



JUNE – JULY 2023

# NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



**Song Sparrow** *Melospiza melodia*

*A chapter of the National Audubon Society*

*A rich, russet-and-gray bird with bold streaks down its white chest, the Song Sparrow is one of the most familiar North American sparrows. Don't let the bewildering variety of regional differences this bird shows across North America deter you: it's one of the first species you should suspect if you see a streaky sparrow in an open, shrubby, or wet area. If it perches on a low shrub, leans back, and sings a stuttering, clattering song, so much the better.*

[nwilaudubon.org](http://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.

**Please note: schedule and location of programs are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please see newsletter and website for up-to-date information.**

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](http://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
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NIAS Photo Journal
5. Crane Count  
Local Foods Brochure  
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6. 40th Annual Banquet
7. Thank You!

About Bird: [birds.cornell.edu](http://birds.cornell.edu)  
(top) Song Sparrow, Rick Cameron

## SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please join us for one or more of the following stewardship 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 to our native prairie, woodland and wetland remnants. Times vary so be sure to check the schedule.

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, sunscreen and water.

Tools, gloves, snacks and directions about our work always will be provided. If the weather is questionable or you need more information, contact the listed leader.

### 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. about ¼ mile south of the intersection (S. Main St. crossing HWY 72 in Leaf River becomes Leaf River Rd.)

**June 1** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower East Planting, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**June 3** – Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**June 5** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Juliet Moderow, (201) 233-0946

**June 7** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m.  
Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, (815) 440-5768

**June 9** – Elkhorn Creek, Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**June 12** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower West Planting and Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**June 15** – Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Kara Gallup, (815) 871-8041

**June 17** – Elkhorn Creek, Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Anne Straight, (815) 938-3263

**June 21** – Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Kara Gallup, (815) 871-8041

**June 23** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Juliet Moderow, (201) 233-0946

**June 26** – Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m.  
Leader: Jeremy Dixon, (815) 821-3921

**June 28** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, (815) 440-5768

**June 30** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Bernard Lischwe, (815) 275-9200

**July 6** – Elkhorn Creek, Goats 'N Roses, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**July 8** – Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Anita Nienhuis, (815) 443-2401

**July 10** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m.  
Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, (815) 338-4049

**July 12** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m.  
Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, (815) 338-4049

**July 14** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**July 18** – Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Teresa Smith, (815) 238-3963

**July 20** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**July 25** – Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting and Trail Preparation for Butterfly Festival, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

**July 27** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m.  
Leader: Bernard Lischwe, (815) 275-9200

# CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

**S** **June 1** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 3** – Freeport Prairie Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 5** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 7** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 9** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 12** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**F** **June 14** – Field Trip: Nygren Wetland Preserve Tour with Lunch at Bushel & Peck's Café, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**S** **June 15** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 17** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**E** **June 19** – New Moon Firefly Campfire at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:30 p.m. First we'll take a stroll to observe nesting birds and blooming plants. The campfire begins at 8:00 p.m., with s'mores provided. We hope to see an impressive display of fireflies. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight, insect repellent and, if desired, water.

*Note: Accessibility via ATV transportation to and from the campfire circle will be available courtesy of Bob and Kara Gallup. The Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds., with parking off of West Grove Rd. If weather is questionable call Mary at (815) 938-3204.*

**S** **June 21** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 23** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**F** **June 24** – Field Trip: Insect Biodiversity at Silver Creek, 10:30 a.m. - noon. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 26** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 28** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **June 30** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 6** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**F** **July 7** – Field Trip: Ogle County Prairie Tour, Douglas E. Wade Prairie & Beach Cemetery Prairie Preserves, 9 a.m.-noon

**S** **July 8** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 10** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 12** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 14** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**E** **July 16** – Screech Owl Campfire at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:30 p.m. After a stroll to observe birds and blooms, the campfire will start at 8:00, with s'mores provided. This is typically a good time of the summer to hear our resident Screech Owls. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight, insect repellent and, if desired, water.

