



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

www.nwilaudubon.org

NIAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Join us the first Tuesday of every month, September through May. All of our programs are open to the public.

Most programs are held at the St John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd., in Freeport.

Most programs begin at 7 PM with announcements, followed by the program at 7:30 and then refreshments.

Check the current newsletter or our website (nwilaudubon.org) for specific monthly details, special events or any changes to the usual time and place.

Please join us!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

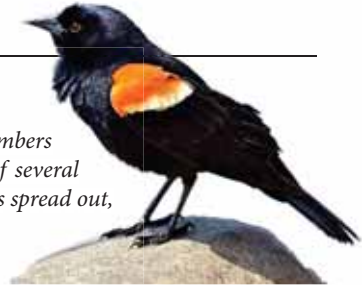
2. Calendar Considerations Field Trips
3. Chapter News Updates
4. Christmas Bird Count
5. Conservation Committee
6. Presidents Tweet Bird Seed Sales Thank You NIAS Birdathon
7. Jim's Bridge ECBP Bluebird Report
8. Fall Photo Journal
9. Thank You!

Top text/photo: allaboutbirds.org
DaPuglet (Flickr)
Lower: (photos provided by speakers)

DECEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019

Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)

Red-winged Blackbirds roost in flocks in all months of the year. In summer small numbers roost in the wetlands where the birds breed. Winter flocks can be congregations of several million birds, including other blackbird species and starlings. Each morning the roosts spread out, traveling as far as 50 miles to feed, then re-forming at night.



DECEMBER PROGRAMMING

Trends in Monarch Populations
7:00 pm Tuesday December 4th
St. John United Church of Christ,
1010 Park Blvd. Freeport

The monarch is an iconic species in North America and around the world. At the December program, we will look at the three different monarch populations in North America, what factors affect these populations, and what citizen scientists are doing to better understand monarchs.



The speaker for our December program is Ann Wasser, Director at Severson Dells Nature Center. Ann worked for 5 year at the Pacific Grove Museum of natural history and led their monarch citizen science program and partnered with the Xerces Society, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Monarch Joint Venture to tag and sample western monarchs. We hope you can join us for this program to learn more about current research, conservation efforts, and what you can do to help support monarchs.

For information about this program contact Teresa at 815-238-3963

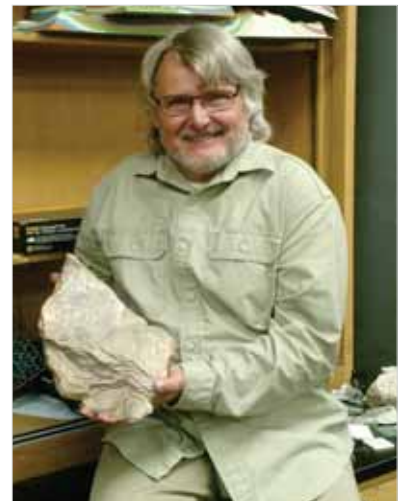
JANUARY PROGRAMMING

Every Rock Tells a Story
7:00 pm Tuesday January 8th
St. John United Church of Christ,
1010 Park Blvd. Freeport

NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

As a young man traveling through the wilderness of Canada, Steve Simpson began to wonder about the language of rocks. He wondered so much that he went to college to study them before embarking on a 32-year career teaching geology, including 31 years at Highland Community College in Freeport.

The program will start with an "Antiques Roadshow" style show and tell, where attendees will bring in rocks and fossils and Steve will help unravel the stories the rocks reveal. So COME PREPARED with your favorite doorstep, curio, or fossil. After that, Steve will give a presentation on some of the more interesting stories that rocks have revealed to the careful investigations of geologists.



For information about this program contact Teresa at 815-238-3963

CALENDAR

CONSIDERATIONS

FIELD TRIPS

DECEMBER - JANUARY



December 4 – Program at 7:00 p.m. at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd. See Page 1 for details.

January 8 – Program at 7:00 p.m. at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd. See Page 1 for details. **NOTE THIS IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH DUE TO THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.**

January 12 – 10:00-11:30 a.m. Tracking Program at Oakdale Nature Preserve. See “Field Trips” for details.

