

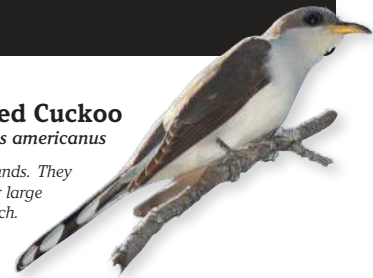


AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2021

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus



Yellow-billed Cuckoos are slender, long-tailed birds that manage to stay well hidden in deciduous woodlands. They usually sit stock still, even hunching their shoulders to conceal their crisp white underparts, as they hunt for large caterpillars. Bold white spots on the tail's underside are often the most visible feature on a shaded perch. Fortunately, their drawn-out, knocking call is very distinctive. Yellow-billed Cuckoos are fairly common in the East but have become rare in the West in the last half-century.

www.nwilaudubon.org

NIAS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Join us the first Tuesday of every month, September through May. All of our programs are open to the public.

Please note: schedule and location of programs are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions; please see newsletter and website for up-to-date information.

Most programs are held at the St John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd., in Freeport.

Most programs begin at 7 PM with announcements, followed by the program at 7:30 and then refreshments.

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

Please join us!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

2. Calendar Considerations
3. Field Trips
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Birdwalk Fun, Bird Health
5. Christian Cooper Visit
6. Birdathon Results, Earthfest
7. Preserves Stewardship
Fall Seed Collection
8. NIAS 50th Anniversary

About Bird Information:
birds.cornell.edu

Bird Photo: Magnus Manske
Program Photo:

Provided by the presenter

TO ZOOM OR NOT TO ZOOM, THAT IS THE QUESTION.

Because of the uncertainty as to where we will be in September with CDC protocol as it pertains to COVID-19, we are asking all people interested in attending the September membership program to contact us via nwilaudubon@gmail.com, or by calling Don Miller at 815-218-8024. Please let us know if you would like to attend the program in person, or if you would prefer to attend remotely via Zoom. We ask that you include a phone number as well so we have two ways to get back to you. You will receive an email in early September with our decision to hold the program in person or not. If we cannot meet in person, we will then send the Zoom link. – Don Miller, Program Chair



SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

COMMUNITY SCIENCE IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

"Some Heroes wear Hiking Boots"

Tuesday, September 7th | 7:00 pm

NIAS invites you to listen to Severson Dells Nature Center's naturalist/educator, Andrea Wallace Noble. Andrea's presentation will be on their "Community Scientist Program" which consists of several wildlife monitoring projects. It has been a major success and we will find out the whys and hows of it. Andrea will share with us some of the exciting whos that have been documented as well.

This past spring Severson Dells completed their 2nd annual "City Nature Challenge". "City Nature Challenge," is an international effort to document wildlife using iNaturalist, a free, fun, and easy to use app and website. The community's observations during this past year's challenge were staggering, making over 6,000 nature observations. It is a program that hopefully NIAS and its members will consider taking part in next year.

CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the uncertainty of future cancellations associated with COVID-19, please check our website calendar before any scheduled event or call any leader on the event. If you would like to be notified by email, please send a message to wnilaudubon@gmail.com to be placed on an email contact list.

O **Until August 7** – Birds in Art Exhibition at Freeport Art Museum

S **August 2** – Stewardship at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204.

Tools and snacks provided. Bring water and gloves. The 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. (S. Main St. crosses HWY 72 in Leaf River and becomes Leaf River Rd.).

S **August 4** – Stewardship at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 7-9 a.m. Details same as above.

F **August 9** – Field Trip: Summer Stroll on the Freeport Prairie, 9 a.m. See *Field Trips* on page 3

E **August 12** – Perseids Campfire at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. We hope to catch the peak of this annual meteor shower. Prairie walk at 7:30 p.m., campfire at 8:00.

