



FEBRUARY – MARCH 2024

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The only circumpolar diving duck, the Greater Scaup breeds across the tundra regions in North America and Europe. They congregate by the hundreds and thousands along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts during winter. Here, black-and-white males and chocolatey-brown females bob along on the waves. They look remarkably similar to the Lesser Scaup, with only slight differences in head shape: the Greater Scaup has a rounded head, the Lesser Scaup a peaked head. These underwater divers eat aquatic invertebrates and plants at the bottom of lakes and bays.

nwilaudubon.org

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society celebrates the diversity in nature and among the people and communities with whom we work. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and judgement-free atmosphere where people of all experience levels, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate.

NIAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Most programs are held the first Tuesday of the month (Sept.-May) at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd., Freeport and begin at 7 p.m., followed by refreshments. All programs and events are open to the public.

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

PLEASE JOIN US!

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.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

2. Calendar Considerations
3. Save The Date!
4. ECBP 25 Years
Woodcock Watches
5. Preserve Species
Conservation Committee
President's Message
6. Chirstmas Bird Count
Birdathon
7. Thank You!

About Bird: birds.cornell.edu
(top) teddy llovett | Program photos provided by the presenters



THE INCREASING IMPACT OF PLASTIC ON BIRDS AND ALL SPECIES

Presented by Dana Ripper

Zoom (from home) or in-person at St. John United Church of Christ

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6
PROGRAM 7:00 PM**

HYBRID PROGRAM: All members of Northwest Illinois Audubon Society (that we have emails for), will receive the zoom link the week before the program. If you are not a member, we want you to join us for this great program, but you need to email nwilaudubon@gmail.com to receive your Zoom link.

Ecologists, ornithologists, and bird lovers around the world are sounding the alarm on the plastic crisis. Plastic, much of it single use, is being manufactured by the millions of tons and we've reached a point where birds and other wildlife are living in our waste. Moreover, recent research clearly shows the components of plastic – from extraction to eventual degradation – are toxic to wildlife and people.

Join us for an in-depth discussion of our planet's plastic crisis. We'll talk about the various points in plastic production and waste management where change can be made and how you can become involved in that change.

Dana Ripper, Executive Director and Co-founder, Missouri River Bird Observatory is a wildlife ecologist who focuses on conservation via ecosystem health. She has an MS in ecology from Arkansas State University (2002) and worked on wildlife research projects across the U.S. before making Missouri home in 2008. In 2010, Dana co-founded the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), a nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation via science, education, and advocacy. MRBO is an affiliate member of Beyond Plastics and Dana is a certified presenter with the Beyond Plastics Speakers Bureau.

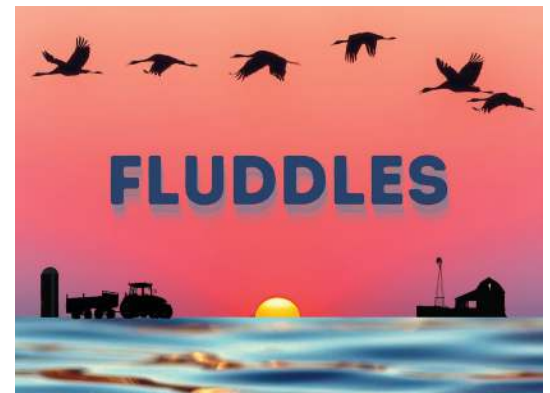
FLUDDLES

Presented by Bob Dolgan

St. John United Church of Christ, Freeport, IL

**TUESDAY, MARCH 5
PROGRAM 7:00 PM**

Join us for a showing of the 2023 documentary film FLUDDLES with producer Bob Dolgan available for discussion after the film. FLUDDLES chronicles the wildlife of agricultural wetlands of Illinois. Sometimes simply described as "big puddles," fluddles appear in the spring and fall and provide habitat and forage for a diversity of waterfowl and shorebird species. FLUDDLES takes viewers on a journey to these secret, oft-fleeting wildernesses in a time when Illinois has lost 90% of its original wetlands. FLUDDLES



features those who enjoy the beauty of wetlands while showcasing the movement under way to construct more wetlands, which provide critical habitat, reduce flooding and erosion, and help to ensure healthier waterways.

