



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

June - July 2015



www.nwilaudubon.org

NIAS MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

Most meetings begin at 7PM 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
- 3. Field Trips
- 4. Field Trip Photos
- 4. Volunteer Opportunities
- 4. Local Foods Brochure
- 5. Auction Recap
- 5. Toward a Cooler Planet
- 5. Birdathon Recap
- 6. Thinking About Going Solar
- 7. Summer Stewardship

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) “Bobolinks are small songbirds with large, somewhat flat heads, short necks, and short tails. They are related to blackbirds and orioles, and they have a similar shaped, sharply pointed bill. Bobolinks are birds of tall grasslands, uncut pastures, overgrown fields and meadows, and the continent’s remaining prairies. While molting and on migration, look for them in marshes and in agricultural fields, particularly rice fields.”



ELKHORN CREEK BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL Saturday, July 25 , 1-5 p.m.

Join us for a fun, informative family friendly afternoon as we explore the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many butterflies that are found there. From 1-5 p.m. participants may join guided butterfly tours or look on their own for those winged beauties. Tours will begin at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. “Illinois Butterflies and Moths” pocket guides will be distributed at no charge while supplies last. We’ll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, cold beverages and snacks. If the weather is questionable, call Blackmores at 815-938-3204 before 10 a.m. on July 25. Explorers at previous Butterfly Festivals have found 29 species of butterflies and skippers, among them Tiger Swallowtail, Meadow Fritillary, Buckeye, Comma, Peck’s Skipper, Silver Spotted Skipper and Milbert’s Tortoiseshell.

The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd. We hope to see you there!



CRANES REPORTED AT ALL SITES

The record set at this year’s April 18th Crane Count in Stephenson county was that Sandhill Cranes were documented at all count sites! Twelve sites were monitored by 27 volunteers who recorded 65 cranes, including 18 pairs. Again the areas with the highest crane density were the wetlands along Richland Creek. Conditions for this year’s count were ideal: mild temperatures, calm winds and no precipitation. Our count is part of the multi-state Annual Midwest Crane Count sponsored by the International Crane Foundation. Without the help of our many volunteer counters, the Crane Count would not be possible.

Deep thanks go to Mark Keister, Phil Swalve, Glenn Hagemann, Chris Fye, Richard Benning, Jesse Akins, Judy Corrie, Bonnie Bade, Tim and Teresa Smith, Carol Brown, Dan and Diana Nye, Rex Sides, Gary Gordon, Anne Straight, Juliet D’Souza, Keith Blackmore, Bill Long, Bernard Lischwe, Karla Toelke, Sherrie Shoemaker, Colleen Wilson, Dave and Virginia DeSwarte, Rebecca Shriver-Rice and Mary Blackmore. Additional thanks go to Lynn Feaver for entering our results online and to Mary Blackmore for coordinating our count.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Melissa Wagner – Lena | Verna Neal – Ridott | Ron Roels – Savanna | Terry Tinkle – Elizabeth
Nancy Gassman – Forreston | Tom Pfeil – Freeport | Carol Snyder - Freeport

Top: Boblink
Text: allaboutbirds.org/
Photo: Andrea Westmoreland

CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

June 1 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 4 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 8 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 10 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 16 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 17 - Nygren Wetland Preserve Field Trip, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Details on page 3*

June 20 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 22 - Firefly Campfire at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:30 p.m. We'll take a stroll to observe nesting birds and blooming plants. Campfire at 8:30. S'mores and water provided. Bring a lawn chair and a flashlight. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 7 p.m. The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off of West Grove Road. We hope to see you there! *Rain date June 27.*

June 24 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 26 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 27 - Audubon Council of Illinois (ACI) meeting in Moline, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For agenda and carpool information contact Rex Sides at 408-390-3970.

June 28 - Bison and Babies Field Trip to Nachusa Grasslands in Franklin Grove, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. *Details on page 3*

June 29 - Prairie Work Session, Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

June 30 - "Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at the home of John and Anita Nienhuis, 3350 S. Mill Grove Rd., Pearl City, 815-443-2401. The first hour topic is one of natural history: "Stowaways on the Hummingbird Express." Contact Keith Blackmore at 815-938-3204 for a copy of the topic article. The second hour will be the customary discussion of whatever issues are brought forth. *Everyone is welcome. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 6:30 p.m. or call John and Anita for directions.*

July 2 - Prairie Work Session, Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 6 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 8 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 9 - Stephenson County Prairie Hop, 8-11:30 a.m. *Details on page 3*

July 11 - The NIAS Board Retreat

July 13 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 14 - NIAS Board Meeting

July 17 - Screech Owl Campfire at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. This is a great opportunity to hear the unique call of this small owl. Stroll at 7 p.m.; campfire at 8 p.m. Carpool at 6:30 p.m. *Other details same as June 22. Rain date July 18.*

July 21 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 22 - "Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Carol and Fred Redmore, 1643 Hilltop Place, Freeport, 815-721-3375. For a copy of the first hour topic article contact Carol. The second hour will be the customary discussion of whatever issues are brought forth. Everyone is welcome. Call Carol and Fred if directions are needed.