S'mores will be provided. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight and water. The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds., with parking off of West Grove Rd. If the weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

F **August 21** – Field Trip: Water! 9-10 a.m. Oakdale Nature Preserve, 4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd., Freeport, IL. See *Field Trips* on page 3

M **September 7** – September Meeting and Program, Community Science in Northern Illinois – “Some Heroes wear Hiking Boots”. 7:00 p.m. Please see information regarding the September meeting “Covid” contingency on page 1.

F **September 18** – Field Trip: A walking sense journal, 5-6 p.m. Oakdale Nature Preserve, 4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd., Freeport, IL

E **September 19** – Almost-A-Full-Moon Campfire at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Stroll the trails at 6:30 p.m., campfire at 7:00.

S'mores will be provided. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight and water. The 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. (S. Main St. crosses HWY 72 in Leaf River and becomes Leaf River Rd.). If the weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

F **September 21** – Field Trip: Wilson Prairie Walk, 9-11 a.m. This trip is being rescheduled from June. See *Field Trips* on page 3

S **September 25** – Prairie Seed Collecting at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 2-4 p.m.

Tools, snacks and guidance provided. Bring water. For more information about our fall seed collecting schedule see the article on page 5 For directions to the preserve see August 12. If the weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204.

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



A group photo from the Audubon field trip to **Bald Hill Prairie Preserve**, to see the largest tree in Illinois. According to one attendee: “It was a fun trip and one of the most exciting finds was a field just bursting with Bobolinks!” (L to R) Mary Blackmore, Bob Remer, Anne Straight, and Anita Nienhuis. | Photo by Kara Gallup

EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

COVID-19 Precautions: Be sure to bring your face covering for when you are unable to social distance. Additionally, optical equipment, including spotting scopes, may not be shared.

SUMMER STROLL ON THE FREEPORT PRAIRIE

Monday, August 9, 9 a.m.

Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve
Walnut Rd, Freeport IL

Leader: Mary Blackmore
815-938-3204

We'll take a leisurely stroll on this local prairie gem to see Cylindric Blazing Star as well as other blooming forbs, and hopefully some butterflies. Owned by the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation, the Freeport Prairie was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1977.

Depending upon the temperature, we'll wander for an hour or two. Bring water and insect repellent. If the weather is questionable, call Mary. The Freeport Prairie is located on Freeport's south edge along Walnut Rd., a couple of blocks south of the beltline.



**BIRD SEED
SALE ALERT**

This year's **Bird Seed Sale** will be held **October 14-16**. Sale fliers will be mailed in September.

If you can volunteer to help sort orders or deliver seed, please call 815-238-9259 or 815-938-3204.

WATER!

Saturday, August 21, 9-10 a.m.

Oakdale Nature Preserve,
4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd., Freeport

Coordinator: Adam Moderow
815-541-5842

Weather you are camping for the weekend or out for an afternoon birding walk, you will always need water. What do you do if you don't have a water bottle or end up being out longer than you thought? How do plants and animals get water in the wild? On this hike through Oakdale, we will discuss and demonstrate different strategies for getting safe water and what we can learn from how our animal friends do it. It being a water focused lesson, be prepared to get wet. We anticipate not needing masks but please have one with you should guidelines change. Meet by the Mogle building, just off of the parking lot.

Contact Adam Moderow at adamoderow@gmail.com or at 815-541-5842 to register in case it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants.

A WALKING SENSE JOURNAL

Saturday, September 18, 5-6 p.m.

Oakdale Nature Preserve,
4433 S. Cranes Grove Rd., Freeport

Coordinator: Adam Moderow
815-541-5842

This guided journaling exercise will focus on how nature appeals to our different senses. We will walk through Oakdale, pausing along the way, and focus on how our individual senses interpret the natural world around us. Feel free to bring your own notebook and writing utensil. We should be done before dark but you may want to have a flashlight. We anticipate

not needing masks but please have one with you should guidelines change. Meet in the shelter/parking area of the Newell Tract (the part of Oakdale on the west side of Crane's Grove Rd.)

Contact Adam Moderow at adamoderow@gmail.com or at 815-541-5842 to register in case it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants.