January 13 – “Talking About the Issues” monthly discussion, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the home of Dick Luthin, 1712 W. Parkview Dr., Freeport (815-232-8624). The first hour topic will be a discussion of a relatively new concept many conservation biologists are supporting: it’s the early successional habitat – those dense, tangled thickets of young saplings, fruit-bearing shrubs and vines – that birds need most. For a copy of the article contact Laura Dufford at 815-947-2720, or pick up a copy at the January monthly program. The second hour will be an open discussion of whatever issues are brought forth. *Everyone is welcome.*

January 15 – NIAS Conservation Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. prior to the board meeting at St. John United Church of Christ - Freeport

January 15 – NIAS board meeting 7:00 p.m. at St. John United Church of Christ - Freeport

January 19 – Field trip, Open Land Birding, 9:00 a.m.-noon. See “Field Trips” for details.

January 27 – Burpee Museum of Natural History field trip: 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. See “Field Trips” for details.

February 1 – Field trip, Open Land Birding, 9 a.m.-noon. See “Field Trips” for details.

TRACKING PROGRAM

at Oakdale Nature Preserve
January 12 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Learn about the age-old art of tracking. Peoples’ lives depended on knowing about the quarry they hunted in cultures of the past. Today, tracking gives us a chance to learn about what animals are present and what they are doing when we can’t see them. Things covered will include footprints, gait, scat, chewings and thinking like an animal.

The program will start in the Mogle Center before we venture outside. Dress for the weather, including appropriate footwear for walking in snow.

For questions about this program call Richard Benning at 815-865-5279.

OPEN LAND BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 19, 9:00 a.m. – noon
Friday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204
Carpool from the former Staples lot in Freeport at 9:00 a.m.

Once again we will travel local country roads in search of those open land species from the north that frequent our area primarily during the winter. This year you again have two opportunities for fun – come to either or both!

Although the typically more common species – Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Horned Lark – were again in short supply last year, we had terrific looks on one of the outings of a Snowy Owl, even observing it in flight. Other species we’ll search for include Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Merlin. Of course we’ll enjoy any bird we see, including our many year-round residents.

We will carpool and cruise country roads in local areas that were historically prairie. Viewing will be done predominantly from vehicles, using cars as blinds. *Optional lunch after in Freeport. Confirm your attendance by calling Mary.*

AN AFTERNOON AT THE BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, ROCKFORD, IL

Sunday, January 27, 2019
12:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Trip Coordinator: Laura Dufford
815-947-2720 | lauradufford@gmail.com

Special Trip Host:
John Walt, Burpee Museum volunteer

Cost: Adult \$10.00, Children 4-12 \$9.00,
Children under 4 and Members – free

We have the honor of having John Walt for an afternoon at the Burpee Museum. John was involved with the making of one of Burpee’s newer exhibit: Survival of the Smallest. ‘Small but mighty, learn how insects are adapted for success in the natural world. From smells to sounds to amazing movements...each insect will tell you a story! We’ll enjoy the beautiful specimens of many different insects and learn how they compete, adapt and survive!’

John has also promised to give us a look behind the scenes at the museum. While visiting Burpee we’ll have time to view the many other exhibits from dinosaurs, local geology (a great follow-up from our Geology field trip in October), The First People, wildlife of the Rock River Valley, and a brand new Children’s Learning Laboratory.

Carpool from the old Staples parking lot, Freeport at 12:30 p.m. or meet at Burpee Museum shortly after 1:00. Please call or email Laura to confirm your attendance.

Questions About Your Membership?

Contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963
or timtreetsmith@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Lynn Wilburn Mount Morris	Jay Hurder Freeport	Bob Curtis Freeport
Myrna Nelson Milledgeville	Mark Mellicker Kent	Sarah Thies Freeport
Nita Duerr Elizabeth	Ed Juracek Savanna	Mary Falls Thomson

NEW PHOTO SHARING OPPORTUNITY

At our October program, we piloted a photo sharing slide program that featured seasonal photos taken by our own Northwest Illinois Audubon members, including some of our members who live in another state who are frequently unable to attend our membership programs. A series of 20 pictures rotated across the screen for viewing pleasure and conversation. The photos were available on the screen for viewing 15 minutes prior to the start of the main speaker. The photo sharing was well received by those attending and we would like to continue to offer all of our members the opportunity to share their favorite nature related seasonal photos.

