



JUNE-JULY 2020

# Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

A chapter of the National Audubon Society

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.

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](http://nwilaudubon.org) for specific monthly details, special events or any changes to the usual time and place.

Please join us!

### Questions About Your Membership?

Contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963 or [timtreetsmith@gmail.com](mailto:timtreetsmith@gmail.com)

### INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

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10. Thank You!

Top text: [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)  
Top photo: Northern Waterthrush, by Mary Blackmore  
Lower photo: Carolina Wren, by Clay Schroll



### Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*

Northern Waterthrushes eat mostly larval and adult insects, along with spiders, snails, clams, fish, and salamanders. Specific insect prey include stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, ants, and weevils. They forage mostly by walking into shallow water, where they pick prey from the water's surface or below it, from mud, from wet leaves, or from vegetation, logs, or rocks. They sometimes catch flying insects on the wing or glean insects from low vegetation by leaping or hovering.

## CAROLINA WREN

This winter showed numerous reports of Carolina Wrens overwintering in northwest Illinois. Most of these sightings were made primarily at bird feeders.

Although Carolina Wrens are non-migratory, they can experience some northward or southward movement from the fringes of their range in some years, usually based on winter conditions. After last winter's harsh conditions, including a visit from the polar vortex, Carolina Wrens would have been expected to retreat from the northern edge of their range or perhaps even not have survived the intense cold. However, that appears to not be the case.

We wanted to tap the experiences of our members to get a better picture of how widespread this phenomenon had been. We've included these sightings here (right).

- Mary Blackmore



Notified	Reporter	Location	County	Total
3/17/20	Pricilla Osborne	Mount Morris	Ogle	3
3/19/20	Anita Nienhuis	Pearl City	Stephenson	1
3/23/20	Clay Schroll	Freeport	Stephenson	1
3/24/20	Lurane Slaght	Freeport	Stephenson	1
3/?/20	Harlan and Judy Corrie	Cedarville	Stephenson	1+

### HUNKERED-DOWN HAIKUS

Several members and friends created haikus during our stay-at-home time. **Enjoy!**

#### Sounding Off

A Mourning Dove moans  
A sad, lonesome melody. . .  
Then laughs with his wings.

- Harlan Corrie

#### Social Distance

Although feet apart,  
Don't forget to say hello.  
Distance and be kind.

- Morgan Blackmore

# 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 [NWILAUDUBON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NWILAUDUBON@GMAIL.COM) TO BE PLACED ON AN EMAIL CONTACT LIST.



Bernard Lischwe and Mary Blackmore working hard at removing clover.  
photo by Deb Lischwe

## SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

At the time of this writing our state's Stay-at-Home directive has been extended through the end of May (check our website for the latest information). We've had to speculate on what restrictions will exist in June and July. Of course we may be wrong, but based upon our assumptions of a lifted Stay-at-Home directive, the need to continue social distancing and limiting group size to 10 or fewer, the following parameters will be in place for stewardship sessions:

### What Changes

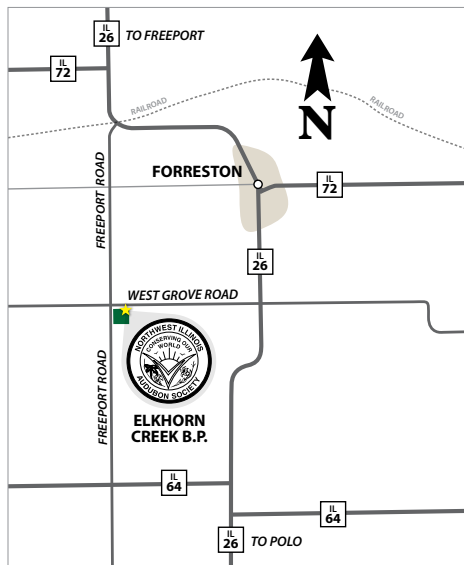
- There will be no carpooling.
- Prior to each date that you plan to volunteer, please call the listed leader to RSVP so we can comply with limits to group size and so you can get information about potential additional conditions, i.e. face coverings.
- In order to minimize shared resources, please bring along your own gloves, water and snack.
- Although previously we often socially-distanced by the very nature of our work, we will be sure to keep 6 feet apart this year.
- Additional stewardship sessions have been scheduled in order to provide more opportunities and create smaller groups.