WILSON PRAIRIE WALK

Tuesday, September 21
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Wilson Prairie Nature Preserve
Rural Pecatonica – contact Don for details

Leader: Don Miller
rivermiller@hotmail.com
or 815-218-8024.

This trip was cancelled in June and is now rescheduled. Don Miller will lead a tour of this privately owned 20-acre dry prairie which provides habitat for at least nine species of grasses and over 75 species of native flowers. It is located on a ridge with a great vista and an even more spectacular view on the ground. There is a 1/3 of a mile walk to get to the prairie from the parking lot, but the walk will be easy.

Please email or call Don to reserve one of the limited spots and to get directions: rivermiller@hotmail.com or 815-218-8024.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963
or timtreetsmith@gmail.com

THE PRESIDENT'S TWEET

Wow! That's about all I can say to express the sense of satisfaction over the events of the past few months. June was an incredible month and May wasn't bad either. We started with Migratory Bird Day at Taylor Park in May, then EarthFest 2021 in June at Debate Square, with Kendra Swanson capping off a gorgeous day. There have been four powerful and beautiful art exhibitions being held at the Freeport Art Museum from April through August, and June featured three days with Christian Cooper. Each event was special in its own way, but we were treated to a bonus to have Christian Cooper come from NYC to little old Freeport to spend time with us.

Christian blessed us by attending a birdwalk at Elkhorn Creek on Wednesday the morning of the 16th and the then spent the afternoon with kids from The Boys and Girls Club where he shared his story and his love for birding. At that time NIAS presented the binoculars and birding guidebooks to the Boys and Girls Club in what we hope will open up some future opportunities to bird together with some young birders. Christian opened up with the teens in the afternoon about the struggles people of color may face when they are simply trying to bird.

Wednesday evening culminated with a zoom/live event, which included 40+ in attendance and 80-90 others watching the Zoom from home. On Thursday Christian and several members of NIAS went on a short birding excursion with students from the Boys and Girls club to Taylor Park.

Honestly my favorite moment, out of many moments over the past month, occurred while I was sitting back in the corner of the live event on that Wednesday night. Christian Cooper was talking about his experience of birding while black, the ugly incident in Central Park and the issues of diversity and racism in this country. At one point one of the attendees, a person of color, thanked Christian for taking what was a terrifying experience and using it to share with others the positives that were realized by that experience. The Central Park experience was slightly more than a minute-long but it opened many eyes across the country, including my own about how racism even reaches down into

the experience of birding, which should be an enjoyable experience available for everyone.

However it was this individual's follow-up question, which touched my heart, when she expressed her frustration in not really knowing how to get started in birding. It was one of those moments where I realized everything had fallen into place to get us to a point where a diverse group of individuals were expressing their hearts desire to connect with nature in a more significant way. But due to barriers which had been constructed over time many people of color had been prevented from doing so. Now we know without a doubt we share a common interest in something that can draw us together.

As a group the NIAS Board and members have been wrestling with the issue of how do we reach people within our community to be more welcoming, to become more diverse and work towards common goals where more are involved. I'm proud to say we have taken some baby steps in the right direction and we can see the beginnings of a path which can lead to knocking down some of these barriers. There is common ground in birds and birding. It is obviously a common point of interest and a touch point for people of all ages and across all walks of life. Christian said it best when he indicated "Birds belong to no one but are here for everyone to enjoy." The diversity of birds should be enjoyed by the diversity of everyone who has the desire to do so.

– Gary G Gordon (g3)
NWIL Audubon President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Larry McCoy – Davis
John Bowles – Davis
Luke Kramer – Freeport
Neomi Hernandez – Elizabeth
Ricky Picha – Orangeville
Lillian Townsend – Stockton
Karen and Ernie Brose – Stockton
Doreen O'Brien – Winnebago

BIRDWALK FUN!

