7:15

Tom Clay, Director of the Illinois Audubon Society will present a beautifully illustrated program “Restoring the Greater Prairie Chicken to Illinois.” The Greater Prairie Chicken, an extraordinary species of grouse native to Illinois, has declined in numbers from more than ten million in 1860 – when Illinois was truly the “prairie state” – to less than 64 in 2014.

In Tom’s presentation, you will learn what a group of partnering organizations is doing to reverse this decline and why this effort is important. At the banquet, you can enjoy the beautiful photography, and a farm-raised turkey dinner with all the trimmings and homemade desserts. There are only a few days left to register.

*Registration Deadline: April 3*

If you’ve misplaced the banquet registration form that came in the mail, call Tim Smith at 815.835.5109 to make your reservation. Price for the banquet and program is \$20 for adults; children under 12 free.

Remember also, if you are donating items for the Silent Auction, to contact Chris Kruger (815.238.9259) or Keith Blackmore (815.938.3204) in advance and to bring your items to the Newell Room by 5:30 on the 14th.

To donate homemade desserts for the banquet, contact Anita Nienhuis at 815.443.2401 before April 6.

*Thank you all!*

# Birdathon

Your money goes where the birds go



This year our chapter marks its 35th year of sponsoring a **BIRDATHON** fundraising event! In that time thousands of dollars have been raised for bird conservation. Please join us in making this year's effort our best yet!

We invite you to make a pledge to any of the birders listed below who will be participating in our chapter's annual **BIRDATHON** on May 3. Your pledge, for instance 15¢, will be per SPECIES of birds that your selected birder(s) identifies on that day. Your birder will contact you after the count with his or her species total and collect your contribution.

Your money indeed goes where the birds go! All **BIRDATHON** proceeds are shared by organizations that do a tremendous job of:

- protecting and improving bird habitat on wintering grounds, migration corridors and nesting sites,
- connecting people with nature,
- providing education opportunities for the public, and
- collecting scientific data through bird counts and birdbanding.

*Those organizations are:*  
**Northwest Illinois Audubon Society**  
**National Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative**  
**Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin**  
**Stewards of the Upper Mississippi**  
**Sand Bluff Bird Observatory**  
**Belize Audubon Society**

*Please complete the pledge form below and mail as indicated.*  
**THANK YOU** so much for your support  
of birds and our **BIRDATHON!**

## 2015 BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM

Name
Phone
Address

I am pledging \_\_\_\_\_ ¢ per species by that (those) birder (s) marked below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Akins<br><input type="checkbox"/> Richard Benning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Keith Blackmore<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mary Blackmore<br><input type="checkbox"/> Harlan Corrie<br><input type="checkbox"/> Judy Corrie<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Dixon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Juliet D'Souza | <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Dufford<br><input type="checkbox"/> Gary Gordon<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mark Keister<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dylan Lewis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Kent Lewis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Teresa Smith<br><input type="checkbox"/> Anne Straight |
|---|---|

*Clip and mail to Mary Blackmore, 9024 W. West Grove Rd., Forreton IL 61030 or include your pledge form with your chapter ballot (to the right) mailed to NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032. Questions? Call Mary at 815-938-3204*

# BALLOT FOR NIAS CHAPTER OFFICERS

2015-2016

The individuals listed below have been nominated to serve on next year's NIAS Chapter Board of Directors in the positions indicated. Please vote in the spaces provided if you support the nominated candidates, or insert and vote for write-in candidates if that is your wish.

All Board terms, except for President, are for one year. Next year, Lynn Feaver will be finishing the two-year term as President to which he was elected last year. Committee Chairs, also listed below, are appointed by the President.

### Vice President (President Elect)

\_\_\_\_\_, Rex Sides  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

### Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_, Laura Dufford  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

### Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_, Tim Smith  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

### Members At Large (vote for six)

\_\_\_\_\_, Gay Brooks  
\_\_\_\_\_, Mark Keister  
\_\_\_\_\_, Nancy Ocken  
\_\_\_\_\_, Kayse Rushford  
\_\_\_\_\_, Larry Seffrood  
\_\_\_\_\_, Steve Simpson  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in)

### Committee Chairs (appointed)

<b>Conservation</b>	Keith Blackmore
<b>Education</b>	Juliet D'Souza
<b>Field Trips</b>	Chris Kruger
<b>Membership</b>	Bernard Lischwe
<b>Program</b>	Richard Benning
<b>Publicity</b> (position open - Contact Lynn if you're interested)	

*Send your ballot to NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032 before April 15. Results will be announced in the next newsletter and the new Board will assume its duties in mid-May.*

# TOWARD A COOLER PLANET

*44th in a Series by Keith Blackmore*

## **Climate Change and the Economy**

A political duo has formed to wrestle with the issue of climate change and the economy. Their opponents are the climate change deniers in their various guises. Opposition ranges from “the fragile economy can’t afford the cost of acting” to outright rejection of the consensus of every major scientific organization on planet Earth.