### What Stays the Same

- We will continue to provide tools and directions for our work.
- We will take a break at the halfway point.
- Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, socks long enough to tuck your pant legs into (for tick avoidance), a hat and footwear that can get wet (earlier is dewier!).
- Bring insect repellent and sunscreen.

### Site Directions

Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd. (see below)



The Freeport Prairie is just south of the intersection of Meadows Dr. and Walnut Rd. on the south side of Freeport. Parking is off of Walnut Rd.

We will have stewardship sessions at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve in August.

We hope you can join us for one or more of the following stewardship sessions scheduled below for either the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve or the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve. Depending upon the week we will be doing a variety of tasks such as removing sweet clover, burdock and

wild parsnip, cutting brush, girdling saplings or otherwise reducing the competition to our native prairie, woodland and wetland remnants. Times vary so be sure to check the schedule.

### Stewardship Calendar

**June 2** – Elkhorn Creek, Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

**June 4** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. *Leaders: Randy and Nancy Ocken, 815-440-5768*

**June 6** – Freeport Prairie, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

**June 8** – Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8014*

**June 10** – Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8014*

**June 12** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Juliet Moderow, 201-233-0946*

**June 16** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. *Leaders: Randy and Nancy Ocken, 815-440-5768*

**June 18** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Bernard Lischwe, 815-275-9200*

**June 20** – Elkhorn Creek, Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Anne Straight, 815-938-3263*

**June 24** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Juliet Moderow, 201-233-0946*

**June 26** – Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Jeremy Dixon, 815-821-3921*

**June 30** – Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl and Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

**July 2** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower West Planting, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

*Summer Stewardship continued...*

**July 7** – Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. *Leader: Jeremy Dixon, 815-821-3921*

**July 9** – Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 7-9 a.m. *Leaders: John and Anita Nienhuis, 815-443-2401*

**July 13** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. *Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, 815-338-4049*

**July 15** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Bernard Lischwe, 815-275-9200*

**July 20** – Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Lynn Feaver, 815-235-9530*

**July 22** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. *Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, 815-338-4049*

**July 25** – Elkhorn Creek, Goats 'n Roses, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

**July 27** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower West Planting, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

**July 29** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. *Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, 815-338-4049*

**July 31** – Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting, 7-9 a.m. *Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204*

*If you would like e-mail reminders of the stewardship days, contact Nancy at [rnocken@gmail.com](mailto:rnocken@gmail.com)*



## The beautiful not yet.

– Carrie Newcomer



Emerging *Baptisia bracteata* (Cream Wild Indigo), Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve photo by Mary Blackmore

# FREE Film Screening of THE STORY OF PLASTIC

*DATE: You can watch the film anytime at your home after receiving the link until the scheduled (optional) online discussion through Zoom on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.*

World Oceans Day is June 8 and we wanted to host this virtual film screening followed by an optional Q/A or discussion. Produced by the Story of Stuff Project, The Story of Plastic takes a sweeping look at the man-made crisis of plastic pollution and the worldwide effect it has on the health of our planet and the people who inhabit it. The film features interviews with experts and activists on the frontlines of the fight, revealing the disastrous consequences of the flood of plastic smothering ecosystems and poisoning communities around the world, and the global movement that is rising up in response.

If you are interested in watching the film at your home (or other site with friends while being socially distant), please send an email to Juliet Moderow at [nwilaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:nwilaudubon@gmail.com) with the subject line Story of Plastic and she will send you a link to the film and other instructions.

There will be an optional online discussion on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The link to this Zoom platform discussion will be open to all who have viewed the film and the goal is to start a movement to fight plastic pollution and take action in our area. Therefore, the film screening link will be sent to you about two to three days before the film (as regulated by the screening rights of the film producers) so you can watch at your leisure. Note: the link to watch the film will expire sometime on June 9, 2020. It is recommended to have high speed internet to be able to watch the film without interruption.