With the cancellation of the 2020 birdwalks, this spring's series of local weekly outings provided not only many great views of birds, bird behavior and other spring sights, but also the sorely missed opportunity for birdwatchers to enjoy each other's company! Among the many highlights: a very vocal Wood Thrush, great looks at a pair of Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, carpets of blooming spring wildflowers, soaring pelicans, a "Warbler Fest" (relatively speaking) at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, and close looks at a foraging Northern Waterthrush, perched Great Horned Owl and nesting Sandhill Crane.

Many thanks to the NIAS members who led the walks: Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford, Somer Elgin, Juliet Moderow and Anne Straight. We hope you can join us next year when we'll once again enjoy the beauty and wonder of the spring migration.

– Mary Blackmore

ON BIRD HEALTH

You may have seen recent reports from neighboring states regarding sick and dying songbirds. While we have not received similar reports here in Illinois, it's always a good idea to ensure bird feeders and baths are clean and maintained to help keep bird populations healthy:

- Clean bird feeders and bird baths frequently with a 10 percent bleach solution. This helps sanitize areas where birds congregate and can help prevent the spread of disease.
- Clean remaindered seed and waste underneath feeders and baths to minimize attraction from birds and other wildlife.
- Report any sick or dying birds to your local IDNR District Wildlife Biologist.

Contact information can be found at <https://www.wildlifeillinois.org/sidebar/contact-an-idnr-district-wildlife-biologist/>

CHRISTIAN COOPER VISIT TO FREEPORT

On June 15-17, Christian Cooper spent time in Freeport as part of a collaboration with the Freeport Art Museum, Boys and Girls Club of Stephenson County, and our chapter. We also expanded the audience by working with Great Lakes Audubon to help spread the word about his program.

More than a year ago, a racist confrontation Christian experienced while birdwatching in New York's Central Park exposed how racial inequities extend to the great outdoors. Since that incident, Cooper has used his voice to educate people on racial biases. We thank Barry Treu for contacting Christian and allowing our Chapter to be a part of such an important event for Freeport and surrounding community.

During his visit, we invited Christian to a bird walk at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve with our board members. It was enjoyable to compare notes on the birds he sees on the East Coast versus Midwest birds as well as share bird stories. During the walk, we were able to find Dickcissels, Eastern Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warblers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Eastern Kingbirds, Turkey Vultures, Baltimore Orioles, Cedar Waxwings, Gray Catbirds, and Barn Swallows. He told us that he truly enjoyed seeing prairie species and learning from our members about the bird and plant species at the preserve.

Later that afternoon, Christian spoke to the children and teens that were participating in Summer Day Camp at the Boys and Girls Club about the enjoyment of birdwatching. During his talk to the older youth, he also discussed his incident and reminded them that no one should be denied the joys of nature. He frequently said, "Birds belong to no one, but are here for everyone to enjoy." During this time, our



Christian Cooper speaking with children at the Boys and Girls Club in Freeport | Photo by Gary Gordon

chapter donated 18 sets of binoculars and 25 bird guides to the center. We plan to start a recurring bird club with the kids at the center in the fall.

In the evening, Christian spoke to an audience of 40 in-person attendees and nearly 100 Zoom attendees. Jennifer Johnson, Wild Indigo Associate from Great Lakes Audubon, facilitated an interview-style program where Christian shared his experiences of "birding while Black" and spoke about the importance of

creating a bridge for African Americans to join and feel welcome within the birding community.

The next day, Christian and members of our chapter led a bird walk with 30 children and staff from the Boys and Girls Club at Taylor Park. The youth were able learn how to use binoculars and find birds. The highlights included soaring American White Pelicans, raucous Red-winged Blackbirds, and many swallows. Plus, the children enjoyed finding frogs and a curious raccoon in a tree.

We thank the Freeport Art Museum for being a valuable partner in our efforts to ensure equity and inclusion in birdwatching and for Christian Cooper for helping us start the conversation in our area.

We also thank Audubon Great Lakes for streaming the event. We also thank them for facilitating our chapter to receive an Audubon in Action Grant from National Audubon Society to help support our mission as well as fund the binoculars donation and this program.

