



FEBRUARY – MARCH 2022

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

A chapter of the National Audubon Society



Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus*

Red-bellied Woodpeckers bring bright colors and entertaining action to bird feeders. If you live near any wooded patches, you may be able to attract them using feeders filled with suet (in winter), peanuts, and sometimes sunflower seeds. They've even been spotted drinking nectar from hummingbird feeders. Dead trees may encourage the birds to forage naturally or even nest in your yard, and they may feed on berry trees such as hawthorn or mountain-ash in fall or winter

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!

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8. Christmas Bird Count Results
9. Thank You!

About Bird Information: birds.cornell.edu
Bird Photo: N. Lewis (NPS)



MEET THE "FRIENDS OF ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES"

Presenter, Director Amy Doll
February 1st | 7:00pm
Zoom only meeting

Launched in 2020, the mission of Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves is to support the Illinois Nature Preserves System by advocating for and

finding increased support, resources, funding, and staff for the system and assisting local volunteer communities as they help restore and care for their Illinois biodiversity reserves.

The Friends work to promote, support, build constituency, and resources for the nation's stewardship communities at seven preserves in six counties, raising funds for individual preserves, and building partnerships with preserve owners

Our state has many important original prairie, savanna, and woodland remnants that have been dedicated and protected as nature preserves and land and water reserves. But these sites desperately

need the help that comes only from a dedicated community of volunteer stewards. The Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves is providing that support. Attend the program to hear of their activities as well as a photo visit to some of the preserves.

Amy Doll is the first Director of the "Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves," hired in March of 2021. Amy joins the "Friends" with more than 15 years of Illinois public lands experience, most recently leading the DeKalb Park District for the past 5 years. She brings her passion and energy for conservation and natural lands protection, along with experience in developing collaborative partnerships. Amy took a leadership role in the efforts to protect Bell Bowl Prairie in Rockford, IL this past fall. Thank you, Amy, for that! •



WOODPECKERS OF ILLINOIS

Presenter, Peggy Doty
March 1st | 7:00pm
TBD Zoom or live

Woodpeckers are incredibly unique and have been around for millions of years. They require specific habitats and are very noticeable by their sound and movement. There are seven species of woodpeckers living in Illinois habitats. What many may not know is how critical woodpeckers are to some of our common backyard birds. This program is valuable for the beginner birder as well as the veteran one. You won't want to miss it.

Peggy received her Bachelor of Science in zoology with a specialization in wildlife management from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. She also holds a Master of Education from Northern Illinois University. Doty received the 2007 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Northern Illinois University's College of Education. The award was for her contributions to the field of outdoor and environmental education. •

CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS

P February 1 – Monthly Program, Meet the “Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves”, 7:00pm (*Zoom only meeting*)

M February 2 – Conservation Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm via Zoom. This meeting is open to anyone interested in conservation. (*see page 8 for details*)

F February 19 – “Shelter” field trip, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (*see page 3 for details*)

P March 1 – Woodpeckers of Illinois, 7:00pm (*TBD Zoom or live*)

M March 2 – Conservation Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm via Zoom. This meeting is open to anyone interested in conservation. (*see page 8 for details*)

F March 11 – Skunk Cabbage Field Trip, 1:30 – 4:30 pm (*see page 3 for details*)

E March 14 – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 pm (*see page 5 for details*)

F March 19 – “Springtime Scavenger Hunt” field trip, 10:00 – 11:00 am (*see page 3 for details*)

E March 19 – Woodcock Watch, 7 pm (*see page 5 for details*)

F March 26 – Mississippi Waterfowl Field Trip, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm (*see page 3 for details*)

E March 29 – Woodcock Watch, 7:00 pm (*see page 5 for details*)

O April 9 – Annual Midwest Crane Count (*see page 8 for details*)

E May 14 – World Migratory Bird Day event (*see page 8 for details*)



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

The NIAS Board has determined that we will Zoom all programs through the February 2022 program. At that time, we will determine where we are at with COVID and determine what will take place in the following months. Please email nwilaudubon@gmail.com if interested in the program and a Zoom link will be sent out a week before the program date.

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 nwilaudubon@gmail.com to be placed on an email contact list.

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.

MAKE SURE YOU CHECK OUT THE UPDATES TO OUR WEBSITE!