July 25 - Annual Butterfly Festival at Elkhorn Creek, 1-5 p.m. Join us for this great family activity! *Details on the cover page.*

July 28 - Prairie Work Session, Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. *Details on page 7*

July 30 - Prairie Work Session, Elkhorn Creek, 6-8 a.m. *Details on page 7*

THANK YOU TO:

- Randy Ocken for sharpening our parsnip predators
- Keith Blackmore for sharpening our supply of loppers
- Work Session volunteers through May 11: Randy and Nancy Ocken, John and Anita Nienhuis, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Fred and Carol Redmore, Lynn Feaver, and Mary Blackmore
- Recent field trip leaders: Keith and Mary Blackmore, Richard Benning and Anne Straight.



Field Trips

JUNE / JULY



Nygren Wetland Preserve Field Trip

*Wed. June 17th 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Leader: Chris Kruger (815-238-9259)*

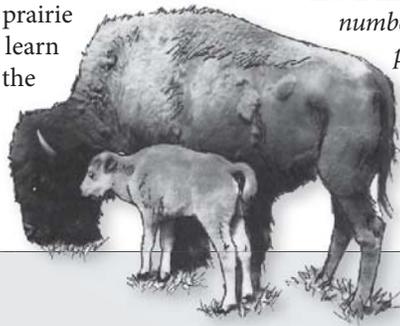
Tour the 721 acre preserve, near Rockton, IL and owned by the Natural Land Institute. We will take a wagon ride through prairie, woodland, and wetlands guided by NLI staff. Enjoy the wildflowers and view the many migrating waterfowl, songbirds, and other wildlife of the preserve. This will be a leisurely tour with stops along the way, suitable for all ages. More information about the preserve available at naturalland.org. There is a \$3 charge per person. We need a minimum of 10 people for the tour and a maximum of 25. Contact Chris at 815-238-9259 by June 7th if you plan to attend (We can probably accommodate people up until 6/17, but since we need a minimum of 10, the sooner you can confirm the better).

We will have lunch at the café in Bushel & Peck's Local Market in nearby downtown Beloit, WI after the tour. The market and café feature local and regionally produced foods and products. You can see their menu and get more information at bushelandpecks.com Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 8:30 a.m. Expected return time by 2pm.

Bison and Babies Field Trip to Nachusa Grasslands in Franklin Grove

*Sunday, June 28th 9:30 to Noon
Leader: Teresa Smith (815-238-3963)*

Nachusa Grasslands is a 3100 acre grassland owned by the Nature Conservancy. Join us as we visit the rolling land that is home to 30 bison and at least 5 baby bison. The bison arrived at Nachusa last fall after several years of planning. See the prairie land that is being roamed by the bison and learn about the role of the bison in restoring the prairie. The fieldtrip will include a chance for short hikes in the grasslands to see



numerous prairie plants including Pale Purple Cone Flower, Prairie Coreopsis, Wild Quinine, Lead Plant, Goats Rue and White Wild Indigo. We will drive the perimeter of the area that the bison roam and possibly go into the bison area with the Nachusa volunteers. Plan to bring your binoculars as the calves tend to be on the side of the mother bison that is away from people. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. We will eat a picnic lunch outside (or in the headquarters building if it is rainy).

Meet at the Nachusa Headquarter Building off Lowden Road at 9:30 a.m. If you want to carpool we will meet in the Staples east lot in Freeport at 8:30 am. Returning to Freeport about 1:00. Contact Teresa at 815-238-3963 if you are interested in the carpool or if you want more information.

Stephenson County Prairie Hop

*Thursday, July 9th, 8 to 11:30 a.m.
Leaders: Keith and Mary Blackmore (815-938-3204)*

We'll be visiting two magnificent prairies, both dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves. Wirth Prairie near Dakota is the best remaining dry dolomite prairie in the Freeport Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division. This "domed" prairie's presence is the result of a glacial feature called an "ice-shove". Northern Dropseed and Little Bluestem predominate, along with an exceptionally rich array of prairie wildflowers.