If you have a photo that you would like us to share at the monthly membership program you should e-mail it to Teresa at timtreetsmith@gmail.com by the Saturday before the monthly meeting. You can also call 815-238-3963 if you have questions about submitting your photos.



CARRIE NEWCOMER RETURNS!

As part of our chapter's 20th anniversary celebration of our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, we will once again sponsor a free concert featuring the fabulous folksinger Carrie Newcomer, with pianist Gary Walters.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, August 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Highland Community College Student Conference Center for a fun and inspirational evening! Details in upcoming newsletters.



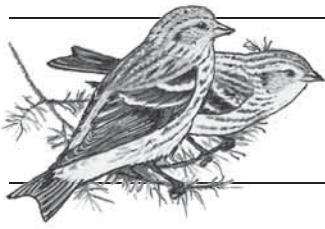
(top right) Saw-whet Owl Banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory on October 26th. (photo by Laura Dufford)

(left middle) Saw-whet Owl Banding at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory on October 26th. (photo by Kara Gallup)

(left and far left) Steve Simpson showing off the St. Peters Sandstone at Castle Rock State Park along the Rock River, during the Bedrock Geology Field trip.

(photos by Doug Dufford)

FIELD TRIPS RECAP OCTOBER – NOVEMBER



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

It's time once again for the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. This will be the 43rd time that our chapter has taken part in this endeavor to take one-day snapshots of bird diversity and population in predetermined areas.

You are invited to be a part of this year's count. It will take place on Saturday, December 15. We will meet at the Spring Grove Family Restaurant, 1521 S. West Ave. in Freeport at 6:30 a.m. for a "Dutch-treat" breakfast. After eating, we will assign territories and divide up.

If you are a beginning or novice birder, we will assign you with a more experienced person. The count generally lasts through late afternoon. If you can only help for the morning or afternoon, we will be meeting at 12:00 noon at the Freeport Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau on US Rt. 20 East to eat lunch and discuss afternoon plans. Bring a sack lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather.

Anyone who would like to do some early or late owling should contact count compiler Richard Benning at the number indicated below about the location you will be covering.

You may also be a part of the count by being a feeder counter. See the bird list and instructions. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the December 4th NIAS monthly meeting for both field counters and feeder counters.

If you cannot attend the meeting and wish to participate, or if you have any questions, contact Richard Benning 815-865-5279.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FEEDER COUNT PARTICIPATION

Participating in a CBC Feeder Count is easy and fun! First, be sure that your feeders are in the official count circle, a 15-mile diameter circle with Read Park in Freeport as the center. If you aren't sure if you are in the circle, call Richard Benning at the number listed above. On the count day, Saturday, December 15, simply watch your bird feeder(s) for at least 4 hours and record the largest number of each species present at any one moment. For example, don't add together the 8 juncos seen at 10 a.m. and the 10 juncos seen at 11:30 a.m. The final number should be 10, that is, the most seen at any one time.

You don't have to be glued to the window either, watching every bird for every minute. Just check your feeder often during the hours you are counting. Then complete the form below and mail as indicated by December 22nd. Thanks!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mourning dove	<input type="checkbox"/>	American Tree Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-headed Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Song Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-bellied Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	White-throated Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Downy Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	White-crowned Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hairy Woodpecker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark-eyed Junco
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Flicker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Cardinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue Jay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple Finch
<input type="checkbox"/>	American Crow	<input type="checkbox"/>	House Finch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-capped Chickadee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pine Siskin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tufted Titmouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	American Goldfinch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	House Sparrow
<input type="checkbox"/>	White-breasted Nuthatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	(other)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown Creeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	(other)
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Starling	<input type="checkbox"/>	(other)

Please mail form to:
RICHARD BENNING, P.O. BOX 11, DAVIS, IL 61019
 NO LATER THAN December 22nd. THANKS!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

What did we learn from the latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report? First, a quick summary of where we are now: since humans began burning fossil fuels over about 200 years ago, the climate has warmed about 1 degree C. The Paris Agreement had committed to the goal of holding the increase in global temperature to 2 degrees C or more ideally to 1.5 degrees C. The UN then commissioned the IPCC to determine what exactly that meant in the real world, studying everything from sea levels to wildlife habitat to poverty alleviation. What the IPCC found should be a major wake-up call to all of us. Some of the following points were excerpted from the Climate Reality Project's summary of the IPCC report.