We have new web pages that share information about native plants, reducing threats to birds, and climate change.

nwilaudubon.org

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Home About Us Birding Our Preserves Conservation Get Involved News and Events

SEARCH

KIDS & FAMILIES

“Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher.” – William Wordsworth

News and Events

Check out our full **calendar** of activities, events, and educational opportunities. You're sure to find something to interest you. Please join us!

Events include:

- Monthly educational programs and issues discussions
- Local bird walks
- Field trips
- Preserve work days

For more details, see the current [newsletter](#).

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022
Monthly Program: Janisse Ray, Wild Spectacle: Seeking Wonders in a World Beyond Humans... >

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, 2022
Movie Night: Other Side of the Hill... >

SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 2022

Conserving Our World

The good stewardship of planet Earth. This cause compels and motivates us at the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society (NIAS). Of course we love birds, but since our founding in 1971 we have embraced a bigger picture, emphasizing the interrelatedness of **resource protection, habitat conservation, and connecting people with nature.**

With a membership of more than **300 families**, our chapter **owns, manages, and works to protect two local biodiversity preserves** — each with more than 40 acres and hundreds of identified species of plants, animals, and birds.

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society values equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of our work. Audubon is for everyone. We celebrate the biodiversity in our natural world and we celebrate the diverse members of the human species. We are dedicated to provide a welcoming and judgement-free atmosphere where members of all experience levels, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate. Conservation efforts are strengthened by diverse experiences, ideas, and knowledge, which will benefit nature and the humans who seek to protect it.

PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS

"SHELTER"

Saturday, February 19
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

Coordinator: Adam Moderow,
815-541-5842

One of the most difficult things about being in nature during winter is staying warm. Having a fire is great but better than that is knowing how to build a shelter to hold that heat. In this lesson, we will discuss and demonstrate materials and techniques of constructing a simple shelter in the winter. We will then get our hands dirty and put up our own small shelter. We aren't building a house, but we can keep the heat in and the snow out. Make sure to dress warmly and be prepared to dig in the snow. 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.

SKUNK CABBAGE WALK AT FRANKLIN CREEK

Friday, March 11
1:30 – 4:30 pm

Leader: Mary Blackmore,
815-938-3204 (call to register)

Join us as we stroll the hard-surfaced paths at the Franklin Creek State Natural Area in northern Lee County looking for that wetland harbinger of spring, Skunk

Cabbage. If the weather conditions are right we may see the interesting patterns that are made when heat from the growing Skunk Cabbage melts a circle of snow or ice around the emerging plant.

Predicting plant emergence is an educated guess. After you have called to register, Mary will call you if cancellation is necessary.

We will car-caravan from the Forreston municipal lot (adjacent to the library) at 1:30. Each driver will be given a map in case we get separated.

SPRINGTIME SCAVENGER HUNT

Saturday, March 19
10:00 – 11:00 am

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

Coordinator: Adam Moderow,
815-541-5842

As spring begins, the animals and plants around us begin to make their voices heard and colors seen. Just like we get more active as the weather begins to warm, so does the natural world around us. In this lesson, we will look for the signs of that increased activity. There will be a brief explanation and then a scavenger hunt through Oakdale to see what is poking through the snow. We will divide into teams and see who can find the most signs of spring. Make sure to dress warmly and have your eyes and ears ready. 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.

SPRING MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATERFOWL

Saturday, March 26
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Leader: Mary Blackmore,
815-938-3204 (call to register)

Join us as we look for migrating waterfowl on the Mississippi River south of Savanna. Usually a wide variety of both diving and dabbling ducks can be observed, with males in their colorful breeding plumage. We also should see grebes, pelicans, eagles, geese and some songbirds. Hopefully we'll spot some cranes and swans as well.

Meet at the Spring Lake parking lot just off of HWY 84 about 2 miles south of Savanna. Several downstream sites also will be visited, ending at Lock and Dam #13. Bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay past noon.