*Note: Accessibility via ATV transportation to and from the campfire circle will be available, courtesy of Bob and Kara Gallup. Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds., with parking off of West Grove Rd. If weather is questionable call Mary at (815) 938-3204.*

**S** **July 18** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 20** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 25** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**F** **July 26** – Field Trip: Burr Oak Valley Preserve, 7 a.m. – noon (meet at the Harbor Freight parking lot)

*Coordinator: Laura Dufford 815-541-8958 (call to register)*

**S** **July 27** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. *See cover for details.*

**S** **July 29** – Elkhorn Creek Butterfly Festival, 1-5 p.m. *See page 3 for details.*

- M** Meeting
- F** Field Trip
- S** Stewardship
- P** Program
- E** Event
- O** Other



*Juliet and Willow Moderow looking at pelicans and eagles during the annual Birdathon. | Photo provided by Juliet Moderow*

## BEGINNING BIRDER CLUB INTEREST?

Education Chair Juliet Moderow is seeing if there is interest in a Beginning Birder Club for kids. If there is interest, she will reach out to those individuals and see if we can coordinate times/dates. The hope is that we can do very short beginner lessons about birds, parts of a bird, how to identify birds, and a goal of learning 20 or so common birds in the area.

*If interested, please call 201-233-0946 or email moderowja@gmail.com.*

# PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

## NYGREN WETLAND PRESERVE TOUR

**WITH LUNCH AT BUSHEL & PECK'S CAFÉ**

*Wednesday, June 14  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

Join us for a guided tour of the Nygren Wetland Preserve west of Rockton. This 721 acre tract is owned by the Natural Land Institute and consists of prairies, wetlands, and woodlands. The tour includes a wagon ride and we need at least 10 people to attend. Cost is \$5 per person. More on the preserve is available at [naturalland.org](http://naturalland.org). Carpool from Harbor Freight in Freeport at 8:30 am. Afterward we will have lunch at nearby Bushel & Peck's in Beloit, WI. This neighborhood market and café serves organic, locally sourced sandwiches. See the menu and more info at [bushelandpecks.com](http://bushelandpecks.com). Expected return time to Freeport by 1:30pm, Confirm your attendance with Chris Kruger at 815-238-9259 by June 7th.

## INSECT BIODIVERSITY AT SILVER CREEK

**NIAS SILVER CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE**

*Saturday, June 24, 10:30 a.m. - noon*

*Coordinator: Mary Blackmore  
815-938-3204*

Join us as we leisurely stroll the trails at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve, led by entomologist extraordinaire John Walt, in search of the many fascinating insects that can be found there. As John says, "We could see anything!" Butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, a host of "leaf-eaters" and more could be observed.

Bring water if desired. Snacks will be provided. If the weather is questionable, call Mary. The preserve is located 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. (S. Main St. crosses HWY 72 in Leaf River and becomes Leaf River Rd.)

## OGLE COUNTY PRAIRIE TOUR

**DOUGLAS E. WADE PRAIRIE & BEACH CEMETERY PRAIRIE PRESERVES**

*Friday, July 7 | 9 a.m. to Noon*

The Douglas E. Wade Prairie near Byron is an 11.2 dry virgin prairie. It is owned and managed by the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County. The Beach Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve, owned by the Natural Land Institute, is located near Stillman Valley. This 3.6 dry hill prairie is rich with native plants including coneflower, leadplant, prairie smoke, and little bluestem. Carpool from Harbor Freight in Freeport at 9 am. Expected return time noon. Contact Chris Kruger at 815-238-9259 to confirm your attendance.

## BURR OAK VALLEY PRESERVE

*Wednesday, July 26 | 7:00 a.m. - noon  
(meet at the Harbor Freight parking lot)*

*Coordinator: Laura Dufford  
815-541-8958 (call to register)*

Join the group as we tour Natural Land Institute's beautiful Burr Oak Valley Preserve. Mark Luthin, board member of NLI will lead our trip at this preserve located in Eastern Winnebago County. Burr Oak Valley is a 63 Ac. Preserve containing untouched woodlands and three dolomite prairies which allowed this property to be classified as an IL State Nature Preserve. There are an additional 35 acres next to the Nature Preserve which has the classification status of a Nature Preserve Buffer. We will hear of NLI's stewardship activities on this unique property as we walk through restored savanna and prairie ecosystems. We will also view the planted prairies in the buffer zone. Our group will be walking for two hours (+) on mowed, gently rolling trails. There will be some steeper hills in several areas. There are no restrooms at the Preserve, but we will stop at a gas station prior to our arrival to Burr Oak Valley.



