



JUNE – JULY 2024

# NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



Whooping Crane *Grus americana*

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society celebrates 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.

Scan QR to visit: [nwlaudubon.org](http://nwlaudubon.org)

## 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. Programs, Events and Field Trips
4. Field Trip Recap
6. Binoculars Grant  
Crane Count, Local Foods
7. Elkhorn Creek
8. Thank You!

About Bird and Photo by Juliet Moderow

## 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.

### FEATURE BIRD (ABOVE)

Many of our NIAS members were delighted this April to see two Whooping Cranes using fluddles in the Ridott area. After reporting bands and comparing previous reports by the International Crane Foundation, they were determined to be second year females. The banded female is 15-23 and the other without bands is W 13-23, born wild in Necedah, WI. Estimated total numbers in the North America are around 500 (from as low as 15 in 1941). These two are among the 73 birds in the Eastern migration population. If you ever see one of these beautiful and rare birds, please stay in your vehicle and do not approach them. This will keep them safe and help their population.

– Juliet Moderow

### 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.)

### SCHEDULE

- June 3** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Juliet Moderow, (201) 233-0946
- June 5** – Elkhorn Creek, Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- June 7** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. • Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, (815) 440-5768
- June 11** – Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- June 13** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Juliet Moderow, (201) 233-0946
- June 15** – Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting and Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- June 19** – 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 24** – Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. • Leader: Jeremy Dixon, (815) 821-3921
- June 26** – Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Kara Gallup, (815) 871-8041
- June 28** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. • Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, (815) 440-5768
- July 1** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Bernard Lischwe, (815) 275-9200
- July 3** – Elkhorn Creek, Goats 'N Roses, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- July 6** – Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Anita Nienhuis, (815) 443-2401
- July 8** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. • Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, (815) 338-4049
- July 11** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. • Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, (815) 338-4049
- July 16** – Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Teresa Smith, (815) 238-3963
- July 18** – Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting and Trail Preparation for Butterfly Festival, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- July 22** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- July 25** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- July 29** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower West Planting, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204
- July 31** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower East Planting, 7-9 a.m. • Leader: Mary Blackmore, (815) 938-3204

# CALENDAR

**S** **June 3** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

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

**S** **June 11** – Freeport Prairie Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

**S** **June 13** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

**E** **June 17** – 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 Forreton 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 19** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

**S** **June 24** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. See cover page for details.

**F** **June 25** – Field trip to Amboy Marsh to see the Purple Martins. Departs from Forreton at 8:30 a.m.

**S** **June 26** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

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

**S** **July 3** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

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

**M** **July 9** – Board Meeting at St. John UCC at 7 p.m.

**S** **July 11** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. See cover page for details.

**E** **July 14** – 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 p.m., 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.

*Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreton 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 16** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

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

**E** **July 20** – Annual Elkhorn Creek Butterfly Festival, 1-5 p.m. See cover page for details.

**S** **July 22** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

**F** **July 23** – Freeport Student Garden Tour, 8am to 11am, see page 3 for details.

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

**S** **July 29** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

**S** **July 31** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. See cover page for details.

**M** Meeting

**F** Field Trip

**S** Stewardship

**P** Program

**E** Event

**O** Other



**Our April 27th bird walk at Oakdale Preserve, Newell Tract, led by Anne Straight.**

*(Photos by Kara Gallup)*



# PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

## AMBOY MARSH TO SEE THE PURPLE MARTINS

Tuesday, June 25 8:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.

Coordinator Teresa Smith

815-238-2963

Jim Hampton with the Birdsong Chapter of Illinois Audubon has been monitoring the Purple Martin houses at Amboy Marsh the past 5 years. In 2023, they had an impressive 64 fledglings from 12 houses. We will spend the morning with Jim Hampton touring Amboy Marsh, listening to his stories of monitoring the houses over the past 5 years and hopefully seeing the Martins. We will meet at 9:30 a.m at The Nest at Amboy Marsh.