THE 2022 BANQUET

Many people have been asking about the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society banquet. We all miss seeing each other and miss sharing a meal together. We normally host the banquet in April each year at Highland Community College. For 2022 we have made the decision to postpone the Northwest Illinois Audubon banquet until September. To help minimize the spread of COVID-19 Highland Community College is following the social distancing and masking requirements established by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control. Thus we would be limited to a much smaller crowd in the Conference Room at Highland Community College and would need to make other logistical changes. We have made the decision to postpone the 2022 banquet until September in hopes that the COVID-19 virus situation will be improved allowing more people to attend the banquet and enjoy a delightful meal together with one another.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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

NEW SPECIES AT OUR PRESERVES

New species continue to be observed at our preserves. Many thanks to everyone who helped to locate and identify these additions. For a complete species list for each preserve, consult our website or call Mary at 815-938-3204.

– Mary Blackmore

ELKHORN CREEK (6)

Birds

Blue-winged Teal

Forbs

Honewort

Yellow Giant Hyssop

Stickseed

Insects

Bald-faced Hornet

Trees

Hardy Catalpa

SILVER CREEK (6)

Forbs

Blue Cohosh

Wild Quinine

Smooth Blue Aster

Insects

Twelve-spotted Skimmer

Common Green Darner

Mammals

Mink



Bald-faced Hornet
Dolichovespula maculata | photo by Dan Barron

PRESIDENT'S TWEET

As I prep this president's tweet, we have just entered 2022 and we are fresh off our announcement and excitement of Freeport being named as one of the first three Cities to receive the designation of Bird City Illinois. There was a tremendous amount of work which went into meeting the criteria required to become a Bird City. This work stretched across several different groups and programs in the community. It is fully hoped that many more communities in Illinois will begin working toward achieving that same designation. Much of the planning and development of Bird City Illinois was made in cooperation with Bird City Wisconsin. The Bird City Wisconsin program currently has 103 participating communities and so we are hoping for similar growth and activity throughout Illinois.

On a less than positive note we recently made the decision to postpone our Annual banquet and are moving it to the Fall.

Of course we are optimistic that by then the community will be trending in the right direction.

As we hunker down over the next few Winter weeks know that as a board, we continue to meet and make plans for spring and summer. In addition we will be receiving some additional training in diversity and inclusion as it is our continued goal to become more creative in our outreach to the community in which we live.

Further details will follow in the next newsletter or via separate email. Please stay tuned and we look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly programs which are currently being held by zoom. Keep those feeders filled and keep in touch.

– G3 aka Gary G Gordon



ELKHORN CREEK WINTER PHOTO JOURNAL

- A tree being 'girdled' by deer...doing our work for us! (top)
- Spotted evidence of squirrels eating Hedge apple seeds. (middle)
- A nice stand of Coralberry (striking pinkish hue). (bottom)

– Kara Gallup



ELKHORN CREEK WOODCOCK WATCHES



American Woodcock by Dan Barron

PLEASE CALL THE LISTED LEADER TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE.

Monday, March 14, 7:00 pm

Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204

Saturday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Leader: Anne Straight, 815-938-3263

Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 pm

Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204

Join us for any or all of these evening outings to watch and listen for American Woodcocks performing their amazing courtship display. It will be especially gratifying to witness the return of these birds after what may be a long hard winter.

The woodcock's "Sky Dance" itself is part ground-strutting and part zig-zagging flight, barely visible in the early evening sky. More fascinating perhaps are the sounds that go with it, the repetitious vocal "peent!" followed by the twittering and chirping sounds made when air rushes through primary flight feathers during the bird's flight. On a quiet evening, it is pure audio magic.

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

The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Roads. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd.

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

– Mary Blackmore

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Maryann Trimble – *Dakota*
Carole Bertram – *Freeport*
Dave and Cathy Ott – *Rockford*

DAVE DERWENT

A GREAT FRIEND OF NATURE

We were saddened to learn that Dave Derwent, a long-time chapter member and friend, died last August at his home in Freeport. Dave's curiosity about and advocacy for nature were boundless and were with him wherever he was.



Dave was one of our three tour leaders at our annual Butterfly Festival.

Perhaps his love for insects is where it began, as he, his father and his brother collected, learned about and photographed insects early on. That vast collection has found a home at the Burpee Museum in Rockford.

Dave contributed to our chapter in many ways. He often helped distribute seed at our annual Bird Seed Sale, and joined us for stewardship sessions, especially at the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve which was dear to Dave's heart. He was one of our three tour leaders at our annual Butterfly Festival, enthusiastically talking about all the insects he showed to his tour groups, not just the butterflies. I remember how excited he was when he spotted his first Buckeye at Elkhorn Creek. I also remember how excited I was when he would bring his homemade ice cream (peach was the best!) to our spring and fall potlucks. Dave donated many items to our annual banquet silent auction over the years, including some of those stunning insect photographs. He even took a turn serving on our board.

