



DECEMBER 2024 – JANUARY 2025

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE



A chapter of the National Audubon Society

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Cold and dark winter days come alive with the flurry of black-and-white Snow Buntings tumbling in flight across barren fields and lakeshores. These restless birds flock up by the hundreds in winter, scattering across Canada and the United States. Snow Buntings breed in the high Arctic among rocky crevices where their crisp white plumage blends in with the snowy landscape. In the winter they acquire rusty tones that help them blend in with their winter homes of bare ground and crop stubble.

NEW NAME: NORTHWEST ILLINOIS BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE

Our Board is excited to announce our new name! After much discussion among the Board with input from the membership, we are ready to share the new name which represents our organization: **Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance**. The new name is just one of the many things our organization is doing to help make all people feel welcome at our events.

In 2022, the National Audubon Society Board investigated the potential to change their name. After much discussion in 2023, the National Audubon Society announced they would retain its name and put more emphasis on their efforts to be more inclusive and diverse. The staff at National Audubon is now more diverse and they provide many resources to the local chapters to help them be more inclusive of our diverse community.

Changing the name was not something our Board took lightly. Our Board members started talking about a name change in 2023. We wanted input from the membership and appreciate the feedback that we received from our two focus groups held in October 2023 and feedback from the solicitation of potential names in our February/March 2024 newsletter. The feedback from members and diligence of the Board helped us to identify a name that reflects our common interests and send a message to the public that we are welcoming and inclusive.

We understand that the new name will take a little time to get used to, and excluding the Audubon name will omit the namesake of someone whose bird art influenced those who formed the National Audubon Society. Our goal with changing the name is to send a message to the public and to our members that we are a progressive organization that wants to be more inclusive and diverse as our community changes. Since our formation in 1972, we have had three different names including: Stephenson County Audubon Society, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and now Northwest Illinois Bird and

Nature Alliance. Each new name progressively increased a wider group of people with a common interest.

Will we remain a chapter of National Audubon Society?

Many chapters of National Audubon Society have made the decision to change their name and many have made the decision to include the word "Alliance" in their name. The word "Alliance" defines what we are. Our members work together for a common interest in birding and preserving nature. Our activities focus on our common interest in birding and preserving nature. And, our two Biodiversity Preserves bring us together with our two common interests of birding and nature.

We will continue to be a chapter of National Audubon Society just as many other chapters across the country have done with their name change that includes the word "Alliance". Being part of National Audubon Society is important so that we have additional resources to help our chapter continue to grow. National Audubon offers many educational sessions for board members and provides us with the opportunity to connect with other chapters of National Audubon Society to make our organization strong and inclusive.

People who are currently National Audubon Society members and live in our geographic area will continue to receive our 6 wonderful newsletters each year with opportunities to participate in our events and invite friends from our diverse community.

As in the past we will continue to offer membership at the local-only level for those folks who want to support Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance and our efforts to educate the local community about birds and nature and support our efforts at our two Biodiversity Preserves. *(continued on page 2)*

The Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance 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, abilities, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate.

 Scan QR to visit: nwilaudubon.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:

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ECBP 25th Anniversary
9. Thank You!

Feature Bird: Cornell Lab All About Birds
Feature Bird Photo: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

(New Name continued...)

What is next for Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance?

The Board is working on the numerous documents that need to be updated and we will continue to promote our new name to the greater Northwest Illinois community of bird and nature lovers. A new logo and our website will be updated with the new name soon. You will see our email address change to nwilbirdandnaturealliance@gmail.com and our web address change to www.nwilbirdandnaturealliance.org. Facebook will also update to the new name without creation of a new page. Over the next several months, signage throughout the community will be updated to reflect our new name.

As we have done since our chapter's inception, we will continue to offer monthly programs, bird outings, and field trips that feature diverse aspects of nature, birdseed sales, prairie and woodland stewardship, and youth and family programs to educate our community on the benefits of nature. We will also continue to support other organizations both in our corner of Northwest Illinois as well as across the world including an annual Birdathon donation to Belize Audubon Society that is the winter home for many of our favorite birds. We do all of these things because of your supportive and a very active membership. Thank you for supporting our efforts as Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance with the common interest of birds and nature.