CALENDAR

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

P February 6 – February Program: The Increasing Impact of Plastic on Birds and All Species, 7:00 p.m. (see cover for details)

F February 20 – Nicholas Conservatory Field Trip, 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Carpool 9:15 am) (see more information adjacent ►)

F March 2 – Skunk Cabbage Walk at Franklin Creek, 1:00-4:30 p.m. (see more information adjacent ►)

P March 5 – March Program: FLUDDLES film showing and discussion, 7:00 p.m. (see cover for details)

E March 7 – Woodcock Watch, 6:00 p.m. (see page 4 for details)

E March 16 – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 p.m. (see page 4 for details)

E March 20 – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 p.m. (see page 4 for details)



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

NICHOLAS CONSERVATORY FIELD TRIP

1354 N 2nd Street, Rockford, IL

Tuesday, February 20

10:00-11:30 a.m. (Carpool 9:15 a.m.)

Coordinator: Chris Kruger 815-238-9259

Take a break from winter! Join us for a tour of Illinois' third largest conservatory. Located on the Rock River in Rockford, the facility offers tropical plants, water features, sculptures, and seating areas. The annual orchid exhibit includes hundreds of tropical orchids creatively arranged throughout the conservatory. Find more information at nicholasconservatory.com

Admission on Tropical Tuesdays is \$5. Please bring cash so we can pay as a group. Carpool from Harbor Freight in Freeport at 9:15 am or meet us at the conservatory at 10 am. Expected return time to Freeport is 12:15 pm,

Call Chris Kruger at 815-238-9259 to sign up by February 11th. We will need 10-12 people for a guided tour. We can add more if you need to sign up after the 11th.

SKUNK CABBAGE WALK AT FRANKLIN CREEK

Saturday, March 2

1:00-4:30 p.m. (Carpool 1:00 p.m.)

Carpool from the Forreston Municipal lot (on the south side of the village library)

Coordinator: Mary Blackmore
815-938-3204

Join us as we leisurely stroll the hard-surfaced paths at the Franklin Creek State Natural Area in northern Lee County looking for that wetland harbinger of spring, Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). Restrooms are available just off the parking area.

If there is any snow cover, sometimes heat from the growing Skunk Cabbage melts a circle of snow around the emerging plant. On past trips we have been able to see the beginning of flowering on the spadix inside the distinctively mottled brown and yellow-green spathe. This is a fascinating plant!

Predicting plant emergence is an educated guess; be sure to sign up for this trip so that Mary can contact you if cancellation is necessary. Carpool from the Forreston Municipal lot (on the south side of the village library) at 1 p.m.

November 15th Controlled Burn at Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve

photos by Pam Richards



SAVE THE DATE!

SPRING MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERFOWL FIELD TRIP

Saturday, April 6

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Coordinator: Anne Straight

Details in the April-May newsletter

SAVE THE DATE!



SPRING BANQUET, APRIL 16TH WITH CINDY CROSBY

Save the date as you will not want to miss our program entitled Illinois' Wild and Wonderful Early Bloomers presented by Cindy Crosby. Enjoy a feast of turkey dinner or vegetable lasagna with great conversation with friends followed by a delightful photography show with stories about our earliest spring flowers, their folklore and uses by Native Americans and early settlers.



Banquet flyers will be mailed in March with further information also available at nwilaudubon.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Heather Smith - Dixon
Arnie and Sue Tice - Freeport
Steve Wells - Freeport
Maryna Misiewicz - Freeport

Roger Martin - Mount Morris
Barbara Wilson - St. Charles
Linda Tretter - Shannon

SAVE THE DATE!



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Save the Date for NIAS fourth annual World Migratory Bird Day Celebration on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 10am to 1pm at Oakdale Nature Preserve. This year's theme will be INSECTS!