Dave's connection to and protection of nature was most telling in the work he did on his own at local sites, primarily the Pecatonica Prairie Path and the Freeport

Prairie. He spent tens of thousands of hours lopping brush, collecting seed, pulling sweet clover and other tasks. I was amazed at the quantity of seed he was able to collect along the prairie path, using it to overseed disturbed areas along that trail. Keith jokingly referred to Dave as a "human combine," but he was only half joking. Dave's vigor and endurance were phenomenal. In recognition of all that Dave did, our chapter presented him with our Land Stewardship Award.

One of my favorite memories of Dave was the tour of his backyard prairie garden following a field trip on the Freeport Prairie. He had managed to grow dozens of prairie species, including some that are quite conservative, under pretty challenging conditions in the middle of Freeport. Dave proudly pointed to his Queen-of-the-Prairie which was blooming profusely. At the time I remember thinking, "One person did all this. Wow."

And as I write this today, reflecting upon my memories of Dave, the same thought occurs to me: "One person did all this. Wow."

– Mary Blackmore

NEW HOME FOR MARTIN HOUSE

For over 13 years, the large Purple Martin house at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve has been a landmark, a structure seen long before you entered the parking area. In December, the house was moved to a location where it can be used for its original intended purpose.

Keith and Mary Blackmore donated the house in the spring of 2008, with high hopes of attracting Purple Martins to our preserve. Unfortunately, nest box competitors became problematic with first European Starlings, then later, Eurasian Tree Sparrows (ETS). The ETS nesting attempts became so relentless that the house chambers eventually had to be closed. With no signs that ETS nesting attempts were waning in the area (they regularly attempt to nest in many of our bluebird boxes), Mary suggested that we find a new home for the martin house.

After unsuccessful attempts to give the martin house to organizations that have preserves, an individual from Lee County accepted the house. He will repaint the house over the winter and have it installed in suitable habitat in time for the spring return of Purple Martins.

Many thanks go to Tim and Teresa Smith for contacting interested parties, removing dirt from the base of the house and replacing the soil after the house pole was extracted. Thanks also go to Ben Sasscer for using his tractor and attachment to extract the pole and its sizable complement of concrete.

Our hope is that the Purple Martin house finally will become home to Purple Martins.



Volunteers take a break after installing the Purple Martin house in 2008: (L to R) Don Southard, Keith Blackmore, Mary Blackmore and Anne Straight

FREEPORT IS A BIRD CITY OF ILLINOIS!



Modeled after the highly successful Bird City Wisconsin, the Audubon Council of Illinois is pleased to announce Bird City Illinois beginning in 2022. The Audubon Council of Illinois (ACI) is a coalition of Illinois chapters of the National Audubon Society. Their mission is to cooperate with Chapters of the National Audubon Society in promoting sound environmental legislation emphasizing conservation of State natural resources, in sponsoring environmental educational initiatives that transcend Chapter boundaries, in enhancing inter-Chapter relationships, and in fostering awareness of Audubon Council's activities.

The ACI has been working to develop this program for the past two years. Three Illinois chapters (Lake County Audubon, Northwest Illinois Audubon, and Sinnissippi Audubon) have piloted the model during that time. As a result, on Monday December 20, 2021 three cities received the designation of Bird City Illinois. Those cities include Freeport, Rockford, and Waukegan. All three demonstrated that they met the necessary criteria within six key categories in order to receive the designation.

THE CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- *Habitat Creation, Protection, and Monitoring of Natural Communities*
- *Limiting or Removing Threats to Birds*
- *Education and Inclusion*
- *Climate and Sustainability*
- *Annual World Migratory Bird Day Event*
- *Bird City Resolution passed at City Council*

The mission of Bird City Illinois is to encourage all communities in Illinois to implement sound bird-conservation practices by offering public recognition to those that succeed in enhancing the environment for birds and educating the public about the relationship between birds and people and how that contributes to a healthy community. ACI Board President, Jennifer Kuroda, stated, "Birds are so important to Illinois: economically, aesthetically, ecologically, and scientifically. Illinois has huge a responsibility in keeping bird populations robust and thriving."