*If you have questions, please contact Juliet Moderow at [nwilaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:nwilaudubon@gmail.com).*

**To learn more about the film, visit [www.storyofplastic.org](http://www.storyofplastic.org)**

# SUMMER CAMPFIRES

If our Stay-at-Home directive is lifted we plan to have our usual summer campfires, but not in our usual manner. Check our website for the latest information. We will assume that social distancing will continue and that groups will be limited to 10 people, so we will expand our campfire circle accordingly.



NIAS Sponored campfire held at Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve photo by Juliet Moderow

Call Mary at 815-938-3204 to RSVP or should the weather look questionable. We will provide s'mores if we can do so in a safe manner. Please bring your own water, if desired, plus a lawn chair and flashlight. Prior to each campfire we'll take a short socially-distanced stroll to observe blooming plants, birds and insects.

*Both campfires will be at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. There will be no carpooling. The preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreton in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd.*

**Monday, June 22** – Firefly Campfire. Walk 8:00 p.m., campfire begins at 8:30. Depending upon the temperature and insect emergence timing, we could see an impressive display of fireflies on this evening after the new moon.

**Thursday, July 23** – Screech Owl Campfire. Walk 7:30 p.m., campfire begins at 8:00. We hope to be treated to the beautiful calls of our resident Eastern Screech Owls.

# The Coronavirus

## *how we got into this mess*

As we continue dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic, the origins of the virus are being discussed and solutions to prevent future outbreaks deliberated.

It is believed most likely that the Coronavirus originated in a live animal market in Wuhan, China. These markets typically have both domestic and wild animals (either raised or trapped in the wild) for sale. The animals are kept in cramped, often unsanitary conditions until they are purchased and sometimes slaughtered on site. In such conditions, infections are easily transmitted among animals.

Other examples of viruses crossing the species barrier include Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and avian flu. The most likely origin of H.I.V. (human immunodeficiency virus) is S.I.V. (simian immunodeficiency virus), probably transmitted through the blood of a nonhuman primate butchered for human consumption. Similarly, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease probably had its origins in its bovine analogue — bovine spongiform encephalopathy (B.S.E.), or “mad cow disease.” The most probable mechanism of transmission is through

human consumption of infected cattle.

We don't know the exact origin of the Coronavirus – it could have come from a bat or possibly a pangolin (The pangolin, an insect-eating mammal that resembles an anteater, is a relative of the carnivore group (dogs, cats, bears), is believed to be the most trafficked wild animal on the planet for its keratin scales and meat). The transmission is also uncertain. For example, it could have come from a worker slaughtering the animal and coming in contact with its blood through a cut on the hand. The possibilities are numerous.

China has taken steps to ban live animal markets, but there is a question if this will be permanent and there are already reports that the markets are once again opening. There is increasing pressure on China and other Asian countries to ban such markets permanently. For now, China has made the consumption of wild animals illegal, but this is not yet codified into law.

In an interview with Fox News, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, called for the global community to pressure China

and other nations to close down their wildlife markets. Dr. Fauci stated “It just boggles my mind that how when we have so many diseases that emanate out of that unusual human-animal interface that we don't just shut [wildlife markets] down.”

Live animal markets exist not only in China and other East Asian countries, but also here in the United States. Some 80 such markets exist in New York alone and can be found in many states.

In the United States a group of physicians representing the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine has petitioned the Surgeon General to ban live animal markets in the United States.

The current pandemic has made it clear that we need stronger laws and enforcement of wildlife trafficking, permanent bans of live animal markets and better protection and expansion of wildlife habitat. It is obvious now that how we treat other species and the natural world is important not only for moral reasons, but for our own survival.

– Candy Colby

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### *EARTH-FRIENDLY RECIPE*

## **SLOW COOKER TUSCAN BEAN SOUP**

This easy, Italian-style white bean soup is full of vegetables and leafy greens. Making it in the slow cooker takes only a few minutes to prep in the morning and it's ready in time for dinner. Plus the house smells fantastic as it cooks!