More details in the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!



Thanks to an anonymous donor, we are pleased to announce a 2024 concert featuring Carrie Newcomer with pianist Gary Walters.

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at Highland Community College

We will have more details in upcoming newsletters...

BEGINNING BIRDER CLUB

THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH – THROUGH APRIL!

Freeport Public Library,
Youth Services Program Room
10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

This club is full, but you can register to be placed on the waiting list.

Contact Juliet Moderow
at moderowja@gmail.com or phone
201-233-0946 to get on the waiting list.

This will be a fun, educational program for youths to learn about different topics about birds. Lessons will be tailored for ages 6-10, but younger/older children and youth are welcome. An adult must be present with the youth during the entire program. All sessions are independent from each other, so you are welcome to attend any that you are able.

Each program will be held at 10:30 am to approximately 12:00 pm on the third Saturday of the month. Sessions will be held at the Freeport Public Library in the Youth Services Program Room, but we will try to end the session outside to look for birds. Please dress appropriately for the weather as well. Registration required.



Education Chair, Juliet Moderow, has a Beginning Birder Club from September through April.

► TOPICS:

- **February 17, 2024** – Bird reproduction: We will learn about bird reproduction, egg laying, nest building, etc.
- **March 16, 2024** – Bird banter: We will learn about how birds sing and learn songs/calls of common birds in the area.
- **April 20, 2024** – Bird Conservation & Being a Birder: We will learn about how to protect birds and how to be a birder!

ELKHORN CREEK 25TH ANNIVERSARY

This May marks 25 years since our chapter has owned and cared for the 43-acre Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Originally a co-purchase with the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County, we were able to buy out their interest in the preserve in 2010 thanks to a bequest to us from the estate of Clarence Mitchell. Much credit goes to Jim Akins and Keith Blackmore for facilitating the purchase and providing management leadership for this unique area. Over the years we've identified over 500 species.

To commemorate this 25th anniversary we plan to have many scheduled events at the preserve to celebrate the plants, animals, insects and more that call this wonderful place home. We'll begin with woodcock watches in March and continue through the year with numerous field trips, campfires, our annual July Butterfly Festival, and stewardship sessions, including both prairie seed collecting and sowing.

We encourage you to visit the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve in 2024 for one or more of the scheduled events and/



▲ Volunteers take a break after installing the Purple Martin house in 2008: (L to R) Don Southard, Keith Blackmore, Mary Blackmore and Anne Straight | ▼ (*Baptisia bracteata*) Cream Wild Indigo by Dan Barron

or on your own – the preserve is open dawn to dusk and is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston at the corner of Freeport and West Grove Rds. The parking area is off of West Grove Rd.

We also encourage you to take photos when visiting. Please send any that you wish to our newsletter editor Dan Barron ([email dan@driftlessflora.com](mailto:dan@driftlessflora.com)) for printing in 2024 newsletters. Get to know this gem in our backyards; you'll be glad you did.

– Mary Blackmore



WOODCOCK WATCHES

Thursday March 7, 6:00 pm

Coordinator: Mary Blackmore
815-938-3204

Join us for any or all of these evening outings to watch and listen for American Woodcocks performing their amazing courtship display. Please note the earlier starting time on March 7 which occurs prior to the start of daylight saving time.

The woodcock's "Sky Dance" itself is part ground-strutting and part zig-zagging flight, barely visible in the early evening sky. More fascinating perhaps are the sounds that go with it, the repetitious vocal

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 pm

Coordinator: Anne Straight
815-938-3263

"peent!" followed by the twittering and chirping sounds made when air rushes through primary flight feathers during the bird's flight. On a quiet evening, it is pure audio magic.

In the past we have had 3-6 woodcocks performing their twilight display for about 3-4 weeks. When and if this begins is an educated guess, so be sure to call the listed leader to register in advance and to receive confirmation that the birds have

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 pm

Happy Equinox!
Coordinator: Mary Blackmore
815-938-3204

returned and the weather is suitable.