CALENDAR

November 16 – Youth Bird Club, 10:30 a.m., Freeport Public Library (see page 4 for details)

December 3 – Monthly program and potluck (see page 3 for details)

December 14 – Christmas Bird Count – (see page 6 for details)

December 21 – Youth Bird Club, 10:30 a.m., Freeport Public Library (see page 4 for details)

January 7 – Monthly program (see page 3 for details)

January 11 – Field Trip: Open Land Birding, 9 a.m. - noon (see adjacent column for details)

January 30 – Field Trip: Open Land Birding, 9 a.m. - noon (see adjacent column for details)

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

View our calendar considerations at: nwilaudubon.org/news/calendar/



FIELD TRIPS

OPEN LAND BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 11

Thursday, January 30

9:00 a.m. - noon

Leader: *Mary Blackmore*
815-938-3204

Carpool from the Harbor-Freight lot in Freeport at 9:00 a.m.

We will carpool and cruise country roads in local areas that were historically prairie. Viewing will be done predominantly from the vehicles, using the cars as blinds, and communicating by radio.

Typically we'll see several species – notably Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Horned Lark – on roadsides or in fields, often in abundance if there is adequate snow cover. Snowy Owls have been spotted in past years and last year we were fortunate to observe a Northern Shrike. Other species we'll search for include Rough-Legged Hawk and Merlin. Of course we'll enjoy any bird we see, including our many year-round residents.

Please call Mary to confirm your attendance.

SEPTEMBER 26TH FREE PUBLIC CONCERT:

We had nearly 200 attend the concert with Carrie Newcomer and pianist Gary Walters. It was a wonderful time celebrating kindness, community, and nature.

(left) Volunteers pose with Carrie Newcomer and Gary Walters | Photo by Doug Dufford

(center) Carrie Newcomer | photo by John Connell

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Victoria Walworth - Freeport
Cheryl Bridgeland - Freeport
Darla Van Buskirk - Freeport

Larry Casagram - Hanover
Elizabeth Frese - Mount Carroll
Ogle County Soil & Water Conservation District - Oregon

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AND POTLUCK

THE SLOTH STORYTELLING HOUR

Presented by the
NIAS Storytellers



Tuesday, December 3rd

Potluck at 6:00 p.m.

Program at 7:15 p.m.

**St. John United Church of Christ,
Freeport, IL**

We will start the evening with a delicious potluck meal. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. NIAS will provide beverages. After the meal, there will be some brief announcements with the program to follow at approximately 7:15.

PROGRAM: THE SLOTH STORYTELLING HOUR

Presented by the NIAS Storytellers

You may heard of the "Moth Radio Hour" a program where people tell their stories. The Sloth Storytelling Hour is our version of that great storytelling program. We have filled a night with personal stories in nature, including one of an animal encounter, a gardening escapade, an adventure ordeal, and a perfect moment in nature from our membership.

The lineup of storytellers for the evening, alphabetically are: Richard Benning, "Arachnid Window Lair," Mary Blackmore, "The Hot Mama and the Cool Bird," Elizabeth Boettner, "My Spark Bird," Suzanne Falconer, "Sleek Stranger in the Snow," Don Miller, "Terror on the Eleven Point River," Steve Simpson, "Things that go "whoosh" on a gravel bar," Teresa Smith, "Ho, Ho, Ho," and Kathy Weber, "The Glaring Golden Eye."

It will be a fun night, and thank you storytellers for sharing your stories!

(If while reading this you decide you have a story you would like to share that night, please email, rivermiller@hotmail.com before that evening. We still have room for two more storytellers.)

HYBRID PROGRAM

THE RETURN OF THE GRIZZLY

Tuesday, January 7th

7:00 p.m.

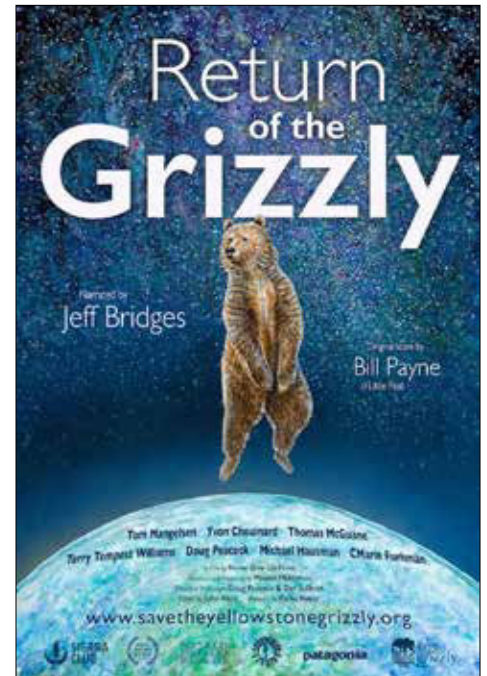
**St. John United Church of Christ,
Freeport, IL or via Zoom**