We're already at 1 degree – how much hotter is up to us. All the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will keep trapping heat for years (actually centuries) regardless of what we do, but on their own, current greenhouse gases are unlikely to raise temperatures another half degree – how much global warming continues is basically in our hands.

There's a big difference between today and 1.5 degrees – and a huge difference 1.5 and 2 degrees. The report details a host of likely results of reaching 1.5 degrees of warming: storms growing even more powerful; oceans becoming more acidic and killing off major sections of coral; whole sections of landmasses transforming from one ecosystem to another. The list goes on and there's every reason to be very, very concerned. However, limiting the increase to 1.5 degrees, while bad, is probably a world we can live with. A 2-degree increase takes us into a truly scary place that, bottom line, we don't want to go there.

As the report outlines, if we want to hold the line to 1.5 degrees, we have to slash emissions by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030. Then we have to reach net-zero around 2050. If we don't reach the goal by 2030, all signs point to greater levels of greenhouse gases starting a domino effect of climate risks we can't accurately predict but are pretty sure no one wants to see.

To address the problem, the report makes

clear that we've got to move faster and go further than we ever have before. We've got to transform every aspect of how we use energy, from how we produce it (i.e. shifting completely to renewable and zero-carbon energy) to how we use it (i.e. rapidly electrify our transportation networks and greatly increase energy efficiency).

The good news is that the means to achieve the goal are already available and happening, such as transitioning to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. Removing carbon from the air (another necessary component) can be partially accomplished by better farming and forestry practices. Locally here in Freeport and Stephenson County we are seeing very positive things happening for solar, including Freeport being a SolSmart community and several solar projects likely forthcoming.

If you'd like to become more involved, NIAS is partnering with the Ready for 100 campaign (see Joseph's article in this issue). Please contact Candy Colby for further details. (candacecolby@aol.com)

ECO CHALLENGE FOR NIAS MEMBERS:

A big portion of greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to the meat and dairy industries. If you'd like to do more to combat climate change, go to the PCRM (Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine) website and register for the 21-day kickstart diet. You'll get recipes, meal plans and information on the benefits of a plant-based diet...and if you decide to make a permanent change, you'll be giving yourself and your family the priceless gift of good health!

Candy Colby
Conservation Chair



Photo by Illinois Sierra Club

COMMUNITY DIALOG ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

"A ray of Sunshine is a terrible thing to waste!"

Solar By Jos.

On September 27, 2018, The Sierra Club and NWIL Audubon Society hosted a public discussion at the Freeport Public Library on renewable energy.

The event was led by Caroline Wooten, Lead Organizer out of Sierra's Chicago office, Candace Colby, Audubon Conservation Chair, and Joseph Appell, Audubon and Sierra member.

This dialog is part of Sierra's RF100 (Ready For 100% Clean Energy) program, and is meant to raise the awareness and acceptance for a clean energy transfer, as required by the Future Energy Jobs Act. This Act requires Illinois to have 25% of their energy from clean sources by 2025, and is referred to as 25 by 25.

It was attended by 40 citizens, and we had breakout groups to discuss Jobs and Economic Opportunity, Increasing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and Transportation.

Thoughts and suggestions were recorded, and a meeting has been requested with the City Manager, Lowell Crow, to present these, and deliver signed petitions for RF100 support.

**"Conservation is a cause that has no end.
There is no point at which we say, 'Our work is finished.'"**

Rachel Carson

NIAS PRESIDENT'S TWEET - WINTER

If someone asks me to rank the seasons, I would always rank Autumn first (I love the temperature and the colors, plus my birthday and wedding anniversary occur around this time), but I always put winter last. In fact, I always consider moving to a different state every winter, but when I really take a moment to consider this season again, I realize that winter only ranks low because I hate being cold!