The Freeport Prairie, on Freeport's south edge, lies on a steep, north-facing bluff on the edge of an ancient channel of Yellow Creek and represents the last of the original upland prairie known as Shannon Prairie. We should see a very showy display of summer forbs including Pale Purple Coneflower, Lead Plant, Stiff Coreopsis and much more. If weather is questionable, call Blackmores at the above number. Carpool from the Staples lot in Freeport at 7:30 a.m. Expected return time by 11:30 p.m.

Illustrations on page 2 and 3 by Carol Litus

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

Leopold Shack & Leopold Center and International Crane Foundation - Saturday October 3
Watch for details in upcoming newsletters or contact Chris at 815-238-9259 for more info.

Field Trips

MAY 2ND MISSISSIPPI PALISADES STATE PARK FIELD TRIP

The Trilliums & Shooting Stars were spectacular!
Photos by: Chris Kruger



May 2nd Mississippi Palisades
State Park Field trip group



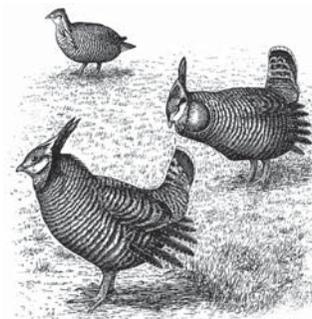
Erythronium americanum
(Yellow Trout Lily)



Trillium grandiflorum
(Large-flowered Trillium)



Dodecatheon amethystinum
(Amethyst Shooting Star)



Banquet and Auction Thank You

Annual banquet volunteers who did a multitude of tasks that made the banquet a success: Lynn and Sandy Feaver, Rex Sides, Juliet D'Souza, Tim and Teresa Smith, Mary and Keith Blackmore, Tom and Chris Hartung, Dick Benning, Chris Kruger, Laura Dufford, Dan Barron and Anita Nienhuis .

Thank you to all who bid on and donated items for the silent auction at our recent banquet. The auction was very successful and raised \$1564.00 for our chapter.

Auction items donated by: Terri Clark, Alice Akins, Anne Straight, Sandy Tune, Jack & Debbie Barron, Lois Stevens, Merlin's Greenhouse, John & Anita Neinhuis, Kriss Mulder, Tom & Chris Hartung, Shey Lowman, Carol Litus, Diane Phillips, Doug & Laura Dufford, Anne Swan-Johnson, Illinois Audubon, Gary Gordon, Grace Storch, Dave Derwent, Richard Benning, Nancy Ocken, Ed Derwent, Carolyn Mastroianni, Sharon Shaw, Merry Blake, Kerry Kurtz, Tim Keller, Keith & Mary Blackmore, Chris Kruger, Glenda Leitsen, Phil & Will Rezin, Corey Engel, The Cheese Market, Connie Zink, Steve McMillan, Timber Lake Playhouse, and Freeport YMCA.

Desserts for the banquet donated by: Susan Walt, Merry Blake, Gay Broocks, Richard Benning, Debbie Barron, Teresa Smith, Candace Colby, Sandy Feaver, Juliet D'Souza, Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford, Judy Corrie, Anne Straight, Dave Derwent, Molly Doolittle, Karen Clay, Alice Akins, Anita Nienhuis.

We apologize for any omissions.

NIAS
WANTS
YOU



Volunteer Opportunities

There are two positions on the NIAS Board still open and we would like to have YOU volunteer.

The Publicity Chair is charged with sending meeting and program announcements to local media — usually about once a month. The content of the announcements is provided by other Board members then the Publicity Chair emails the details in the form of a short 'press release' to the media outlets on our list. The process is fairly standardized and can generally be done at your own convenience, schedule wise. Internet connection and email capability are needed.

The Conservation Chair is an open-ended job whose work is determined by the Chair and guided by the Board. We're planning on having a full discussion of this effort at our July Board Retreat — so sign up now and get in on the ground floor! Help us make conservation an active part of our Chapter's work.

Volunteer by calling Lynn Feaver
at 815.235.9530

2015 Local Foods Brochure Available

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County has released the 2015 edition of the Local Foods Brochure. The brochure is updated each year and is a resource to connect local food buyers with local food growers. The brochure is available at no cost.

The 2015 brochure lists 42 growers in Northwest Illinois that offer local produce, maple syrup, cheese, honey, eggs, poultry and meat.