Former Treasury Secretary under President George W. Bush, Republican Henry M. Paulson, and former Mayor of New York City, political independent Michael Bloomberg, co-chaired a thorough analysis of the cost of doing nothing regarding climate change (see Riskybusiness.org).

According to Paulson, “This is a crisis we can’t afford to ignore... The nature of a crisis is its unpredictability. And as we all witnessed during the (2008) financial crisis, a chain reaction of cascading failures ensued from one intertwined part of the system to the next. It’s easy to see a single part in motion. It’s not so easy to calculate the resulting domino effect. That sort of contagion nearly took down the global financial system.”

Clearly both men believe that climate change is just such a crisis as Paulson describes. The financial cost of not acting now will lead to enormous cost for our children. Bloomberg says, “There is a 1 in 20 chance - about the

same chances as an American developing colon cancer... - that by the end of this century more than \$701 billion worth of existing coastal property will be below mean sea levels, with more than \$730 billion of additional property at risk during high tide.”

Paulson points out that taxpayers are already footing the bill for climate-related disasters, “like floods, drought-related crop failures and extreme weather tornadoes, hurricanes and other violent storms.” He goes on to say that our “failure to act on the underlying problem is deeply misguided, financially and logically.”

In most of the 43 previous columns that appeared in this series, you have been asked to do some small thing to reduce your carbon footprint. This article is a bit different for this reason. Roughly 24% of necessary carbon dioxide reductions can be achieved through personal choices. The remaining 76% require actions by governments: state, national and international. Therein lies our challenge.

While I have been unable to get a clear sense of where 17th District Representative Bustos stands on climate change, the fact that she voted for passage of the Keystone XL pipeline indicates that she either doesn’t understand the issue or thinks it unimportant. On the other hand, some of us live in the 16th district represented by Adam Kinzinger.

My wife Mary recently received a reply from Rep. Kinzinger specific to

the topic of climate change. He states, “Climate change is a hotly debated topic among scientists, politicians and the American people.” He is partially correct in that some politicians and some of the general public are still confused on the issue. However, there is NO hot debate among scientists on this issue. EVERY major scientific organization around the world agrees that climate change is occurring and that human-generated emissions are the primary cause.

If there is still a hot debate among politicians and a confused general public, it is largely a self-fulfilled prophecy on the part of political leaders (please see the Washington Post editorial on Senator Inhofe in the Journal-Standard, 3-3-15) who have for many years used their bully pulpits to disparage science and create a strong anti intellectual attitude among the electorate.

Your job, if you should choose to accept it, is to grab a pen and paper and let your Representative and both U.S. Senators know that you expect them to support effective climate change legislation and to do so now!

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*Editor’s note: for your convenience, the mailing addresses of all our legislators are provided on the back page of this newsletter.*

# CAROL'S CHOICES

April - May

For ages 4-8:

## Raindrops Roll | April Pulley Sayre

With expertly crafted rhyming text and vivid illustrations, the wonder of water is revealed. "Rain plops/It drops/It patters/It splatters"

For Younger Elementary:

## The Magic School Bus Wet All Over: A Book About the Water Cycle | Joanna Cole

When Ms. Frizzle's class learns about water, Wanda suggests a trip to Waterland but Ms. Frizzle takes them on one wet and wild ride on the school bus through the water cycle. "Suddenly the whole bus rose into the air. We felt cool and heavy. We were turning into water!"

For Grades 3-5:

## Water Dance | Thomas Locker

Graceful, informative verse paired with soft painting illustrations. "How does water dance? From rain, to river, to sea, to cloud, with half a dozen sidesteps in the circle."

For Adults:

## The Green Halo: A Bird's Eye View of Ecological Ethics | Erazim Kohak

Analysis of the problematic relations between humans and the rest of the natural world. Examines the views of Muir, Leopold, Gore and others. Suggests alternative ways to view nature and respond to ecological crisis.

# Thanks to Our Retiring Board Members; Welcome to Our New Ones!

Six long-serving members of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society Board are 'retiring' next year. Mary Blackmore, Anita and John Nienhuis, Carol and Fred Redmore and Teresa Smith are all leaving the Board (temporarily, we hope) after multiple years of service. The NIAS Constitution and By-Laws generally call for term limits after four consecutive years on the Board.

Mary has served for one year as Membership Chairman, and three years as Treasurer in her most recent stint on the Board. Carol has been Publicity Chair for two years and Conservation Chair for two years before that. John has been Conservation Chair for two years and was a Member-At-Large before that. Anita and Fred have both been Members-At-Large for three years running. Teresa has set a modern day Board membership record – having agreed to step in as President part way through a vacated two year term, then serving two more years as President in her own right, followed this year by another year on the Board as Past President.