In terms of birding, some of my favorite memories occur in the winter. I love looking for Bald Eagles in the hundreds at Lock and Dam 13 and always wait until temperatures hit subzero when I go out. My mother asks each year, "are you really going out again?" and the answer is always yes. It is quite amazing to see that many eagles at one time and if you haven't had that experience yet, please make this the year.

I also try to find a Snowy Owl each year and each time is always magical. I feel crazy when I jump in my car after hearing there's been a sighting, driving around looking for this elusive white blob and getting angry every time I see a plastic bag in the field, but when that bag is really an owl, it is worth it. Plus, don't you just love those Horned Larks and Snow Buntings!? Please join one of our open land birding trips to try to spot these winter migrants.

I enjoy filling my bird feeders in the winter, awaiting Dark-eyed Juncos to visit along with the year-round visitors. No matter how cold I am, the guilt I feel when I see a bird arrive at my empty feeder is enough to make me put my boots on.

Winter may be rough on us, but it is really a beautiful season. Plus, it gets us closer to spring! I also look forward to experience my daughter's first real snow with her, with my extra layers on of course! Happy winter!

Juliet Moderow
201-233-0946
nwilaudubon@gmail.com

NIAS BIRDATHON RAISES FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION

This year's May Birdathon raised over \$3300 for conservation organizations, including our chapter, that work to protect birds and the habitat they rely on. The Belize Audubon Society, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, National Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Bird Protection Fund, and the Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge all received a percentage of 2018 Birdathon funds. Our chapter retained 30% of the funds raised to assist with our many programs and activities.

Many thanks go to the individuals who sponsored one or more birders. Their generosity provided much needed funds for bird protection projects in both wintering and nesting areas, as well as migration routes. None of this would have been possible without the time and efforts of our Birdathon birders: Jesse Akins, Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Jeremy and Mason Dixon, Laura Dufford, Anne Straight, Gary Gordon, Mark Keister, Dylan and Kent Lewis, Katelyn McWethy, Juliet and Willow Moderow and Teresa Smith. Thank you, birders!

As was reported in our June/July newsletter, "Harlan's Harem" won the team competition, vying with "Team Keith" (formerly "The Guys") for the coveted Cardinal-on-a-Stick trophy. Team members Anne Straight, Laura Dufford, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Mary Blackmore, Katelyn McWethy and Teresa Smith observed a team record high 138 species thanks to great weather, abundant birds and terrific luck.

We all look forward to the 2019 Birdathon!

BIRD SEED SALE THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who purchased birdseed from our annual October fundraiser. Our profit of over \$3300 will be used to fund our many chapter programs, activities and publications.

The sale would not have been possible without our team of volunteers who helped with seed distribution and delivery, ear corn picking, flier creation and mailing, and sale planning/coordinating: Tim Smith, Mary Blackmore, Chris Kruger, Lynn and Sandy Feaver, Dave Derwent, Laura and Doug Dufford, Gary Gordon, Rex Sides, Richard Benning, Merry Blake, John Jankowski, Paul Brown, Dave DeSwarte, Fred Redmore, Dan Barron, Pam and Jim Richards, Beau

CHICKADEE FUN FACTS



The Black-capped Chickadee is a year-round resident in our area and an ever-present feeder bird. *Did you know that chickadees. . .*

- *mate for life, with the average lifespan being 2.5 years, and the longest lifespan recorded at 12.5 years.*
- *have a winter diet of 50% animal (mostly insects and spiders) and 50% plants (seeds and berries).*
- *cache food mostly in autumn – primarily seeds, but also insects.*
- *typically carry off seeds one at a time, with one individual recorded collecting 70 seeds in a single day. Chickadees usually cache items within 100 ft. of the food source.*
- *have a big . . . wait for it . . . hippocampus! (bet you didn't see that one coming) More northerly birds have a larger hippocampus (the brain region associated with memory) than those in the southern portions of their range, and they have an ability to increase the hippocampus size in the fall. This memory enhancement allows chickadees to not only remember their cache sites, but also which sites hold the highest quality seeds, and to visit those sites first.*
- *are able to go into regulated hypothermia at night, thereby conserving large amounts of energy, helping them to survive severe cold.*
- *often spend the night in tiny tree holes, sites that are better insulated.*
- *prefer sunflower seeds, safflower seeds, hulled peanuts and suet at feeders in winter.*

Adapted from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feederwatch 2017-18 "Winter Bird Highlights" by Mary Blackmore.