The grassland birds that call Illinois prairies home are amongst the fastest-declining species of birds in North America. Grassland dependent bird species have lost 53% of their population over the past 50 years. (Rosenberg et al. 2019). These species have suffered due to conversion to agriculture, urban development, and habitat fragmentation.

NIAS president Gary Gordon states " it is important to realize that care and concern for birds and for their habitat begins at the local level. Community programs and involvement, such as the practices which form the foundation for becoming a Bird City, rely upon individuals in the community to achieve these goals."

If a community meets at least nine criteria with the six categories of the program, it becomes an official Bird City. In addition, the public officials and citizens should demonstrate an active and ongoing commitment to the protection and conservation of bird populations and their habitats. In addition to completing an application for Bird City Illinois, the designation also requires filing annual reports and reapplying after three years.

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society worked with many community organizations within Freeport to accomplish the Bird City Initiative and documented many successful programs and events that support bird conservation. These organizations included the Freeport Art Museum, Freeport Park District, Jane Addamsland Park Foundation, Park Hills Golf Course Bluebird volunteers, and University of Illinois Extension of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago County. The City of Freeport met 18 criteria to accomplish the goal of becoming a Bird City in Illinois. Overall, the most



ACI members Juliet Moderow from NIAS, Jennifer Kuroda from Sinnissippi Audubon, and Glen Moss from Lake County Audubon, present the Bird City street sign that was earned for their cities this December 2021.



Juliet Moderow, Mayor Jodi Miller, Gary Gordon, and Public Works director Rob Boyer | photo by Jane Lethlean

successful areas are in Category 1: Habitat Creation, Protection, and Monitoring of Natural Communities and Category 3: Public Education and Inclusion.

Our chapter is proud of the accomplishments of the multiple organizations in the City of Freeport and hope this can encourage other groups in the area to pursue similar sustainable efforts. We look forward to achieving many more criteria in the future as we review and/or renew the Bird City Status every year.

For more information about Bird City Illinois and how your city can become one, visit: <http://auduboncil.org/>

– Juliet Moderow

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The Northwest Illinois Audubon Society participated for the 46th time in the Christmas Bird Count on December 18, 2021. Our very first count was done on December 15, 1974, and there have been three years since then when we have had to cancel the count due to inclement weather. This is part of a much larger effort conducted by the National Audubon Society consisting of approximately 2500 counts in North America, Latin America and even a few of the Pacific Islands. This year marks the 122nd time that the CBC has been done on the larger scale.

We again had to adjust our counting procedure due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. However the procedural changes have not diminished the scientific value of the CBC. Our count has seen about the same number of field counters during the last two years with a slightly increased number of feeder counters than before the pandemic. Our count circle has remained unchanged; a fifteen mile diameter circle centered in Read Park in Freeport. We only count birds observed within that territory and on the day of the count.

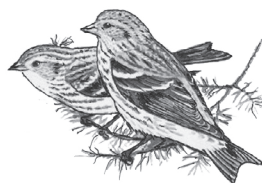
Our count totals are very interesting this year. We tallied a total of 7264 birds, which is roughly the same as last year. The species count for this year is 50, which is the highest ever in the history of our count circle. One more count week species (Great Horned Owl) was observed. Count week observations can be up to three days before or after, but not on, the count day. They are not included in our tallies. Two species, Snowy Owl and Winter Wren, were observed for the first time for our count circle. Both species have been observed in our area many times, but never before on count day. Snowy Owls are denizens of the open tundra and move south when food becomes scarce in their normal range. Winter Wren is the smallest species of the North American wrens, and they are very secretive in behavior. Bald Eagles were seen for the 18th year in a row, and a Carolina Wren was seen for the 5th year in a row. A Red-shouldered Hawk was seen for only the second time on count day, and Tundra Swans for only the third time. The following species tallied highest ever

numbers for our count circle; Rock Pigeon, Hairy Woodpecker, American Robin and American Goldfinch. American Tree Sparrow numbers were way down this year after being way up last year. Eurasian Tree Sparrow has been observed only the last four years, and this year we tallied more of them than the other three years.