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.

Make time to experience this unique avian harbinger of spring. The joy will be all yours.

– Mary Blackmore

NEW SPECIES AT OUR PRESERVES

New species continue to be observed at our preserves. Many thanks to everyone who helped to locate and identify these additions. Special thanks go to Ethan Brown, John Walt and Barbara Williams for their entomological expertise which resulted in many new insect species.

For a complete species list for each preserve, consult our website or call Mary at 815-938-3204.

ELKHORN CREEK (1)

Insects: Scorpionfly

SILVER CREEK (13)

Birds: Pileated Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, Dickcissel

Plants: False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina racemosa*), Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*), Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)

Insects:

Damselflies: Ebony Jewelwing

Dragonflies: Common Pondhawk

Butterflies: American Painted Lady, Viceroy, Question Mark

Moths: LeConte's Haploa

LOOKING FOR A SPEAKER?

The Conservation Committee is working on a program to help reduce single use plastics by suggesting that people "Skip the Stuff" when they order carry-out or delivery meals. The program encourages folks to let restaurants know they do not want the plastic items in the bag when they order carry-out or delivery food items. Many times the plastic utensils and condiments that are automatically provided with food orders are not utilized by the customers and end up in the garbage unused. Skipping the Stuff is an easy way to decrease single use plastics. If your organization is looking for a speaker we would be happy to provide a 20 - 30 minute program on how to reduce plastic waste and encourage businesses to "Skip the Stuff". Contact Teresa at nwilaudubon@gmail.com for more information

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT REBATE

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), signed into law one year ago, is the largest climate investment in American history – but also a generational investment in our personal infrastructure: our homes, vehicles, and communities.

Beginning in 2024, rebates will be rolling out for heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, induction stove, heat pump clothes dryers, energy efficiency retrofits, installing "smart" electrical panels, electrical wiring upgrades and weatherizing your home. Of note, these are not tax credits, but upfront rebates off the cost of the appliance or upgrade. Rebates will be administered by each state's energy office, so the time line will depend on the state, but this should enable many more people to take advantage of savings while weaning our nation off fossil fuels.

To get an idea of your savings, go to the Rewiring America website and click on "savings calculator." The amount of rebates will vary, depending on income level.

As none of needs to be reminded, 2023 was the hottest year on record. We urgently need to deal with climate change which will continue to significantly impact bird, insect and mammal populations, as well as the actual livability of many areas and our ability to grow crops, among many other dire consequences. Fortunately, even though it will not be quick or easy, we have a number of tools to begin to solve the problem. How soon we stop the use of fossil fuels will determine the degree of warming we have to contend with. The IRA can enable us to save money and do what's right for the planet.

The Clean Jobs Coalition of Illinois will be conducting town hall meetings to help citizens understand how they can benefit from the rebates which will soon be available. There will be a town hall planned for Freeport, so stay tuned for the exact date.

– Candy Colby

Conservation Committee, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

UPDATE ON HAVING "AUDUBON" IN OUR NAME

In the October/November 2023 issue of the NIAS Newsletter I wrote about whether it is appropriate to have the word "Audubon" in our chapter name due to the actions and beliefs regarding slavery of John James Audubon during his lifetime. This issue has surfaced during the last several years due to increased awareness of the cruelty of slavery and the continuing repercussions from it. I asked for members of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to voice their thoughts and opinions pertaining to this issue either by sending us a letter, an email or by attending a meeting devoted to the issue of our name.

Thank you to those who responded. What was learned from your input is that there is a wide range of thoughts and opinions. Some of your responses brought up the question of; if not "Audubon" then what? Another mentioned that the contemporary meaning of the word transcends the name, inferring that "Audubon" refers to birds, not John James, just as "Washington" means the government, not George. Some of your thoughts were about our name as it relates to our chapter's future, suggesting that younger and more diverse individuals will be turned off by the word "Audubon" and thus be reluctant to participate in our chapter activities.