Bunders, Stacia Burke, Jacob Stubbe and Peyton Engel. Thank you so much!

Thanks also go to the folks at O'Mara Transport Company, especially Mike and Sean, for hosting our main pickup site in Freeport and to those who hosted our regional pickup sites: John and Kay Day, Alice Akins, Chris Kruger and Jeremy Dixon. Thank you also to Joe and Brenda Akins for donating our ear corn.

JIM'S BRIDGE

As the 20th anniversary of our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve approaches, I've been thinking about Jim Akins. Jim was the person who noticed the "For Sale" sign on the property, who knew the land's owners, Harlan and Lola Mae Diehl, and who facilitated the purchase. While we wouldn't be owners and caretakers of this wonderful place without those actions by Jim, I've been contemplating another of Jim's many accomplishments at the preserve – the tributary bridge.

The tributary flows from the north, bisecting the preserve, and enters Elkhorn Creek a short distance later. We needed a way to connect the trails on the east side with those on the west. Jim knew that being lower on the tributary's watershed meant times of very high water, especially with the shallow channel at the bridge site. He was certainly right about that as the tributary has overflowed its banks multiple times over the years. He also knew that floating vegetation and other items likely would be part of high- water

events. He was right about that too, and his metal bridge design with minimal surface area has never been clogged with debris. Twenty years later the bridge that Jim built is still there, still functioning as he intended.

Thinking about Jim and his bridge has led me to reflect upon our volunteer presence at



Jim's Bridge (photo by Pam Richards)

our preserve. Through the years volunteers have persevered, just like Jim's bridge. Instead of high water, we've had years of high densities of Sweet Clover, Multi-flora Rose or Wild Parsnip, or years with high populations of mosquitoes or black flies. Through

it all volunteers have made incredible differences, suppressing the invasive species and creating conditions for native species to thrive. To date 498 species of plants and animals have been documented at our preserve. Instead of a bridge from east to west, like Jim's bridge, our volunteer bridge is a span from the present to the future for the plants and animals that find sanctuary at our preserve.

In 2018 over 40 people volunteered at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. For many reasons people love and care about this special place, just like Jim did. I'm confident that our volunteer bridge will stand for decades to come, just like Jim's bridge.

– Mary Blackmore

Note: Information on preserve history, additional volunteer reflections and details of celebratory events and field trips will appear in 2019 newsletters as we mark the 20th anniversary of our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve.



Tree swallow on bluebird box (photo by Juliet Moderow)

ELKHORN CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE BLUEBIRD REPORT 2018

According to Bluebirds Across Nebraska (BAN) (Vol. 25, No. 3 August 2018) the four basic recommendations for a successful bluebird trail are: Location, monitoring, mounting, and type of bluebird box. Unfortunately for the second year in a row there were no successful fledglings of Eastern Bluebirds or Tree Swallows at Elkhorn. Of the nine nesting boxes, one had a Bluebird nest with five eggs which had disappeared within the second week. The black flies were abundant again this year and possibly a deterrent to successful fledglings. A Tree Swallow built a nest in one cavity but no eggs were present. Three boxes never had any nestings of any type and may be relocated for next year. Non-native Eurasian Tree Sparrows and the protected House Wrens attempted

nestings in the remaining boxes. Several wasp nests were removed from some cavities. We will re-check the boxes for cracks or loose parts and proper closings while we clean them up this fall. BAN states 'don't give up' because it may take years to get bluebirds to come!

– Pam Richards

PHOTO JOURNAL

FALL 2018



Laura Dufford, Kara Gallup, Paul Brown and Mary Blackmore go after non-native Multiflora rose at Elkhorn Biodiversity Preserve October 30, 2018

(All photos by Pam Richards)



(far left) Jim Richards and Judy Corrie tackle a giant Multiflora rose.