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, you need to email, nwilaudubon@gmail.com to receive your zoom link. Zoom (from home) or come in-person to St John United Church of Christ (Presenter Dan Sullivan will be zooming from Montana).

There will be a showing of the documentary produced by "Save the Yellowstone Grizzly" organization called, "The Return of the Grizzly." (You are encouraged to watch their first produced video, "The Beast of Our Time," found on YouTube. [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cfuSIIeIyY&t=158s>]) After the showing there will be a follow-up zoom discussion with Executive Producer of the documentary, Dan Sullivan. Dan is one of the founding people of the "Save the Yellowstone Grizzly" organization formed in 2016, along with authors; Rick Bass, Terry Tempest Williams and Doug Peacock. Dan is a board advisor for Park County Environmental Council and has been a fierce advocate for wilderness all his life. He has spent decades exploring and protecting the backcountry in and around Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks. He has called Livingston, Montana, home for more than 30 years.

The Return of the Grizzly

This powerful 37-minute documentary follows the path and challenges of the "explorer bear," the pioneering young male grizzlies that come from small, isolated core populations. The grizzly bear needs to explore and pioneer new habitats to spread its gene pool, and its long journeys are increasingly driven—and



hemmed in—by the ravages of climate change. "The effect of climate change is creating explorer bears. Safe passage and tolerance for grizzly bears are the best bet for connectivity between Glacier and Yellowstone," said Doug Peacock, award-winning author, filmmaker, grizzly bear expert and founder of Save the Yellowstone Grizzly. Safe wildlife corridors over/under busy highways are a win/win for public safety and grizzly survival.

"Return of the Grizzly" proves that, through coexistence and tolerance, humans and grizzlies can "learn" to live together, as Native Americans have proven for thousands of years.

The film is narrated by one of America's most beloved actors and storytellers, Academy Award winner Jeff Bridges, and is scored by legendary pianist Bill Payne of Little Feat. The executive producers are Doug Peacock and Dan Sullivan. "Return of the Grizzly" offers proven, long-term solutions for human/bear conflict, a vision for the grizzly's secure future in its native habitat, and ways for YOU to get productively involved in the preservation of this unique American species, one whose independence, strength, and determination mirrors our own.

BEGINNING BIRDER CLUB

**Third Saturday of the Month –
September through April!**

**Freeport Public Library,
Meeting Room A/B**

10:30 a.m. to approximately 12:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Beginning Birder Club – Join anytime!

This is a fun, educational program for youths to learn about different topics about birds. Lessons will be tailored for ages 6-10. 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 and/or interested.

Each program will be held at 10:30 am to approximately 12:00 pm on the third Saturday of the month (to remember, third rhymes with bird!). Sessions will be held at the Freeport Public Library in meeting room A/B, but we will try to end the session outside to look for birds. Please dress appropriately for the weather as well. Please register in advance as space is limited and to help determine amount of materials needed for each session.

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



Contact Juliet Moderow

at moderowja@gmail.com
or phone 201-233-0946

to register or by this form ►
<https://forms.gle/W16pZ5Aiyt8Hh7At8>



TOPICS:

December 21, 2024 – Birds in winter - How do the birds that do not migrate survive in the winter? How can we help our feathered friends in the winter? We may make DIY bird feeders this day!

January 18, 2025 – Birds of prey: We will learn about birds of prey and do an owl pellet dissection.

Later dates and topics will be provided in future newsletters.

JUST SAY YES!

In the coming months our nominating committee will be asking members to take a turn on our board. Due to the foresight of our founding mothers and fathers for establishing term limits for board service, your commitment is reasonable and not overwhelming.