Buying food locally has many advantages; limiting the amount of fuel used to transport food across the country, an opportunity to get to know the farmer that produced the food that you consume, and keeping dollars locally to promote a healthy community.

If you are interested in a copy of the 2015 Local Foods Brochure you can pick one up at the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson/Winnebago/Jo Daviess County, University of Illinois Extension Ogle County, University of Illinois Extension Lee/Whiteside County, or the Farm Bureau of Stephenson County.

The brochure is also available at www.nwilaudbon.org and using the search box to find the local foods brochure or by calling 815-835-5109

TOWARD A COOLER PLANET

45th in a Series by Keith Blackmore

Americans in Peril

Get out your bird book and take a look at a wetland specialist - the American Avocet. Peterson refers to the “striking black and white pattern,” and the head and neck in breeding plumage are “pinkish tan.” I think of it as one of the larger shorebirds. It is listed as measuring 16-20 inches compared to the more familiar Killdeer which measures 9-11 inches.

This spectacularly beautiful shorebird is most at home along the borders of alkaline lakes and the shorelines of prairie potholes, although we occasionally see them pass through our area during migration. In its nesting environs it feeds by rushing forward as it sweeps its bill scythe-like through the water in about a 50 degree arc. All the while the Avocet is snapping up food items (65% animal and 35% plant) from the water. We were able to watch 5 of these magnificent birds plying their trade at the Gilbert, Arizona water reclamation area that we visited recently with Carol and Fred Redmore.

The climate connection to the Avocet requires one to reflect back to September,

2014. That was when National Audubon released its Birds and Climate Change report based upon the extensive records of both the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey. The report indicated that 314 North American species are heading toward the brink of extinction. The American Avocet is one of those species. Due to the effects of climate change, the Avocet is expected to lose more than 50% of its continental breeding range by 2050 -- a mere 35 years from now.

Thirty-five years is less than six senatorial terms. It is time to urge our Senators to use the scythe-like pattern of the American Avocet to cut away the impediments to passing meaningful legislation to address climate change.

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If you missed the informative, September 2014 edition of the national Audubon magazine — which focused on the effects of climate change on birds — we have some extra copies. Contact Lynn Feaver at 815.235.9530 if you'd like to read up on this.

BIRDATHON: “THE GUYS” WIN!

Birdathon
Your money goes where the birds go

In this year's May 3rd Birdathon friendly team competition, The Guys edged out Harlan's Harem, 106 to 104 species, to win the coveted Cardinal-on-a-Stick. Accepting the prestigious trophy at our May potluck on behalf of The Guys was honorary Guy Keith Blackmore.

This year's all day Guys, Jesse Akins and Gary Gordon, as well as the other Birdathoners, dodged showers and thunderstorms for much of the day, Generally ducks and raptors were scarce and many species of songbirds had just begun to enter northern Illinois during their migration.

Our chapter very much appreciates the efforts of all Birdathoners, many who birded from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., to make this fundraising effort a success. Thanks also to the many individuals who made pledges. Total funds raised will be reported in a future newsletter after all pledged amounts are collected.



Solar is catching on quickly, and for good reasons. The cost goes down every year, while the efficiency of the photo voltaic (PV) panels goes up. Meanwhile, the cost of energy increases monthly, as you can see from all the line items on your electric bill.

So, should you quickly call a contractor, or set up a meeting with a company that wants to “give” you a solar system on a long-term lease? My answer is “No.” Not until you thoroughly understand what your usage is, and have assured that it’s as low as possible.

Where do you start? First, get some information on how you currently stand. Go to <http://www.exeloncorp.com/Pages/home.aspx> and register your account with the information from your bill. You then can view your total usage, that of all your neighbors, and your most efficient neighbors. This comparison may give you motivation to improve!

Now comes a more detailed “accounting” – finding out where you’re using all that electricity. If you don’t have a Kill-A-Watt meter, you can borrow one of the many that Audubon has donated to local libraries or pick one up at an Audubon meeting. We have a few to loan. (I’d be glad to explain them to you.)

Analyze your power usage one room at a time, starting with your bedroom to get the hang of it. List all the electrically powered items in the room. Measure and record the wattage of all items. (Record keeping may be simpler if you use a spreadsheet to enter, and set up formulas in several columns. Take the watts times 24 times 365 to get the annual usage for that device.)

You may be surprised. For example a CD player that takes 4 watts when OFF will take 35,040 watts in a year. That is over 35kWh!