(left) Black Swallowtail on blooming New England Aster.

(lower left) Paul Brown and Laura Dufford tackle another big Multiflora rose.

(lower second from left) Kara Gallup is 'going in'.

(lower third from left) Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford and Paul Brown removing a large Multiflora rose..

(lower right) Anne says she caught a big one (rose bush that is).



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.

_____ National Membership \$20

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 _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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 | Juliet Moderow

Vice President | Fred Redmore

Secretary | Lynn Feaver

Treasurer | Mary Blackmore

Past President | Rex Sides

At-large | Linda Black, Mark Keister,
Henry Simpson, Pam Richard,
Jim Richards and Shey Lowman

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation | Candy Colby

Programs | Teresa Smith

Education | Richard Benning

Publicity | Deb Lischwe

Membership | Gay Broocks

Field Trips | Laura Dufford

Sustainable Agriculture

Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore,
Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp

Newsletter Editor | Dan Barron

2115 15th Pl. So. - La Crosse WI 54601

815-541-3261 - dan@beewise.us

nwilaudubon@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



Nancy and Randy Ocken for hosting this year's preserves volunteer potluck and meeting.

John and Anita Nienhuis for hosting our prairie seed processing sessions.

Judy Corrie, Mary Blackmore and Pam Richards for providing treats at seed collecting outings.

Lynn Feaver for mowing firebreaks at our preserves.

Recent field trip leaders/coordinators: Laura Dufford, Mary Blackmore, Steve Simpson, Anne Straight and Richard Benning.

Fall prairie seed collectors at both Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves: Mary Blackmore, Anne Straight, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Pam and Jim

Richards, Nancy Ocken, John and Anita Nienhuis, Fred and Carol Redmore, Bernard and Deb Lischwe, Paul Brown, Tim and Teresa Smith, John and Allison Gush, Merry Blake, Molly Doolittle, Kara Gallup and the families and members of the American Heritage Girls Troop 2145 from Freeport.

Fall stewardship session volunteers for October: Pam and Jim Richards, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Kara Gallup, Ann Strait, Paul Brown, Laura Dufford and Mary Blackmore.

Fran and Jeff Shriver, Karen and Ernie Brose, Darrell Windle and Anne Straight for their recent donations.

Volunteers who donated treats for our 2018 campfires: Mary Blackmore, Dan Barron, Sarah Arnold, Anne Straight, Alice Akins and Bob Remer.

Debbie and Jack Barron of Freeport Press, for donating color printing of this newsletter.

To all of the contributors, photographers, organizers and proofreaders who provide information and content for our newsletter.

**Northwest Illinois
Audubon Society**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
FREEPORT, IL
PERMIT NO. 97

This newsletter was printed on Exact Eco 100 paper. It is made with 100% recycled post-consumer use fiber and is processed chlorine-free.



ADDRESSES/EMAILS OF YOUR LEGISLATORS

Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 • State House Switchboard (217) 782-2000

When using the state switchboard simply ask to be connected to the legislators office.

When using the capitol switchboard follow the series of prompts.

FEDERAL

Senator Richard Durbin

Kluczynski Building 38th Floor
230 S. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60604
www.durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Senator Tammy Duckworth

230 S Dearborn Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-3506
www.duckworth.senate.gov

16th District Rep. Adam Kinzinger

628 Columbus Street, Suite 507, Ottawa, IL 61350
<https://kinzingerforms.house.gov/email-adam/>

17th District Rep. Cheri Bustos

2401 4th Ave. Rock Island IL 61201
<http://bustos.house.gov/contact>

STATE

45th District Sen. Tim Bivins

50 W. Douglas Street, Suite 1001, Freeport, IL 61032
senatorbivins@grics.net

36th District Sen. Neil Anderson

1825 Ave of the Cities - Suite 1, Moline, IL 61265
senatorneilanderson.com/Contact

89th District Rep. Brian Stewart

50 W. Douglas Street, Suite 1001, Freeport, IL 61032
repstewart@gmail.com

90th District Rep. Tom Demmer

1221 Currency Street, Suite B, Rochelle, IL 61068
rep@tomdemmer.com