**SERVINGS:** 6

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### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 pound dry Great Northern or navy beans\**
- 2 large carrots, peeled and diced*
- 3 large celery stalks, diced*
- 1 onion, diced*
- 3 cloves garlic, minced or chopped*

- 1 bay leaf*
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning*
- 6 cups boiling water*
- 1 15-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained*
- 1 large bunch Tuscan kale, roughly chopped*
- 1 14-ounce package Tofurky Italian Sausage (optional), sliced and cooked in a pan*
- Fresh herbs for garnish*
- Rustic bread for serving*

### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Sort through and rinse beans several times in cool water. Add to the slow cooker along with diced carrots, celery, onions, garlic, bay leaf and dried herbs. Add the boiling water. Cover and cook on HIGH for 3-4 hours,

or LOW for 10-12 hours. Remove lid from slow cooker and add salt and pepper to taste. Add diced tomatoes. Let cook for another 30 minutes on HIGH or 1-1/2 hours on LOW or until beans are soft.

Before serving, stir in chopped greens and sausage, if using. Garnish with herbs and serve with a slice of bread.

*\*Different types of beans will vary in cooking time. Larger beans, such as Great Northern, will need longer than smaller navy beans. If using Great Northern or navy beans, the beans do not need to be presoaked, but can be, if desired. It doesn't change the cooking time significantly.*

The soup can also be made in a pressure cooker, such as InstantPot. Follow the manufacturer's recommended cooking time.

*From hello/veggie recipe by Lindsey Johnson (shared by Candy Colby)*

# THE AUDUBON PRESERVES:

## OUR CHAPTER'S BEST IDEA

I consider myself lucky in many respects, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic. One of my areas of good fortune is where I live – halfway between our Audubon preserves, a short 6 mile drive to each. It's always been a happy coincidence of location, but this spring it also has been a sanity saver.

And I'm not the only one. Many more people than usual have taken advantage of this opportunity to exercise and enjoy nature. Everyone I've met on the trails has been very respectful of social distancing, usually doing double distance. Even when I don't see people during my visits, I know they've been there based upon my need to refill the brochure boxes. I couldn't be more proud of our chapter for establishing and maintaining these sanctuaries.

In addition to the peace and tranquility they provide, visiting the preserves more frequently has allowed me to observe wonderful things, many which I haven't experienced before, like:



Western Chorus Frogs performing their advertisement calls so loudly from the small pond at Silver Creek that one could hear nothing else (*even cautiously approaching and getting within 6 feet of the pond, not a frog could be seen, though the calling continued*)

Hearing a Wilson's Snipe winnowing as part of its courtship display on many consecutive evenings at Elkhorn Creek (*I inadvertently flushed it one morning from its resting/feeding spot, a section of old trail that we rerouted around last year, now apparently a snipe B&B*)

Seeing a Mourning Cloak butterfly flutter through Silver Creek's north woods in early April (*they overwinter as adults but one had never been reported there before*)



Seeing a nesting goose on the south bank of Elkhorn Creek (*I know, they're common, but I've never seen one nest at either preserve*)

Hearing a Hermit Thrush sing at Silver Creek (*I didn't know that they sang enroute to their northern nesting areas*)

Seeing the joyful yellow blooms of Early Buttercup in a background of tans and grays at both preserves (*it's in each of its two habitats, open woodland and hill prairies*)

I could go on and on, as many of you have patiently experienced at times, but the better thing is for you to go there yourself and see what wonders you can find. The growing season is just beginning. So many beautiful sights and sounds are yet to come as we journey through the year.

Lately I've been re-watching the Ken Burns national parks documentary. For the film he interviewed one of my favorite writers, Terry Tempest Williams. In one clip she remarked that though Americans are credited with "saving" the national parks, it's really the parks that have saved the people.

Especially this year, the same can be said of our preserves.

