

Membership

NIAS has been a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society since 1972. There are two ways to become a member of NIAS.

1. Join as a joint member of the National Audubon Society and NIAS and receive the NIAS newsletter and mailings in addition to the award-winning Audubon magazine.
2. Join as a NIAS member only and receive our bi-monthly newsletter and all other chapter mailings.

Both types of membership provide many opportunities for direct involvement in making a difference in our quality of life.

Join NIAS today!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

1. NIAS and National Audubon Member

(Includes NIAS mailings and "Audubon Magazine")

Individual \$20.00

2. NIAS ONLY

(Includes NIAS mailings)

Chapter only membership \$15.00

Make checks payable to Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

Please complete this form and mail to:

NIAS Treasurer, Po Box 771, Freeport, Illinois 61032

PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM IS NOT TO BE USED FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

Since its beginning our society has emphasized the interrelatedness of resource protection, habitat conservation and connecting people with nature.

While the society's primary focus is local, many issues such as bird migratory route protection and global climate change necessitate our action on state, national and international levels. Truly diverse, NIAS is an Audubon Society that isn't just for birders!

NIAS sponsors a variety of activities that foster bird protection and appreciation:

- Annual series of weekly spring bird walks
- Christmas Bird Count
- Birdathon Fundraiser
- Birding field trips and programs
- Annual birdseed sale

See our most recent newsletter or check the website for upcoming events:

nwilaudubon.org

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.

For additional information on all Northwest Illinois Audubon Society events and initiatives visit: nwilaudubon.org or write: NIAS, PO Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

PROTECTING RESOURCES
CONSERVING HABITAT
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE



We welcome you to join us for a wide variety of activities!

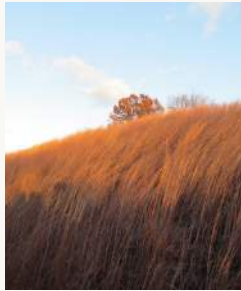
The public is always welcome at our meetings and other events.

nwilaudubon.org

Our Preserves

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society (NIAS) is dedicated to the cause of good stewardship of planet earth.

Preserves are open to the public during daylight hours for travelers on foot to enjoy and absorb.
HORSES, DOGS, BIKES AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED AT EITHER PRESERVE.



Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve

Since 1999, the Society has owned and managed the 43-acre Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. The Elkhorn Creek Preserve is just south of Forreston, Illinois on West Grove Road.

Although relatively small in size, the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity

Preserve contains an impressive variety of geologic and hydrologic features and their associated plant communities.

Situated over a small series of geologic faults, the Preserve features outcroppings of both St. Peter sandstone and Ordovician-age dolomite. These geological differences result in the presence of both acid and alkaline-wetlands – adding greatly to the area's biodiversity. Additional wetland features include sedge meadows, a small brook, and a portion of the Preserve's namesake, Elkhorn Creek.

Several remnant hillside prairies can be found at the Preserve, with Little Bluestem the dominant grass. Various forbs (prairie wildflowers) are present as well. The woodland component of the preserve includes oak savannah areas as well as a bit of floodplain forest.

Parking: A small parking lot is located along West Grove Road, on the northeast corner of the preserve.

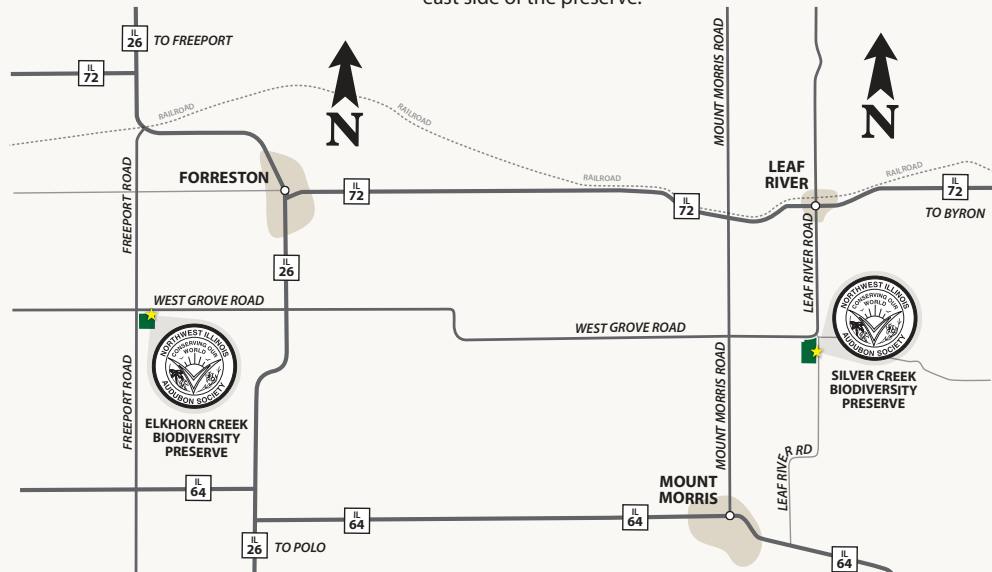


Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve | Tarbox Unit

This 50 acre Preserve was established in 2012 when the property was donated to Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, and includes woodland, grassland and riparian habitats. The Silver Creek Preserve is south of Leaf River, Illinois on Leaf River Road.

The acreage includes an Oak-Hickory forest that is home to 67 identified bird species including the Red-headed Woodpecker, an Illinois state endangered species. Both the north and south branch of the Silver Creek runs through this property making it a perfect home for a variety of plants, animals, birds, butterflies, insects and amphibians.

Parking: A small parking lot is located along Leaf River Road, on the east side of the preserve.



Activities at NIAS preserves include:

Stewardship days: Seed collecting/planting and Prescribed burning
 Chapter Hosted Campfires • Annual Butterfly Festival • Annual Bird Festival • Hiking • Photography • Birdwatching

Local Projects

NIAS local projects include energy conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural areas management.

Among our activities are:

- Offering children's education programs
- Organizing energy conservation workshops
- Donating watt-meters to local libraries
- Publishing an annual NW Illinois Local Foods Brochure
- Hosting sustainable agriculture workshops and presentations
- Providing management for the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve
- Participating in the annual Crane Count

State, National and International Connections

NIAS recognizes the importance of educating the public about and taking action on issues that transcend state and national boundaries.

Toward this goal NIAS:

- Provides periodic programs and special events on such issues
- Urges members to contact elected officials about key environmental legislation
- Donates to organizations such as the Belize Audubon Society that work to protect winter habitat of birds

Meetings

NIAS holds monthly meetings September - May on the first Tuesday of the month, generally at St. John United Church of Christ in Freeport. At each meeting announcements and reports of society activities are followed by a program.

Birds

NIAS sponsors a variety of activities that foster bird protection and appreciation:

- Annual series of weekly spring bird walks
- Christmas Bird Count
- Birdathon Fundraiser
- Birding field trips and programs
- Annual birdseed sale



Drawing by Carol Litus