Photo by Teresa Smith

## ELKHORN CREEK BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

**ELKHORN CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE**

*Saturday, July 29 | 1:00-5:00 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, snacks and information about pollinators.

**If the weather is questionable, call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 no later than 10 a.m. on July 29.**

To date 38 species of butterflies and skippers have been documented at the preserve among which are Buckeye, Great Fritillary, Coral Hairstreak, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Peck's Skipper, Red-spotted Purple and American Snout.

*The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd. This event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!*

### SAVE THE DATE!

Nachusa Grassland's Autumn on the Prairie – Saturday, September 16th



# IS THAT A FIELD SPARROW CALLING?

Volunteering on Audubon prairies and working to take out invasive species brings unique benefits: learning new skills, connecting with nature, making really good friends and meeting your exercise quota! Whether you are a naturalist or someone who just has a need to get out in nature, the prairie has a place for you. You begin to identify plants, birds, insects and find yourself asking "What bird was that?"

You will find yourself telling friends about your day on the prairie and taking pride in all you accomplished. Recently a volunteer carried out a 5 gal. bucket of invasive Garlic Mustard... just think what more people could accomplish!

Here is a small challenge: out of the following three plant names, which one is not like the other? Cup Plant... Side Oats... Multiflora Rose. Bring your answer to a work day and if correct, you might get an extra cookie at snack time! We hope to see you soon.

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***If interested, and I know you are,  
contact Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204.***

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– Kara Gallup



## **NIAS PHOTO JOURNAL**

**On April 2nd, NIAS stewardship volunteers completed another successful controlled burn at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve.**

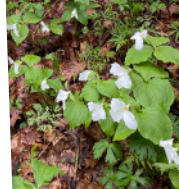
According to Pam Richards, "Though [the] wind was up, weather conditions were within safe prescribed burn parameters." The site was overseeded with native plants after the burn. Volunteers included Mary Blackmore, Jim and Pam Richards, Bernard Lischwe, Randy and Nancy Ocken, Richard Benning, Merry Blake, and Tim and Teresa Smith.

*Photos by Pam Richards*

## **NIAS PHOTO JOURNAL**

### **May 6th Spring Ephemeral Trip to Mississippi Palisades State Park**

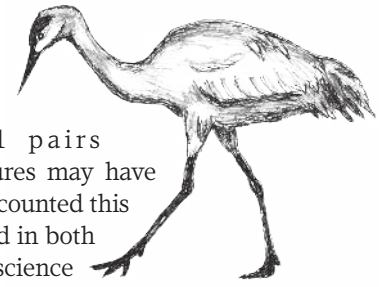
A group of NIAS members traveled to the Mississippi Palisades State Park and were greeted by an exceptional display of spring ephemeral wildflowers. Species included the state-listed Red Trillium (right), Large-flowered Trillium, Shooting Star, Virginia Bluebells, Large-flowered Bellwort, and many more. | *Photos by Chris Kruger, "group selfie" by Kara Gallup*



### **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

Contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963  
or [timtreetsmith@gmail.com](mailto:timtreetsmith@gmail.com)

# 2023 CRANE COUNT SUMMARY



The 2023 Crane Count was held on Saturday, April 15th with an unseasonable warm temperature at 5:30 AM of 55 degrees compared to 2022 when it was just 28 degrees for the event. The crane counters enjoyed the morning sunrise listening to the sounds of owls, numerous song birds, geese, ducks, and Sandhill Cranes.

This year, we had counters at 14 sites throughout Stephenson County. This year we welcomed two new counters: Gail Diehl and Aron Metz.