Just as your feedback was quite varied, so it is with other Audubon chapter's decisions on changing their names. Some chapters have committed to changing their name, while others have decided not to. Every chapter of the National Audubon Society has the autonomy to choose their own name. The Board of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society will continue to consider the implications of changing our chapter's name. It is apparent that whatever decision the Board makes, it will not be agreed upon by all of our members. Whatever our name is, we will continue to operate in the best interests of our members, our community, our land and the birds we love.

I invite members to continue providing us with your thoughts and opinions about this issue by writing a letter to NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032 or by sending us an email to nwilaudubon@gmail.com.

– Richard Benning

President, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The 124th counting period for the annual Christmas Bird Count is complete. The National Audubon Society coordinates the count and maintains the database. The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society has been a part of this citizen science endeavor since 1974, this being the 48th time that we have contributed data. Each of the approximately 2500 individual counts in the Western Hemisphere has a fifteen mile diameter circle in which to gather their data. Our circle is centered in Read Park in Freeport.

Our counting was done on December 16, 2023. We had seventeen field counters and six feeder counters gathering the data, which was forwarded to the local compiler, who tallies it up and sends it to the National Audubon Society central database, where it is reviewed by a state editor. We observed a total of 7183 birds on count day, representing 45 species. Both these numbers are down from last year. However one of the important things about CBC data is that year to year fluctuations are normal, and it is the long term trends that are much more indicative of types and numbers of birds present.

Here are some highlights from our observations on count day. Bald Eagles were seen for the twentieth year in a row, with 23 (20 adults and 3 immatures) observed. Five species of birds tallied high numbers, or tied for high, for our local records. They are Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Fox Sparrow. A recent newcomer to our area, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, was recorded for the 6th year in a row. A Barred Owl was observed two days before count day which means it is a "count week" species, but is not included with our total birds or total species numbers. Open country ground birds (Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting) were way down, or completely absent, this year after very high numbers last year. Weather conditions and lack of snow cover made it difficult for us to see them this year.

A complete list of species observed, and the tally for each species, can be accessed online at www.christmasbirdcount.org. Realize that it may take a while for the results to be entered into the database and be reviewed by the state editor. You can

also get results from other count circles at this website. This year's top ten list for our count is as follows; European Starling (2015), Canada Goose (1658), Dark-eyed Junco (585), House Sparrow (539), Rock Pigeon (509), American Tree Sparrow (433), American Crow (241), Northern Cardinal (149), Wild Turkey (110) and Blue Jay (107).

Thank you to the following individuals for helping with this year's count. Field observers were Carol Beatty, Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Paul Brown, Jeremy Dixon, Leah Dixon, Wyatt Dixon, Laura Dufford, Kara Gallup, Gary Gordon, Russ Kilker, Anita Nienhuis, Fran Shriver, Teresa Smith, Tim Smith, Anne Straight and Colleen Wilson. Feeder counters were Somer Elgin, Richard Luthin, Rich Montgomery, Bill Palmquist, Jeff Shriver and Lurane Slaght. Special thanks go to Tim Smith for storing our CBC data in digital format.

– Richard Benning
Freeport Circle;
Christmas Bird Count Compiler

WANTED: BIRDATHON BIRDERS!

If you enjoy watching birds during spring migration, we invite you to join our 2024 Birdathon on Sunday, May 5! Not only is being a Birdathon birder fun, but also it's rewarding. Your efforts result in funds being raised for several organizations – our chapter included – involved in bird conservation work along the Mississippi Flyway and in Central America, the winter home to many of "our" birds.

Last year's Birdathon raised over \$3000 that was distributed to National Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Sand Bluff Bird Observatory, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, the Belize Audubon Society, and the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society. They all work to

improve habitat along the migration route for our feathered friends and provide educational opportunities for the public.

Birdathon participation is easy: get pledges, go birdwatching on Birdathon Day and collect pledges.