Carpool from the Forreston municipal lot off HWY 26 at 8:30 a.m. or meet at The Nest at Amboy Marsh at 9:30 a.m. Parking is available in front of the Nest. Golf carts will be available for the tour so that we can visit several of the Martin houses without walking long distances. Address for Amboy Marsh is 1701 Morman Rd in Amboy.

*Plan to bring a sack lunch and water bottle as we will eat at The Nest and return to Forreston at about 1:30. Please confirm your attendance with Teresa at 815-238-3963 so that we can plan accordingly with the golf carts.*

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FIELD TRIP TO FREEPORT STUDENT GARDEN & COMPOSTING SITE

Tuesday, July 23

8am to approximately 11am

*The garden is located south of the Locust Ave and Empire St intersection in Freeport.*

Coordinator: Juliet Moderow

201-233-0946

Join us for a tour of the Freeport Student Garden (FSG). The FSG is designed to provide students with a unique opportunity to develop agricultural and career skills through the production, harvest, and sale of locally grown fruits and vegetables. Ben Skipor, Freeport High

School agriculture teacher and garden coordinator, and his students will lead a tour of the garden and composting site that our chapter has supported over recent years. There are two Urban Agriculture classes that have 55-60 students a year, 15-20 student workers each season, 10-15 volunteers from SITE each season, and six members of the Chicken Crew.

The FSG is a 0.5-acre market farm that grows over 55 vegetables, fruits and herb varieties. They also have 24 laying hens, 120 meat chickens, and 8 meat turkeys. The garden is very community-driven. They have a booth at the Stephenson County Farmers Market most Saturdays of the season, have a self-service farm stand as well, and sells Community-supported Agriculture Shares. They also work with the SSM Health Group to develop a Feeding Families Garden designed to provide fresh, healthy produce to families of need within the school district while also showcasing sustainable agriculture practices.

Finally, the FSG continues to grow their community composting program in conjunction with the Environmental Study Group, University of Illinois Extension, and our chapter.

We hope you can join us!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the publishing of Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac. A field trip to the Leopold Shack and Leopold Center near Baraboo, WI is planned for Tuesday, September 24th. You are encouraged to add this conservation classic to your summer reading list and join us for a discussion session prior to the trip on Sunday, September 15th. Contact Chris Kruger at 815-238-9259 to sign up.

*More information to follow in the next newsletter and at [www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org).*



Photo by Teresa Smith

## ELKHORN CREEK BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

**ELKHORN CREEK  
BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE**

Saturday, July 20 | 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 20.**

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 Forreston 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!*



We had a wonderful time viewing Pasque flowers on April 14 at the Freeport Prairie. Photo selfie by Adam Moderow with Mary Blackmore, Kathleen Weber, Molly Doolittle, Willow Moderow, Pam Richards, Juliet Moderow, Kara Gallup, Anne Straight, and Judy Corrie.