We also had 28 counters that are veteran counters: Juliet Moderow, Anne Straight, Laura Youngblut, Phil Swalve, Mary Blackmore, Rebecca Shriver, Jesse and Jody Akins, Abby, Bethany, Issac and Isiah Akins, Jen Richards, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Teresa Smith, Carol Beatty, Jeff and Fran Shriver, Paul Hasenour, Richard Benning, Bernard Lischwe, Gary Gordon, Chris Fye, Glenn Hagemann, Jeremy Dixon, Colleen Wilson and Sherrie Shoemaker.

This year, the counters spotted a total of 82 cranes including 21 pairs of cranes. The warm temperatures may have increased the number of cranes counted this year with only 62 cranes counted in both 2022 and 2021. This citizen science project sponsored by the International Crane Foundation started in Wisconsin in 1976 and expanded over the years to become the Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count. Illinois has been part of this event since 1994.

**Thank you to all the volunteers in Stephenson County for helping with the 2023 Annual Midwest Crane Count.**

**Thank you to Teresa Smith for coordinating the count for Stephenson County.**

*Illustrations by Carol Litus*

## 2023 LOCAL FOODS BROCHURE AVAILABLE

Each year the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County produces a Local Foods Brochure. It is a resource to connect local food buyers with local food growers. The brochure gives you the information you need to contact local growers and get to know the local growers.

The 2023 brochure lists 40 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 free copy of the 2023 Local Foods Brochure you can pick one up at the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson/ Winnebago/Jo Daviess County or at the Stephenson County Visitors Center in Freeport.

**The brochure is also available at [nwilaudbon.org](http://nwilaudbon.org) or by calling 815-238-3963**



## THE FREEPORT COMMUNITY COMPOSTING PROGRAM IS ACCEPTING OPENINGS FOR THE NEW SEASON

**(OPEN TO 50 HOUSEHOLDS)**

You'll receive a bucket with lid and drop off your compost at the Freeport Student Garden behind the Freeport Junior High School. Keeping food waste out of the landfill is an important way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. If interested or have questions, contact Ben Skipor, Freeport Student Garden Coordinator at: 815-801-0707 or [ben.skipor@fsd145.org](mailto:ben.skipor@fsd145.org)

*This program is organized by the Freeport Student Garden with support from the Environmental Study Group, NIAS, and the University of Illinois Extension Office.*

**Welcome New Members!**

**Donna Veer - Freeport  
M Hocraffer - Freeport  
Diane Conroy - Freeport  
Marya Smith - Elizabeth**

**Guinn Wilkinson - Mount Carroll  
Terry Tonon - Mount Carroll  
Nadia Wirchnianski - Lanark**



# 40TH ANNUAL BANQUET

Banquet photos by  
Debbie Barron

## SILENT AUCTION THANK YOU

Thank you to all that bid at this year's silent auction. A total of \$950 was raised, which helps fund a variety of conservation projects.

Also, our thanks to those who donated auction items: Nadia Wirchnianski, Grace Storch, Debbie Barron, Richard Benning, Jim & Pam Richards, Dick & Joan Harmet, Jeff & Fran Shriver, Dan & Sarah Barron, Kerry Kurtz, Carol & Paul Soderholm, Michael & Margaret Sheppard, Shey Lowman, Mary Blackmore, AJ Evons, Juliet Moderow, Chris Kruger, Jim Duis, Linnea Koch, Rock Valley Garden Center, Shirlee Munda, Teresa & Tim Smith, Carol & Fred Redmore, Carol Beatty, Jim Bade, Sharon Shaw Estate, Dave Derwent Estate, Laura Dufford, Betty Mickel, Kriss Mulder, Linda Black, Estate of Bonnie Bade, and David Olson.

– Chris Kruger

## BANQUET VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU

Mary Blackmore, Judy Corrie, Anita Nienhuis, and Teresa Smith for freezing corn.

Kara Gallup for coordinating the desserts.

Tim Smith for tabulating the registration forms and organizing name tags, Deborah and Bernard Lischwe and Laura Dufford for setting the tables.

Richard Benning for acting as the MC for the event.

Chris Kruger, Mary Blackmore, Jim and Pam Richards for all their efforts with the silent auction.