Our Chapter values equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work and we are committed to provide a welcoming and judgement-free atmosphere where members of all experience levels, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate. •



Christian Cooper Christian and members of our chapter led a bird walk with 30 children and staff from the Boys and Girls Club at Taylor Park | Photo by Juliet Moderow

BIRDATHON TIE!

EARTH FEST 2021

As was reported in the last newsletter, our two Birdathon teams – Harlan’s Harem and Team Keith – each observed 96 species on our May 2 Birdathon, the first team tie in our 42 years of Birdathon history. So . . . we’ll now need a coin toss to determine which team gets possession of the coveted Cardinal-on-a-Stick trophy!



Many thanks go to each Birdathon birder: Jesse Akins, Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Harlan and Judy Corrie, Mason and Jeremy Dixon, Kara and Bob Gallup, Gary Gordon, Dylan and Kent Lewis, Bernard Lischwe, Mark Keister, Juliet and Willow Moderow, Teresa Smith and Anne Straight.

Though Birdathon birders were pleased with the team tie, they were concerned about the absence of many birds on Birdathon Day, especially warblers. A number of birding sites were eerily quiet. Whether the cause was a change in the typical spring migration pattern, a local reflection of declining populations of many species, or a combination of factors, it was a distinct wake-up call that we need to do all that we can to reverse these declines.

The Birdathon itself is one way we can help. Funds raised from this event support many habitat expansion and education initiatives for organizations working to protect birds. Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored a Birdathon birder!

THOSE ORGANIZATIONS ARE:

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

The day was practically perfect for our June 5th Earth Fest event. There was a good crowd for all activities and programs, especially considering everyone was just emerging from their holes from the last year. We really appreciate our partners for being a part of Earth Fest: Freeport Art Museum, Freeport Public Library, IL Extension Service, Your Core Being, and Environmental Study Group. The programs by Northern IL Raptor Rehab and Education and Hoo Haven were, as always very interesting and educational. The activities by the Freeport Art Museum and IL Extension Service were engaging and fun. And the musical performance by Kendra Swanson was the perfect way to end the event. Her charming songs about birds and the natural world, canoeing and all things family were so enjoyable!

A big thanks go out to all who helped with the event: NIAS Conservation Committee-Juliet Moderow, Gary Gordon, Candy Colby & Don Miller and for all who helped at the event: Tammy Kromm, Kiersten Kromm, Elizabeth Boettner, Jack Colby, Jeff Shriver, Teresa Smith, Jeremy Dixon, Paul Brown. All your help was appreciated!!

Below are the words to Kendra Swanson’s song “Neighbirds’. Kendra would love to see some more versus for this song – give it a try! If you feel inspired, send your versus to me at the email address below. Kendra said she’d record them and we could play the song at an upcoming meeting.

Neighbirds

By Kendra Swanson

*Chickadee, chickadee, small black cap
Nuthatch with a cape on her back
Sparrow sparrow go away
(house sparrows, obviously...or sub
“cowbird” or “starling”)
Waxwing, waxwing come and play*

Neighbirds! Neighbirds! Come on out and play, birds!

Neighbirds! Neighbirds! You always make my day, birds!

Redstart, start! and stop on by!

Hummingbird and butterfly.

Plenty of room for bats all night!

Plenty of room for a jaybird fight!

I see you, owl says whooo?!

Grackle, goose, and grosbeak too!