Please join us in thanking these folks for their years of good work and service. And remind them that they can't hide. We know we'll be able to find most of them volunteering at our preserves on just about every scheduled workday – so they can't escape!

Mary, Carol, John, Anita, Fred and Teresa, we appreciate your work and your wonderful spirits!

But fear not, fellow Chapter members, a new group of folks has agreed to join our Board in May. (*Complete and send in your ballot – on page 8.*) If elected as Members At Large, our 'new folks' will be:

Gay Brooks, a frequent traveler on Chapter field trips, and faithful attendee at program meetings, has agreed to serve as Member-At-Large. Gay is a Senior Engineering Technician at Fehr-Graham and lives in Freeport.

Mark Keister, a birder since the age of eight, recently retired from 23 years as Director of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District. When asked where he now lives, Mark said: "In the northern Illinois 'Bermuda Triangle' – smack in between the metropolitan communities of Winslow, Orangeville, and McConnell." Can you find him?

Nancy Ocken – and her husband Randy – can almost always be found at workdays on our Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves. Nancy is a retired elementary teacher and has been named the Ogle County Conservation Teacher of the Year. She and Randy live in Haldane – south of Forreston.

Steve Simpson is our local dinosaur discoverer and frequent leader of Audubon fieldtrips. He's an avid paddler – ask him about the Yukon – and the geology professor at Highland Community College. Steve lives in Pearl City.

Send in your ballot before April 15 and vote for these 'new folks', as well as the 'old incumbents.' The ballot is on page 8.

## Would you like to join Audubon as a NEW Member or give a GIFT membership?

*Two types of membership are available:*

### 1. Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and National Membership

*includes this local newsletter, local mailings and the national "Audubon" magazine.*

\_\_\_ Individual \$20    \_\_\_ Senior Citizen \$15    \_\_\_ Student \$9

*Prices listed are for NEW national memberships only and DO NOT apply to renewals.  
All renewals for national memberships need to use the national membership form.*

### 2. Northwest Illinois Audubon Society Local only Membership

*includes this newsletter and other mailings from our local chapter.    \_\_\_ Local Only \$15*

Name of new member or gift recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

*If this is a gift membership, please indicate the name of the person providing the gift membership:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to **NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** and mail to:  
Treasurer, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032*

## BOARD MEMBERS

**President** | Lynn Feaver  
3003 Forest Rd - Freeport IL 61032  
815-235-9530

**Vice President** | Rex Sides

**Secretary** | Laura Dufford

**Treasurer** | Tim Smith

**At-large** | Juliet D'Souza, Fred Redmore,  
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## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**Publicity** | Carol Redmore

**Membership** | Mary Blackmore

**Field Trips** | Chris Kruger

**Sustainable Agriculture**

Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore,  
Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp

**Newsletter Editor** | Dan Barron

1706 Johnson St - La Crosse WI 54601

815-541-3261 - dan@beewise.us

# SILVER CREEK BIRD FESTIVAL



Join us on May 16 for an informative, fun, family-friendly morning as we explore the Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many migrating and resident birds found there. Come on out and get acquainted with this beautiful area! From 8-11 a.m. participants may join guided bird tours or look on their own for our feathered friends.

Tours will begin at 8:00, 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Free "Illinois Birds" pocket guides will be distributed while supplies last. We'll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, beverages and snacks.

*If weather is questionable call Blackmores at 815-938-3204.*

Eighty-five species of birds have been documented in the grasslands, woodlands and stream sides of Silver Creek. At last year's festival, participants had repeated good looks at a variety of warblers, including Chestnut-sided and Golden-winged, as well as other spring migrants and nesting species. The preserve is located about 2 miles south of Leaf River. The new parking area is off of Leaf River Rd. We hope to see you there!

## DID YOU KNOW?

*From our chapter's February issues discussion we learned that there are 603 Whooping Cranes in the world.*

*They are representatives of the following populations:*

*Wild populations :*  
304 Aransas-Wood Buffalo

*Migratory:*  
95 Eastern Migratory  
(reintroduced population)

*Non-Migratory:*  
29 Louisiana Non-Migratory  
(reintroduced population)

8 Florida Non-Migratory  
(reintroduced population)

*In Captivity:*  
161 Whooping Cranes

**Northwest Illinois  
Audubon Society**

P.O. Box 771  
Freeport, IL 61032-0771

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**ADDRESSES/EMAILS OF YOUR LEGISLATORS**

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*When using either switchboard, simply ask to be connected to the legislator's office.*

**FEDERAL**

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**Senator Mark Kirk**

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60604  
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