– article and photos by Mary Blackmore

## Paying Attention

Chicago's Audubon Society president Judy Pollock said they have had a 12% increase in members with 251 people joining and the society's Facebook group grew 134% in the past month according to an article in the Chicago Tribune (4/26/2020). The article stated "Illinois birdwatchers said checking out the avian activity in your own backyard can be exciting, relaxing, inspiring - even comforting." Also mentioned in the article was a lady in Ingleside who enjoys daily visits from a 4-foot tall, crimson-crowned Sandhill Crane that "taps gently on the window as if delivering a message in Morse code." Perhaps one positive from the stay-at-home order will be that people start paying more attention to nature.

– Candy Colby



Wilson's Snipe | by Anne Straight



Anemone acutiloba (Sharp-lobed Hepatica) | by Sarah Barron

# VIRTUAL BIRDING DURING A PANDEMIC

As you know, our months of April and May were void of many of our favorite anticipated events, such as our annual banquet, Earth Day, and programs. However, I wanted to continue to hold events on our Facebook page, all of them virtually. In March, I did a two-week event called “Learn a new bird a day with Juliet” where I shared a new bird every day and gave some fun facts about them. On April 8, we hosted a Draw a Bird Day, where we allowed people to post their drawings. In addition, Barry Treu from the Freeport Art Museum made a video on how to draw birds. In April, we had local Audubon member, Patty Weik share her amazing photography for two weeks to educate and brighten someone’s day. I also created a Facebook group called Kids and Families Activities for parents and

caregivers to learn ways to educate their children at home about the natural world (see the Kids and Families section for link).

One of my favorite things that I participated in was become a Birding Buddy. Students at the University of Vermont’s Environmental Studies program were sent home for the rest of the semester to do online learning back in their hometowns. One of their assignments was to learn about birds and do a field journal. The University worked with the National Audubon Society to look for “Birding Buddy” for these students. Audubon leaders were able to sign-up for a student in a location that was close to us and I chose a student named Abby who lived in Chicago. We met online through a face-to-face platform, where I was able to teach her the basics of birds and show her

pictures and diagrams. Then we birded virtually, where she went walking around her neighborhood to identify birds and reported back to me for any help. She was brand new to birding and was super excited to learn. It was equally fun for me to share my knowledge with someone (and by the way, I am also teaching my own students at the same time at Highland online!).

Who knows what other serendipitous opportunities will occur because of this pandemic, but I’ll be looking forward to anything else that can take our minds off of the virus these days! I hope all of you have continued to find ways to enjoy birds while staying healthy. Hope to see you all very soon!

– Juliet Moderow



## IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR NATURE-RELATED ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY WITH THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE,

don't forget to check out all of our current and previous editions of our Kids and Families page on our website that date back to 2014. We have the Nature's Book Nook with book recommendations

for multiple ages from hatchling to fledgling to juvenile to adult! We also have the Family Activity section that is seasonally appropriate. Finally, we have a Beginning Birder section with simple and educational facts about common birds.

[nwilaudubon.org/kids-families.asp](http://nwilaudubon.org/kids-families.asp)

In addition, Juliet Moderow started a Facebook group where she shares many ideas from past newsletters as well as many new ones. Group members can also share their favorite activities.

[facebook.com/groups/NIASKidsandfamilies/](https://facebook.com/groups/NIASKidsandfamilies/)

# LOCAL CRANE COUNT

Each year the International Crane Foundation hosts the Annual Crane Count in the middle of April. This year the International Crane Foundation made the decision to cancel the Annual Count in keeping with recommendations for people to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since some of the participants in Stephenson County have been counting cranes yearly for decades, Teresa Smith the coordinator of Stephenson County decided to share data sheets and maps with folks who have counted in the past and encouraged people to count independently any time of the day over the period of one week and share their stories. Eleven people got out to count cranes from April 4th through the 20th and had some delightful stories to share during a time when folks were looking for positive thoughts. Below is a summary of those positive stories.

**PAUL HASENOUR** went out on April 15th and heard 2 Sandhill Cranes unison calling in the northwest corner of Stephenson County. He also observed three pairs of Blue-winged Teal and a pair of sandpipers.