Murder, murmur, flock and chime,

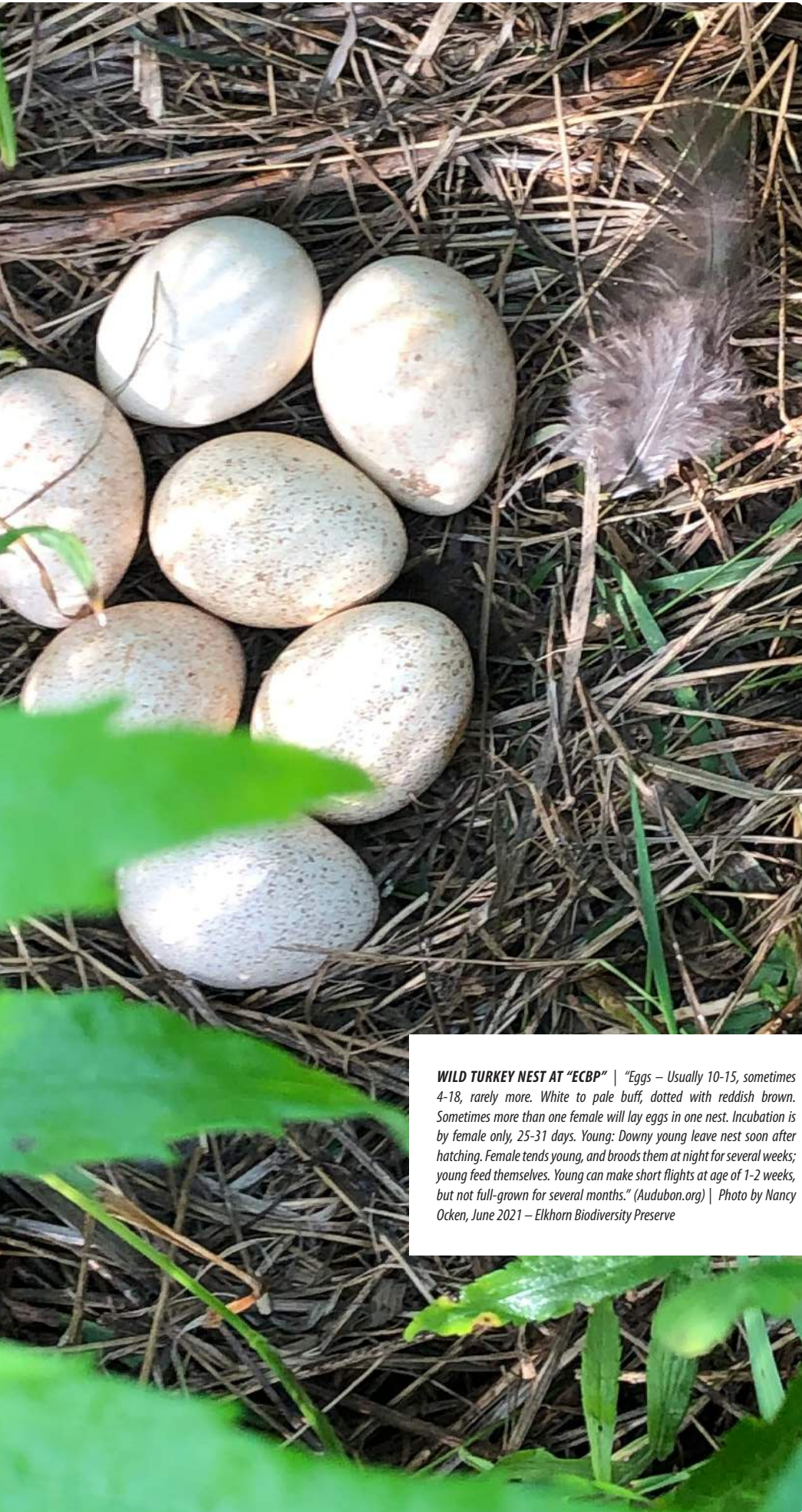
C’mon you birds, its feeding time!