As you move into utility and appliance areas, it can get a little complicated. Vacuum cleaners, water coolers, space heaters and the washing machine can easily be measured. But a refrigerator will go through a defrost cycle, and taking a measurement for a couple of minutes will not catch this. It is best to leave the meter on a refrigerator or freezer for a full week or a solid month. Utilities like the furnace will be too hard to get to, but your owner’s manual should have the claimed usage. Electric water heaters and central air cannot be measured, as the maximum wattage on the Kill-A-Watt meter is 1,500.

Once you have as much data as you can get, do a grand total. Does it match your electric bill? Most likely not. There are surprising “vampires” that we don’t think about. I finally found one; the analog power meter on the outside of my house takes 3 watts; 26kWh per year, 2.19kWh per month...who would have thought?

My next article will be on efficiencies that you can achieve short and long term. Once you’ve got your usage (and costs) down, the article after that will address the various types of residential PV solar systems you might install, and how to determine which is best for you.

Editor’s note: Josef Appell, a new member of our Society, has volunteered to give us all a few tips about energy saving and reducing our carbon footprints. If you have questions or suggestions, you can contact Josef directly at revoxltd@hotmail.com

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

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3003 Forest Rd - Freeport IL 61032
815-235-9530

Vice President | Rex Sides

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Treasurer | Tim Smith

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Nancy Ocken, Kayse Rushford, Larry Sef-
froid and Steve Simpson

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Conservation | (open)

Programs | Richard Benning

Education | Juliet D'Souza

Publicity | (open)

Membership | Bernard Lischwe

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

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please join us for one or more of the following work sessions scheduled below for either the Elkhorn Creek or Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves or the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve. Depending upon the site or week, we will be doing a variety of tasks such as removing sweet clover, burdock and wild parsnip, cutting brush, girdling saplings or otherwise reducing the competition in our native prairie, woodland and wetland remnants.

Times: Times vary so check the schedule below. Following most sessions those interested will gather at a local restaurant for breakfast.

You Supply: Wear long pants, long sleeves, socks long enough to tuck your pant legs into (for tick avoidance), a hat and footwear that can get wet (earlier is dewier!). Take along insect repellent and sunscreen.

We Supply: Tools, gloves, water and directions about our work always will be provided.

Carpooling: The carpool site to Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek is the east portion of the Staples parking lot in Freeport along HWY 26 on the south edge of town. Departure times vary so check the schedule below.

Questions? If the weather is questionable or you need more information, contact the listed leader(s).

Site Directions: **Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve** is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd. **The Freeport Prairie** is just south of the intersection of Meadows Dr. and Walnut Rd. on the south side of Freeport. Parking is off of Walnut Rd. **Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve** is about 2 miles south of Leaf River in the southwest corner of the intersection of Leaf River Rd. and West Grove Rd. Parking is off of Leaf River Rd.

June 1 - Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leaders: Randy and Nancy Ocken, 815-938-3506.

June 4 - Elkhorn Creek, New Planting, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

June 8 - Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader Judy Corrie, 815-563-4932.

June 10 - Elkhorn Creek, Spiderwort Vista, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Anne Straight, 815-938-3263.

June 16 - Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Jeremy Dixon, 815-821-3921.

June 20 - Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Chris Kruger, 815-238-9259.

June 24 - Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Bernard Lischwe, 815-275-9200.

June 26 - Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:30. Leader: Alan Nowicki, 815-541-0789.

June 29 - Silver Creek, East Planting, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:15. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

July 2 - Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Keith Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

July 6 - Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leaders: John and Anita Nienhuis, 815-443-2401.

July 8 - Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 7-9 a.m. carpool 6:30. Leader: Lynn Feaver, 815-235-9530.

July 13 - Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leaders: Kara Gallup and Mary Blaclanore, 815-938-3204.

July 21 - Elkhorn Creek, Plantings, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

July 28 - Silver Creek, Plantings, 7-9 a.m., carpool 6:15. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

July 30 - Elkhorn Creek, Goats'n Roses, 6-8 a.m., carpool 5:30. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

**Northwest Illinois
Audubon Society**

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

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FEDERAL

Senator Richard Durbin

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

Senator Mark Kirk

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60604
www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment_on_legislation

16th District Rep. Adam Kinzinger

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

17th District Rep. Cheri Bustos

100 19th Street, Suite 101, 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. Mike Jacobs

1114 4th Avenue, Silvis, IL 61282
jacobs@senatedem.state.il.us

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