- All board positions are for a 1-year term except for the president who serves a 2-year term.
- Terms begin in May, 2025.
- If you agree to serve on the board, you are committed to just one year. You can serve up to 3 consecutive years in any one position and 4 years total before you must go off the board for at least 1 year. You could be asked annually if you wish to continue board service within those limitations, but you are not obligated to do so.
- There are 6 board meetings per year held on the second Tuesday of odd-numbered months, 7-9 p.m., at St. John's church in Freeport. The annual board retreat is usually held at Oakdale Nature Preserve on a Saturday in the summer, 9 a.m. - noon. Total board meeting hours for the year are just 15.
- There is a ZOOM option for board meetings.

Board service is a good way for you to give back to our organization. Give it a try! Just say YES!

PRESERVES OVERSEEDING

Seeds of selected prairie species will be overseeded at both our Elkhorn and Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves in December. While much of our annual seed collection is spread in areas after an early spring burn at Elkhorn Creek, certain species require longer periods of wet cold conditions and/or their habitat is not on the spring burn schedule. Additionally, a planned November burn at Silver Creek will create good conditions for overseeding.

Since this activity is weather dependent, we'll use our stewardship contact list to notify interested volunteers. To get on the list call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 or email Elizabeth Boettner at elizabethboettner@gmail.com. We will try to provide as much notice as possible.



2024 BIRDATHON FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

This year's May Birdathon raised over \$3300. Those funds were distributed to organizations that work to protect birds and the habitats they rely on. Our chapter retained 30% of the funds raised to assist with our many programs and activities.

Many thanks go to both the Birdathon birders and the individuals who sponsored one or more birders. Their generosity has provided much needed funds for bird protection projects in both wintering and nesting areas, as well as migration routes.

**We all look forward to the 2025
Birdathon on May 4!**

ORGANIZATIONS

SUPPORTED INCLUDE:

- Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
- National Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative
- The Bird Protection Fund of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
- Belize Audubon Society
- Stewards of the Upper Mississippi
- Sand Bluff Bird Observatory

Birdathon
Your money goes where the birds go

**45
YEARS**

**CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES AT
THE FREEPORT FARMERS MARKET,
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH ►**

Photo by Amera Striegel



◀ SEPTEMBER 18TH CAMPFIRE AT ECBP:
The moon was incredible coming up... very eerie in the clouds.. later it was clear and we could see our shadows at 10:00 pm... like a flashlight was on us. Nice evening.

Photo by Kara Gallup

**SEPTEMBER 24TH:
GROUP VISITS ALDO LEOPOLD SHACK ►**

Photo by Chris Kruger



**◀ OCTOBER 29TH:
PRAIRIE SEED PROCESSING TEAM AT THE
NIENHUIS DELUXE SHED.**

Photo by Peter Happ





CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

It's time once again for the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count. This will be the 49th time that our chapter has taken part in this endeavor to take one-day snapshots of types of bird species and numbers of each in approximately 2500 count circles throughout the Western Hemisphere. Our local count day is planned for December 14, 2024.

Field counting will be done the same way as last year in that the local compiler will assign territories to count participants. Those who were field counters last year will be contacted by the local compiler. If someone has not been a field counter in the past, and is interested in becoming one this year, please call the local compiler.

Observations at bird feeders are an important part of Christmas Bird Count data. To be a feeder counter you must be within our official count circle which extends seven and one-half miles out from its center in Read Park in Freeport. The information below tells about being a feeder counter and includes a form to fill in with your observations.

Anyone who wishes to be a feeder counter, or has questions about this year's Christmas Bird Count, should call the local compiler, Richard Benning at 815-865-5279.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FEEDER COUNT PARTICIPATION

Participating in the CBC as a feeder counter can be a rewarding way to be a citizen scientist. Your observations will be included with our local data. You must be sure that your feeders are in our official count circle which is described above. If you are not sure that you meet this requirement call Richard Benning at the number listed above. You must do your counting on the day of our local count, December 14th.