Teresa Smith for coordinating the event and Don Miller, Jeff Shriver, Laura Dufford and Elizabeth Boettner for being on the banquet committee .

– Teresa Smith



## DESSERT DONATIONS THANK YOU

One of the highlights of the Audubon yearly Banquet is the dessert table... folks get their running shoes on to make it first to the dessert table! So here is a big "Bravo" to all the folks who donated wonderful pies, cakes, cookies and treats for the Banquet dessert table. Great bakers all!!!

– Kara Gallup

Fran Shriver  
Mary Blackmore  
Deb Barron  
Sandy Feaver  
Deborah Lischwe  
Judy Corrie  
Teresa Smith  
Paul Brown  
Jeremy and Leah Dixon  
Pam Richards  
Laura Dufford



**On May 1, NIAS members Candy Colby, Elizabeth Boettner, Molly Doolittle, and Jeff Shriver, were present for the reading of the annual proclamation for celebrating World Migratory Bird Day during the Freeport City Council meeting. | Photo by Kevin Lamm.**

**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** | Richard Benning  
**Vice-President** | Laura Dufford  
**Secretary** | Mary Blackmore  
**Treasurer** | Tim Smith

**Board members At-Large:**  
Elizabeth Boettner, Jeremy Dixon,  
Carol Redmore, Fred Redmore,  
Carol Beatty, Steve Simpson

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Membership** | Jeff Shriver  
**Conservation** | Teresa Smith  
**Programs** | Don Miller  
**Education** | Adam Moderow  
**Publicity** | Leah Dixon  
**Field Trips** | Chris Kruger

**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (ad hoc)**  
Gary Gordon and Juliet Moderow

**Newsletter Layout** | Dan Barron  
56781 W. Fawn Drive | Steuben, WI 54657  
815-541-3261 | dan@driфтlessflora.com

***nwilaudubon@gmail.com***

rev 5/23

# THANK YOU!

Prescribed burn volunteers from our April 2 burn at Elkhorn Creek: Pam and Jim Richards, Tim and Teresa Smith, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Bernard Lischwe, Mary Blackmore, Merry Blake and Richard Benning. Special thanks to Jim for bossing the burn. Thanks also to Pam, Jim, Nancy, Randy, Bernard, Mary and Richard for overseeding the burned area.

Preserves spring stewardship volunteers through early May: Pam and Jim Richards, Kara Gallup, Mary Blackmore, Paul Brown, Nancy Ocken, Bernard Lischwe and John Gvozdjak.

Field trip, event and birdwalk leaders: Mary Blackmore, Somer Elgin, Laura Dufford, Anne Straight, Juliet Moderow, Gary Gordon, Richard Benning and Adam Moderow. Though some of these events were canceled due to weather, we very much appreciate the willingness of our volunteers to lead outings.

Jeremy Dixon for re-posting our signage at Elkhorn Creek following some vandalism.

Teresa Smith for coordinating our 2023 Stephenson County Crane Count.

Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore and Laura Dufford for leading our April birding trip to southeast Arizona.

Jennifer and Joe Kanosky, Jeff and Fran Shriver, Mike Kennedy, Paul Brown, Loreta Huenefeld, Bob Remer, John and Kay Day, Chuck and Patty Wemstrom, Jennifer and Allen Nowicki, Richard Benning, Jeremy Dixon, Candy Colby, Dan and Sarah Barron, and Suzanne Falconer for their recent monetary donation.

Many thanks to all who satisfied our sweet teeth after the monthly meetings! Your donations in 2022 and 2023 are much appreciated.

- October 2022 - Mary Blackmore & Kara Gallup
- November 2022 - Allison Gush & Laura Dufford
- December 2022 - Teresa Smith & Sandy Feaver
- January 2023 - Molly Dolittle & Juliet Moderow
- February 2023 - Fran Shriver & Pam Richards
- March 2023 - Gay Brooks & Deb Barron
- May 2023 - Kara Gallup & Judy Corrie
- (No April meeting due to the banquet)



**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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*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**

230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892,  
Chicago, IL 60604  
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