- Juliet Moderow

## Welcome New Members!

Cassandra Rejlek - Thomson

**SAVE THE DATE!**



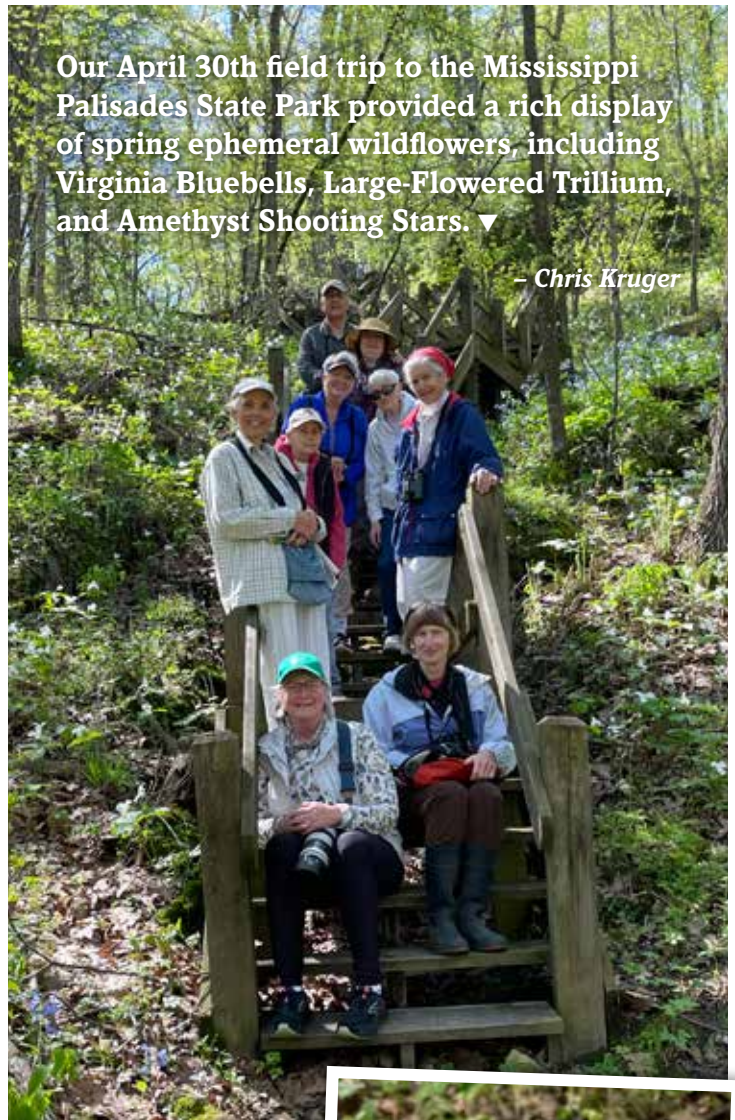
NIAS PRESENTS

### **CARRIE NEWCOMER AND PIANIST GARY WALTERS "A GREAT WILD MERCY - CELEBRATING KINDNESS, COMMUNITY, AND NATURE"**

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...**



Our April 30th field trip to the Mississippi Palisades State Park provided a rich display of spring ephemeral wildflowers, including Virginia Bluebells, Large-Flowered Trillium, and Amethyst Shooting Stars. ▼

– Chris Kruger



**Gary Gordon, Jeff Shriver, and Juliet Moderow took a group of six children and two adults to visit Sand Bluff Bird Observatory on April 13.**

◀ The children were delighted by a couple of Northern Flickers, American Robins, Eastern Bluebird, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Swamp Sparrow, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

– Juliet Moderow



# HOW A BINOCULARS GRANT HELPED BRING THE FUN OF BIRDS TO CARL SANDBURG ELEMENTARY

Early last January, Education chair Juliet Moderow spotted a grant opportunity from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology gifting 10 Celestron binoculars to 12 classrooms across the country who engage in participatory science or nature-based inquiry projects. Adam Moderow, past Education Chair, had previously led two outdoor education programs with 6th



grade teachers Lucas Kramer and Dr. Kim Frank at Carl Sandburg Elementary. So, Juliet thought their classroom would be a great fit and quickly sent the link to Lucas with a promise that she would teach their classes about binocular use and basic birding. Lucas had two days to fill out the application explaining what he could accomplish with his students if they had a set of binoculars. After a few weeks, they were alerted they had won the grant. Therefore, on Earth Day, April 22, Juliet led a basic birding lesson to over 40 kids with the Binoculars at Oakdale Nature Preserve from 10 am to 2pm. The students were able to hear and see many

fun bird species with their favorites being the White-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, and numerous Turkey Vultures.

It's exciting to hear what Lucas has planned for the binoculars in the future. Luke shared that they go almost daily on nature walks around the campus to take a break from academics, so having binoculars will be a great addition. They will bring them on special outings that they class may have. Also, Luke explained that his interest in ecology and birds were ignited during the early pandemic when he read Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy.

After learning about birds' roles in the food chain and human impact on bird populations, he strived to include elements of bird ecology into his teaching. In addition, Luke hopes to incorporate native prairie plants on the Carl Sandburg campus so it can build a habitat for birds and allow future students to explore the fun of birding!

We look forward to working with Mr. Kramer and his students in the future!

– Juliet Moderow,  
photo by Luke Kramer

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## 2024 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 the know the local growers. The 2024 brochure lists 43 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 2024 Local Foods Brochure you can pick one up at the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson/Winnebago/Jo Daviess County.