It is asked that you spend at least a cumulative (not necessarily all at once) two hours doing your feeder observations on the day of the count. You don't have to be glued to the window watching every bird for every minute. Just check your feeder often during the hours you are counting. Then complete the form included here and mail it as indicated. Each species that you observe should include the largest number of that species seen at any one time. For example, if you see eight juncos at 8:30 a.m. and eleven juncos at 9:45 a.m. the number you should record is eleven because that is the largest number of juncos seen at any one time.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

	Mourning dove		American Tree Sparrow
	Red-headed Woodpecker		Song Sparrow
	Red-bellied Woodpecker		White-throated Sparrow
	Downy Woodpecker		White-crowned Sparrow
	Hairy Woodpecker		Dark-eyed Junco
	Northern Flicker		Northern Cardinal
	Blue Jay		Purple Finch
	American Crow		House Finch
	Black-capped Chickadee		Pine Siskin
	Tufted Titmouse		American Goldfinch
	Red-breasted Nuthatch		House Sparrow
	White-breasted Nuthatch		<i>(other)</i>
	Brown Creeper		<i>(other)</i>
	European Starling		<i>(other)</i>
	<i>(other)</i>		<i>(other)</i>
	<i>(other)</i>		<i>(other)</i>
	<i>(other)</i>		<i>(other)</i>

MUST BE COMPLETED ON DECEMBER 14TH

Please mail form to: Richard Benning, P.O. Box 11, Davis, IL 61019
NO LATER THAN December 20th THANKS!

A GREAT BIRDSEED SALE!

Terrific weather, wonderful volunteers and supporters, loyal customers and an open Adams Avenue came together resulting in another successful birdseed sale fundraiser. We distributed over 15 tons of product! Our estimated profit of around \$5000 will be used to fund our many programs, activities and publications.

The sale would not have been possible without our team of dedicated volunteers who participated in seed distribution and delivery, ear corn picking and bagging, flier creation and mailing, order processing and much more. Many thanks go to Lynn Feaver, Chris Kruger, Tim and Teresa Smith, Mary Blackmore, Judy Corrie, Rex Sides, Jeff Shriver, Don Miller, Rebecca Shriver, Paul Brown, Bob Wittenbeck, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Anne Straight, Laura and Doug Dufford, Dan Barron, Richard Benning and Juliet Moderow. Special thanks go to the Birdseed Sale Committee – Tim Smith, Chris Kruger and Mary Blackmore – for their many hours of planning, coordinating and follow-up.

Many thanks go to the folks at O'Mara Transport Company for not only providing our main pickup site, but also using their forklift to assist us in staging the many pallets of seed. Thanks also go to Alliance members who hosted our regional pickup sites: John and Kay Day, Anne Straight, Chris Kruger and Jeremy Dixon. Additional thanks go to Joe and Brenda Akins for allowing us to pick ear corn from one of their fields and to Cub Foods of Freeport for donating bags for the corn.

Be sure to remember the money-back guarantee stated in the sale flier. If you discover any seed spoilage in your bags or mistakes in your filled order, call Mary at 815-938-3204 and we will provide replacement seed bags or a refund.



Birdseed sales sorting volunteers: Rebecca Shriver, Mary Blackmore, Rex Sides, Tim Smith and Jeff Shriver.

Photo by Teresa Smith

There are a few extra bags of Nyjer seed available for purchase. To inquire call Chris at 815-238-9259, weekends or evenings.



ON OCTOBER 27, OUR CHAPTER HELD AN ACCESSIBLE BIRDING EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRDABILITY WEEK.

Photos by Patty Weik



ACCESSIBLE BIRDING EVENT

We had over 50 individuals of all ages attend. The Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education gave a wonderful 45-minute show with numerous educational displays and three live birds: Great Horned Owl, Peregrine Falcon, and a Red-tailed Hawk. After the program, we had bird arts and crafts outside and led a slow/mindful bird outing as well as a stationary bird sit for audio birding.

– Juliet Moderow

Thank you to the following who helped make the event successful.

Elizabeth Boettner, Terri Clark, Candy Colby, Molly Doolittle, Laura Dufford, Juliet Moderow, Teresa Smith for helping with the event; Jaime Elliott for leading fun and interactive bird arts and crafts, Patty Weik, Rich Hofmaster, and Bill Palmquist from the Freeport Area Camera Club for making beautiful displays of bird photos; the Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education for a wonderful show; the Freeport Park District for waiving the rental fees; and Jessica Wexell from RAMP who helped with the planning and execution of the event.



FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

We want to share a portion of the transcript from a recent episode of the volunteer-run podcast FREEPOD. This episode featured information about the tree situation that our Conservation Committee has been monitoring in the Freeport area.

TREES FOR FREEPORT

A group of concerned citizens recently banded together to help the City of Freeport live up to its Tree City title.