Get Pledges – Names of Birdathon birders (including yours!) will appear on a pledge form in our next newsletter and on pledge forms at our April banquet. You also may ask anyone you choose – friends, relatives – to make a pledge per species that you will see. A 10 cents per species pledge is common, but donors can pledge any amount or simply make a flat donation regardless of how many species you see.

Birding – Have a blast on May 5! You can bird alone, with a friend, or join a team (teams vie for the coveted Cardinal-on-a-Stick trophy!). You can bird for a few hours or all day. You can bird in your yard, at a park, or at a series of sites.

Collect Pledges – Let your sponsors know how many species you saw and how much they owe you, then send your pledge checks to the Audubon treasurer. That's it!

Birdathon participation is easy, fun and rewarding. We hope you can join us! If you would like to participate or would like more information, contact Kara Gallup at karagallup@msn.com or Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204.

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 | Steve Simpson
Secretary | Tim Smith
Treasurer | Mary Blackmore

Board members At-Large:
Elizabeth Boettner, Jeremy Dixon,
Kathy Weber, Gay Brooks,
Pam Richards, Carol Beatty,

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Membership | Jeff Shriver
Programs | Teresa Smith
Conservation | Laura Dufford
Education | Juliet Moderow
Publicity | Leah Dixon
Field Trips | Chris Kruger
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (adhoc)
Juliet Moderow and Gary Gordon

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nwilaudubon@gmail.com

rev 5/23

THANK YOU!

Richard Benning for doing such a great job as our Christmas Bird Count compiler.

Shey Lowman for updating species lists for both preserves.

Kathy Weber and Mary Blackmore for contacting volunteers for preserves stewardship.

Volunteers who helped process prairie seeds: Anita Nienhuis, Leanne Konkle-Briggs, Anne Straight, Mary Blackmore, Kara Gallup, Bernard Lischwe, Judy Corrie, Merry Blake, Pam and Jim Richards, Carol and Fred Redmore, Paul Brown, Laura Dufford, and Nancy Ocken. Special thanks go to Anita and LeAnne for their outstanding hospitality and to everyone who provided those delicious homemade treats!

Teresa Smith, Laura Dufford and Mary Blackmore for serving as the NIAS board nominating committee, and to everyone who agreed to take a turn on our board.

Recent field trip and event leaders: Mary Blackmore and Juliet Moderow.

Volunteers who helped with December overseeding at both preserves: Judy Corrie, Paul Brown, Mary Blackmore, Bernard Lischwe, Tim Smith and Kara Gallup.

Anne Straight, Jeremy Dixon, Bernard and Deb Lischwe, Juliet Moderow, Nancy Ocken, Pam Richards, Teresa Smith, Kara Gallup, Mary Blackmore, Anita Nienhuis and Judy Corrie for providing homemade treats for break time on all stewardship events at our preserves in 2023.

Judy and Wendell Kurr for their donation in memory of Harlan Corrie.

Pam and Jim Richards and Mary Blackmore for donating prairie seed for overseeding at our Silver Creek Preserve.

Deborah Cheek for her recent donation.

November stewardship and seed collecting volunteers: Judy Corrie, Anne Straight, Mary Blackmore, John Gvozdzak, Bernard Lischwe, Kara Gallup and Teresa Smith.

Volunteers for our November prescribed burn at Silver Creek: Judy Corrie, Pam and Jim Richards, Randy and Nancy Ocken, Lynn Feaver, Mary Blackmore, Tim Smith and Bernard Lischwe. Special thanks go to Jim for creating the burn plan and bossing the burn.

Thank you to Shey Lowman for updating the website calendar each month. She has been updating our online calendar for many years and is now passing the torch to Dan Barron who will be taking on the website calendar as we transition to a new updated website. Thank you Shey and Dan.



Illustrations by Carol Litus

**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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Freeport, IL 61032-0771

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*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
www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/

Senator Tammy Duckworth

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Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-3506
www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/

16th District Rep. Darin LaHood

100 NE Monroe Street, Room 100,
Peoria, IL 61602
309-671-7027 | <https://lahood.house.gov/>

17th District Rep. Eric Sorenson

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