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

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## 2024 CRANE COUNT SUMMARY



The 2024 Crane Count was held on Saturday, April 13th. With temperatures at 31 degrees at 5:30 a.m. it was much cooler than last year when it was 55 degrees. The crane counters enjoyed the morning sunrise listening to the sounds of owls, numerous song birds, snipe, geese, ducks, eagles, and Sandhill Cranes. This year, we had counters at 14 sites throughout Stephenson County. We welcomed one new counter: Elizabeth Boettner in 2024. We also had 22 counters that are veteran counters: Jeremy Dixon, Richard Benning, Phil Swalve, Colleen Wilson, Sherrie Shoemaker, Mary Blackmore, Jen Richards, Curt Richards, Gary Gordon, Elizabeth Boettner, Judy Corrie, Molly

Doolittle, Anne Straight, Juliet Moderow, Mark Keister, Rex Sides, Tim Smith, Teresa Smith, Rebecca Shriver, Jeff Shriver, Paul Hasenour, Chris Fye and Glen Hagemann.

This year, the counters spotted a total of 79 cranes including 25 pairs of cranes. The rainfall earlier in April may have helped to increase the number of cranes spotted this year with the numbers just slightly lower than last year when we had 85 cranes counted. Typically, on count day we see/hear between 60-70 cranes.

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 2024 Annual Midwest Crane Count. Thank you to Teresa Smith for coordinating the count for Stephenson County.

# ELKHORN CREEK 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Photos from the March 18th burn at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve

photos by Teresa Smith (header) and Pam Richards (below) ▼



**"The beautiful not yet."**

- Carrie Newcomer

**April 28th**

▲ **Cream Wild Indigo**  
*Baptisia bracteata*

◀ **Early Buttercup**  
*Ranunculus fascicularis*

photos by Mary Blackmore

# BANQUET VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU



Mary Blackmore, Judy Corrie and Anne Straight for freezing corn. Kara Gallup for coordinating the desserts. Tim Smith for tabulating the registration forms and organizing name tags. Deborah and Bernard Lischwe, Jeff Shriver 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. Laura Dufford and Elizabeth Boettner for being on the banquet committee. Teresa Smith for acting as banquet committee chair.

Thank you also to Eickman's Processing Company for allowing us to store the frozen turkeys and frozen corn in a locker space at no cost to NIAS

## 2024 Silent Auction Thank You

Thank you to all who bid at this year's silent auction. More than \$1,000 was raised. All auction proceeds fund local chapter activities and our two preserves. Also, our thanks to those who donated items- Ann Swalve, Gay Broocks, Merry Blake, Jeremy & Leah Dixon, Kay & John Day, Tom Hartung, Anne Straight, Estate of Bonnie Bade, Estate of Sharon Shaw, Mary Blackmore, Terri Clark, Shirlee Munda, Jim Davis, Pam & Jim Richards, Carol Beatty, Shey Lowman, Carol & Fred Redmore, Teresa Smith, Nancy Ocken, Tim & Christine Last, Annette Happ, Juliet Moderow, Anita Nienhuis, Richard Benning, and Chris Kruger.



## THANK YOU MARY BLACKMORE

Mary Blackmore was recognized at the April 9th banquet of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society for her work regarding stewardship and educational activities at the two preserves that the society owns. Mary has contributed countless hours planning and organizing events such as stewardship work sessions, seed collecting, prescribed burning, woodcock watches, campfires and the annual butterfly festival. Her enthusiasm is contagious for many of the helpers and participants at these events as witnessed by several personal comments that were either read or shown during the banquet. Mary seems to enjoy doing what she does, and her gift at inspiring others to learn about the natural world is always present. Mary is shown here receiving a commemorative arrangement of prairie plants from NIAS President Richard Benning to honor her commitment.

– by Richard Benning  
photos by Teresa Smith

## THANK YOU TO THE BOARD

It is time to say “thank you” to all the volunteers who served on the board in 2023-2024. A big thank you to Richard Benning for serving as our Chapter President for the past 2 years. Richard has served as our President three times over the past few decades and we certainly appreciate his time and leadership skills.