– Laura Dufford
Conservation Chair (past)
lauradufford@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



- Stewardship volunteers from May and June: Judy Corrie, Paul Brown, Kara Gallup, Mary and Morgan Blackmore, Carol Redmore, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Juliet and Adam Moderow, Teresa Smith, Bernard and Deb Lischwe, John Gvozdjak, Mason and Jeremy Dixon, Ernie Brose, Anne Straight, Don Miller and Merry Blake.
- Lynn Feaver for mowing trails at our preserves.
- Jeremy Dixon for replacing the kiosk display panes that were vandalized at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve.
- Juliet Moderow for all of her hard work and heartfelt dedication in organizing the Christian Cooper events in June.
- Laura Dufford for leading our July 1 field trip.
- Jack and Debbie Barron at Freeport Press for donating the printing of the birding brochures
- Barry Treu for his recent monetary donation



WILD TURKEY NEST AT "ECBP" | "Eggs – Usually 10-15, sometimes 4-18, rarely more. White to pale buff, dotted with reddish brown. Sometimes more than one female will lay eggs in one nest. Incubation is by female only, 25-31 days. Young: Downy young leave nest soon after hatching. Female tends young, and broods them at night for several weeks; young feed themselves. Young can make short flights at age of 1-2 weeks, but not full-grown for several months." (Audubon.org) | Photo by Nancy Ocken, June 2021 – Elkhorn Biodiversity Preserve

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER PRESERVES STEWARDSHIP

With the exceptions of August 2 and 4 (see calendar on page 2), stewardship for these months will be scheduled on shorter notice by using our volunteer contact list.

To get on the list call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 or e-mail Nancy Ocken at rnocken@gmail.com. We will try to provide as much notice as possible.

*Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves and a hat. Bring water, insect repellent, and gloves. **Snacks, equipment and guidance will be provided.***

FALL PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTING

Every September and October we collect prairie seeds at our preserves for planting in less diverse areas of those same sites. Our only long-range scheduled collecting outing at our Elkhorn Creek Preserve is September 25, 2-4 p.m. (see calendar on page 2).

An October date for Silver Creek will be in your next newsletter. However, we will be seed collecting on many more days on shorter notice as weather permits. To get on the contact list for those seed collecting outings, call Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204 or e-mail Nancy Ocken at rnocken@gmail.com. When contacted you may join us if you are available, or if not, we will catch you another time. We typically gather seeds for two hours during late morning or afternoon.

This is a wonderful way for you to volunteer to help our restoration efforts! Seed collecting is an easy, leisurely task. Novices always are welcome. There will be a leader to point out which plants to pick seed from. Snacks and equipment will be provided. Wear long pants and long sleeves and bring water.

Seed collecting is a fun way to spend a couple of hours on nice fall days. We hope you can join us!

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, originally named Stephenson County Audubon Society, was formed on June 10, 1971 and chartered in 1972 as a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. We wanted to celebrate our amazing 50 years as a chapter by showcasing past accomplishments, stories, and photos from the beginning in the newsletters for this year and honoring the many people that were significant in the establishment of this chapter. Many of the stories you will see will come from a scrapbook containing newspaper articles from 1971-1981 and from current Audubon members.

For this edition of sharing past memories of the Society, we wanted to highlight the relationship with Oakdale Nature Preserve and our chapter's efforts in outreach with the community. In November of 1975, the Stephenson County Audubon Society helped reopen the Bill Gelwicks Nature Center at Oakdale Nature Preserve on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 pm staffed by volunteer Audubon members.



Gail Kaliebe With Jack-In-The-Pulpit

Gail Kaliebe adding real berries from jack-in-the-pulpit to the diorama

Since the start of the society, most of the public meetings were held at the Freeport Public Library but around the time of the reopening of the nature center, many of the meetings were soon held at Oakdale and the tradition of "share-a-dish suppers" began, a tradition that we still continue today (although we call it potluck now!).

Many programs were featured at Oakdale, including "Bird Watch Talks" by Keith Blackmore, dedication of the Phyllis Hermann Diehl Memorial Wildflower Trail at Oakdale, slideshows of plant, animal, and student activities by Carl Sandburg Middle School Science teacher Mrs. Betty Mickel, slideshows from Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle from their visit to National Audubon Society Corkscrew Sanctuary,

a presentation by Leland Hansen on "The Vanishing Prairie" and many, many more amazing events.