As you can see on a drive through town, Freeport's tree population took a big hit when the invasive ash borer infiltrated the area and killed the majority of the city's ash trees. Thousands were cut down, and few have been planted to take their place.

With encouragement from members of the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and Ken Beach, local tree advocate, the city, led by Street Superintendent Pat Ingram, secured a grant that provided 108 potted trees. Unfortunately, the trees arrived at a poor time for planting, but resourceful city employees devised a plan to keep them watered and maintained, and most of the trees survived the long wait to autumn when they could be properly planted.

The trees were planted in September, in locations chosen by the city: vacant lots, water retention areas, the composting facility, and the new water tower area. Volunteers were sought to get the trees in the ground, and Ken -- along with Ted

Odendahl and his YIELD group, who works through the Boys and Girls Club in Freeport -- signed up for the job. They planted a variety of species -- oaks, evergreens, magnolias, and American beeches, among others -- and then YIELD did a follow-up watering the next week.

It is a small victory for local tree enthusiasts, who hope the city will continue to seek out creative ways to plant more trees to beautify our community and add green space that benefits our air quality. Many citizens believe that opportunities exist to plant additional trees in some of the right-of-way areas where the old ashes were removed, but the seemingly simple task is complicated by challenges with utilities, sidewalk repairs, and street issues in some neighborhoods. Other communities have a more aggressive replacement policy than Freeport. Some include planting multiple trees for every one that is removed.

Source: freepod.org

The FREEPOD episode was aired on October 31st.

** The Conservation Committee encourages all our members in Freeport to get involved, suggesting that they contact their alderperson to encourage more tree plantings in the city. Our Chapter has already sent a letter to the Mayor, alderpersons, and the City Manager encouraging them to continue the efforts to replace the many trees taken down these last few years. In our correspondence we included a list of appropriate trees to use in greenspaces and also suggestions for smaller trees that would be suitable for right-of-way areas. Freeport



In memory of *Acer saccharinum* of Stover Street, Freeport Illinois | Photo by Dan Barron

is both a designated Tree City USA and Bird City of Illinois., Both of these designations encourage planting trees for the benefit of city residents and wildlife, alike. Trees are important for carbon sequestration and provide homes and food for many critters, especially birds. They are a valuable cooling agent providing shade and decreasing temperatures in summer, which is becoming more important as our climate changes. Trees provide beauty and increase property values for city residents. Please consider contacting your local representatives to encourage them to continue the planting of trees in Freeport. You can find their contact information here: <https://cityoffreeport.org/>



ELKHORN CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 26TH: ELKHORN CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE GEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

Anyone who has been to the Elkhorn creek preserve can't help but be impressed by the biodiversity of the site. However, you might be surprised to learn that the same location supported an entirely different, but equally impressive ecosystem 450 million years ago, when a shallow sea covered the entire Midwest. Retired HCC Geology Instructor Steve Simpson led a group exploring the preserve and the fossil rich quarry just across the road.

Photos by Chris Kruger

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, Kee Henze,
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

rev 5/24

THANK YOU!

- Darrell Windle for his recent donation for our programs.
- Lynn Feaver for mowing firebreaks at both our preserves.
- Tim Smith for removing downed trees from trails at both our preserves.
- Jeremy Dixon for making repairs on Elkhorn Creek's wooden bridge.
- Recent field trip and event leaders/coordinators: Juliet Moderow, Steve Simpson, Mary Blackmore and Chris Kruger.
- Volunteers and supporters of our annual Birdseed Sale Fundraiser (see page 7).
- Tim Smith for winterizing our mower.
- Kriss Mulder for funding our campfire s'mores supplies.
- Nancy and Randy Ocken for hosting our preserves volunteer potluck and discussion.
- Mary Blackmore for organizing the campfires at our preserves.
- Fall seed collecting volunteers at both preserves: Bernard Lischwe, Kara Gallup, Ben Ryan, Mary Blackmore, Anne Straight, Judy Corrie, Paul Brown, Teresa Smith, Abbigail McWilliams, Pam Richards, Nancy Ocken and Mae Hemsworth.
- Carrie Newcomer concert volunteers Juliet Moderow, Don Miller, Mary Blackmore, Tim and Teresa Smith, and Laura Dufford – for their many tasks before, during and after the concert. Special thanks go to the anonymous donor for funding this awesome event.

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. 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

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

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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.*

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