We also want to thank the following board members for their service last year and for continuing to serve on the board in the upcoming year. Board members continuing this year are Steve Simpson,

Mary Blackmore, Elizabeth Boettner, Gay Broocks, Carol Beatty, Pam Richards, Teresa Smith, Laura Dufford, Juliet Moderow, Leah Dixon and Chris Kruger. Board members concluding their service as a volunteer on the board include Tim Smith, Jeremy Dixon, Kathy Weber and Jeff Shriver.

We also welcome the following new board members: Fran Shriver, Terri Clark, Don Miller and Sarah Barron. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the board and share your talents.



Many thanks to all who submitted stories, poems and photos in recognition of Mary. We will share more of these in the future.



**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** | Teresa Smith  
**Vice-President** | Steve Simpson  
**Secretary** | Elizabeth Boettner  
**Treasurer** | Mary Blackmore

**Board members At-Large:**  
Leah Dixon, Fran Shriver, Terri Clark,  
Gay Broocks, Pam Richards, Carol Beatty

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Membership** | (open)  
**Programs** | Don Miller  
**Conservation** | Laura Dufford  
**Education** | Juliet Moderow  
**Publicity** | Sarah Barron  
**Field Trips** | Chris Kruger  
**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (ad hoc)**  
Juliet Moderow and Gary Gordon

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

**[nwilaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:nwilaudubon@gmail.com)**

rev 5/24

**THANK YOU!**

Burn volunteers from our March Elkhorn Creek burn: Richard Benning, Jim and Pam Richards, Tim and Teresa Smith, Judy Corrie, Bernard Lischwe, and Mary Blackmore. Special thanks go to Jim for bossing the burn and to Tim and Richard for chainsawing a tree with a chimney fire.

Elkhorn Creek overseeding volunteers: Mary Blackmore, Kathy Weber, Paul Brown, Judy Corrie and Laura Dufford. Special thanks go to Mary for creating the seeding map and the seed mixes from seeds collected on site.

Preserves spring stewardship volunteers through April: Judy Corrie, Mary Blackmore, Nancy Ocken, Kara Gallup, Anne Straight, Paul Brown, Merry Blake and Tim Smith.

Field trip, event and birdwalk leaders: Chris Kruger, Mary Blackmore, Juliet Moderow, Laura Dufford, Anne Straight, Somer Elgin, Richard Benning and Gary Gordon. Though some of these events

were canceled due to weather, we very much appreciate the willingness of our volunteers to lead outings.

Teresa Smith for coordinating our 2024 Stephenson County Crane Count.

Tim Smith for removing downed trees from the trails at both of our preserves and cutting the Osage Orange downed trees into haulable lengths.

Recent donations from Dan and Sarah Barron, Alice Ericksen, Peggy Badgett, Paul Brown, David and Virginia DeSwarte, Suzanne Falconer, Kara and Bob Gallup, Wendy Heiler, Joe and Jennifer Kanosky, Betsy Kroeger, Bob Remer, Teresa and Tim Smith

Volunteers who picked up preserves roadside trash on Earth Day: Candy Colby, Cathy Perkins, Judy Corrie, Anne Straight and Mary Blackmore.

**ADDRESS CHANGES FOR USPS**

If you have recently changed your USPS address let us know so we can send your newsletter to the correct address and so we can get the latest news to you quickly. If newsletters are returned to us because of an incorrect address it can take several weeks for the USPS to return the item to us with your new address and thus you would receive the newsletter much later.

*You can email us at*

**[nwilaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:nwilaudubon@gmail.com)**

*or call 815-238-3963 with any change of address information.*



*Illustrations by Carol Litus*

**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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

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**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  
[www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/)

**Senator Tammy Duckworth**

230 S Dearborn Suite 3900,  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-3506  
[www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/](http://www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/)

**16th District Rep. Darin LaHood**

100 NE Monroe Street, Room 100,  
Peoria, IL 61602  
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