Regular monthly programs in 1975 included the following: Charles Luthin describing his experience at Hunt Hill National Audubon Camp; a showing of a film "It All Began with Birds" that tells the history of the Audubon Society; a program about the energy crisis "Nuclear Energy – Tiger or Pussycat" presented by John Hull of Freeport High School; a program "A Prairie is a Special Thing" by Mrs. Mimi Berling; "Bees and Beekeeping" presented by James Kotke; and a showcase of wood bird carvings by Mrs. Peg Loomis, a teacher from Freeport High School.

"After a short five years in Freeport, Audubon has helped to reveal the whole natural world to the community...These members are dedicated to the preservation of the ecology of the area. They want us to help save the natural world." — Journal Standard, Oct. 1976

Monthly programs in 1976 included the following: A discussion of the declining endangered Bald Eagle species with information from Jack Armstrong; "The Story of the Mushroom" and "The Prairie is our Garden," both presented by Mrs. Vivian Maxon; and "Floating the Colorado River of the Grand Canyon" presented by Mrs. Emma Tucker.

October 1976 marked the first Audubon Nature and Art Fair at Oakdale, which drew 600 people. Artists featured included Arde Thvedt Burt, who donated her watercolor painting entitled "Woodland Country" plus other artists and crafters.

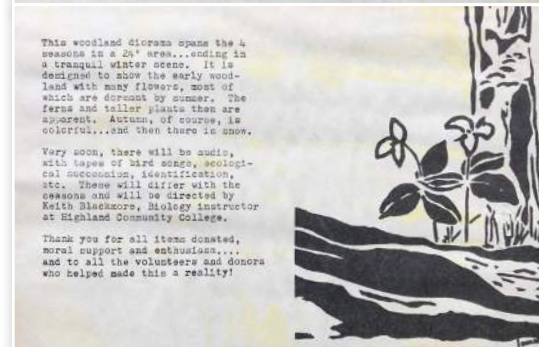
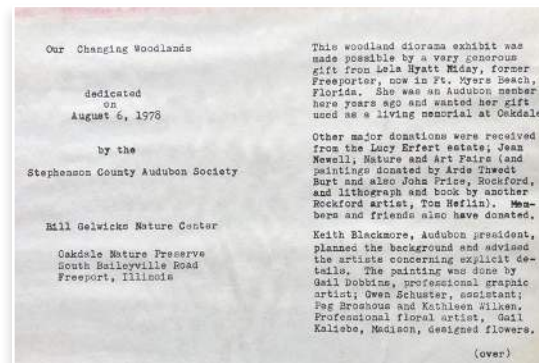


Keith Blackmore With Nature Litter

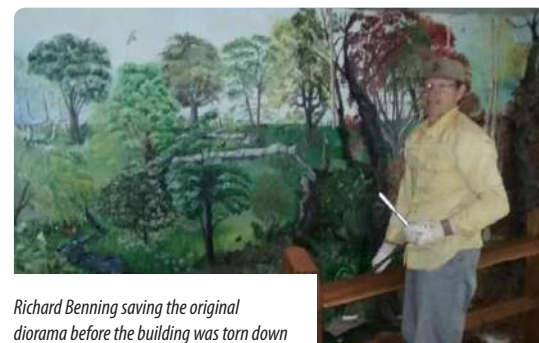


Gail Dobbins Put in 400 Hours Of Painting

(top left) A 1978 photo showing Keith Blackmore working on the Oakdale woodland diorama adding real leaf litter. (bottom left) Gail Dobbins, professional graphic artist, put in 400 hours of painting the diorama. (right) Gail Dobbins & Gail Kaliebe working on the diorama



Copy of the actual brochure explaining the woodland diorama and how it was made possible by Lela Hyatt Miday



Richard Benning saving the original diorama before the building was torn down

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:
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Newsletter Layout | Dan Barron
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815-541-3261 | dan@beewise.us

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Seed Processing at the Nienhuis
Deluxe Heated Shed in 2010



Food for Thought,
November 2010



Seed Collection at ECBP
in October 2010



Stewardship work
in 2010

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Audubon Society**

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Chesney@ilhousegop.org

90th District Rep. Tom Demmer

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