A complete list of species observed, and the number of individuals representing each species, can be accessed online at www.christmasbirdcount.org. However it will take a while for results to be entered into the database. This year's top ten list is as follows; European Starling (1798), Canada Goose (1434), Rock Pigeon (817), House Sparrow (798), Dark-eyed Junco (365), Mallard (293), American Crow (287), House Finch (176) and Black-capped Chickadee and Northern Cardinal tied (146).

Thank you to the following individuals for helping with this year's count. Field observers were Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore, Jeremy Dixon, Leah Dixon, Mason Dixon, Wyatt Dixon, Laura Dufford, Doug Dufford, Gary Gordon, Mary Pat Gordon, Mark Keister, Teresa Smith, Tim Smith, Anne Straight, Anita Nienhuis and John Walt. Feeder observers were Harlan Corrie, Judy Corrie, Somer Elgin, Chris Fye, Luke Kramer, Richard Luthin, Fran Shriver, Jeff Shriver, Rex Sides, Lurane Slaght and Patty Weik. Special thanks go to Tim Smith for storing our CBC data in digital format.

– Richard Benning
Freeport Circle
Christmas Bird Count Compiler



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Our Conservation Committee continues to work on educating the community about issues of concern related to preserving the health of our environment. If you would like to share your ideas and work with a great group of friends to help with events in the community related to the conservation of our environment this would be a good group for you. New members are welcome to join the group. We currently meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 - 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Contact Teresa at nwilaudubon@gmail.com if you would like to participate in the Conservation Committee.

2022 ANNUAL MIDWEST CRANE COUNT

Mark your calendar on Saturday, April 9 for the Annual Midwest Crane Count. The count begins at 5:30 am and includes 2 hours of early morning birding. The crane count is a great opportunity to listen to the sounds of the early morning. The quietness of the early mornings makes the crane count memorable for participants.

No experience with crane counting is necessary. Inexperienced counters will be partnered with someone who has participated in the event in the past. The crane count can include some walking on trails but walking long distances is not required for participation.

If you are interested in participating in the Midwest Crane Count in Stephenson County or would like more information about the event contact Teresa at 815-238-3963.

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Our chapter will be working on our second annual World Migratory Bird Day event for May 14, 2022. The theme is to focus on Light Pollution.

If you would like to help with the planning of this year's event, contact Juliet at nwilaudubon@gmail.com

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 | Gary Gordon
Vice-President | Pam Richards
Secretary | Fran Shriver
Treasurer | Tim Smith

Board members At-Large:
Elizabeth Boettner, Jeremy Dixon,
Carol Redmore, Fred Redmore,
Jeff Shriver, Steve Simpson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation | Teresa Smith
Programs | Don Miller

Education | Adam Moderow

Publicity | Leah Dixon

Membership | Molly Doolittle

Field Trips | Mary Blackmore

Sustainable Agriculture

Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore,
Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp

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nwilaudubon@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Volunteers who helped process prairie seed: John and Anita Nienhuis, Nancy Ocken, Avi Folk, Larry and Phyllis Seffrood, Carol and Fred Redmore, Kara Gallup, Anne Straight, Mary Blackmore, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Molly Doolittle, Deb and Bernard Lischwe, and Paul Brown. Special thanks go to John and Anita for their outstanding hospitality!

Volunteers who helped with December overseeding at both preserves: Judy and Harlan Corrie, Nancy Ocken, Mary Blackmore, Paul Brown and Kara Gallup.

Fall stewardship volunteers: Kara Gallup, Paul Brown, Judy Corrie, Pam Richards, Mary Blackmore, Anne Straight, Tim and Teresa Smith, Bernard Lischwe, Nancy Ocken and Merry Blake.

Nancy Ocken and Mary Blackmore for contacting volunteers for preserves stewardship.

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

Volunteers who did some prairie seed processing at their respective homes: Harlan and Judy Corrie, Kara Gallup and Mary Blackmore.

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Mary Blackmore, Richard Benning and Adam Moderow for leading recent field trips and outdoor activities.

Tim Smith for removing downed trees from trails at both of our preserves.

Shey Lowman for updating species lists for both preserves.

Sterling Schools Foundation for the generous monetary donation in memory of Frank Duis.

Jim Duis for the generous monetary donation related to his mural painting efforts.

To all who organize our chapter meetings and events, and to everyone who contributes to our bi-monthly newsletter.

**Northwest Illinois
Audubon Society**

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