**JEFF SHRIVER** observed in a section just east of Freeport on Cherry Hill Road on April 11th and unfortunately did not hear or see any Sandhill Cranes but did observe a Bald Eagle, 25 Mallards, 80 American White Pelicans, a small hawk and various other waterfowl.

This site was also observed by **MARY BLACKMORE** on April 20th with no cranes seen or heard that day either. Mary shared that observing for cranes was great fun for her with the fog lifting from the ground level about 6:30 a.m. and several birds and mammals were observed. During Mary's one hour of observing she noted several flocks of American White Pelicans and cormorants flying in. A new experience for Mary was observing the pelicans and the cormorants swimming together. Typically the pelicans and cormorants would be swimming with birds of the same

species. Mary also observed the pelicans feeding cooperatively by using their bills to scoop water. Typical cooperative feeding for pelicans would be for the pelican to scoop water in front of them but these birds were scooping water to the side of them



Sandhill Crane | by Juliet Moderow

making Mary curious as to why they were scooping to the side rather than in front of themselves. Mary was also lucky enough to catch a HUGE beaver doing his morning grooming. During a one-hour observation a total of 25 different species of birds were observed by Mary including a Wilson's snipe.

**CAROL BEATTY** counted cranes on April 4th along the Pecatonica River wetland areas near Ridott and saw six Sandhill Cranes. On April 5th Carol decided to explore some new birding areas for her observing 3 of the traditional observation sites near the Pecatonica River. Carol observed one juvenile crane and was excited to see numerous species of waterfowl including Northern Shovelers, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks, American White Pelicans, Gadwall, and American Coots. Carol was excited to share that at the Cherry Hill site east of Freeport she spotted what looked like a Baird's Sandpiper. Carol also shared excitement about seeing a common loon on Lake Summerset for several days early in April.

**LURANE SLAGHT** visited several sites along Richland Creek late in the afternoon on April 16th and spotted numerous Sandhill Cranes. Lurane definitely increased the numbers for our 2020 crane count with 25 Sandhill Cranes seen near Scioto Mills Road and Cedarville road and another flock of 17 a bit further south. Lurane also saw a Sandhill Crane nesting near Brush Creek with another feeding near the Jane Adams Trail near Orangeville. Lurane loves to photograph birds and she was able to catch a picture of a Sandhill Crane flying near Richland Road as well as two cranes just off Scioto Mills Road.

**TERESA AND TIM SMITH** went out to observe at Red Oak, walking the Jane Addams Trail and Beaver Road. They reported seeing six cranes with numerous vocalizations during two hours of observation early in the morning on April 18th.

The Jane Addams Trail was a wonderful spot to hear and see not just the cranes but Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hermit Thrush, and a Brown Creeper just to name a few.

**JESSE, JODY AND ALICE AKINS** went to Neiman's Pond on April 19th and reported seeing three cranes in flight.

**HARLAN AND JUDY CORRIE** visited several areas along Richland Creek and spotted 2 pairs of cranes in the Duck's Misery area, 1 pair of cranes on the Jane Addams Trail near Beaver Road and another pair of cranes sitting near the edge of the water in this area.

While not all the counters were lucky enough to hear or see cranes however all of the counters reported that spending a bit of time with Mother Nature during these tough times was very refreshing.

– Teresa Smith

# THANK YOU

## to the 2020 NIAS Board Members

Thank you to the following retiring board members who have served on the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society Board for the past year: Fred Redmore (vice-president), Mary Blackmore (Treasurer), Teresa Smith (Membership), Jim Richards (at-large), and Abby Strominger (at-large). Thank you to Juliet Moderow who has served for the past two years. Juliet will remain on the board as past president.

New board and committee members include Jeremy Dixon, Molly Doolittle, Carol Redmore, Fran Shriver, Jeff Shriver, and Rebecca Shriver. Thank you to the new board members for being willing to step up and share their time and talents with Northwest Illinois Audubon. Welcome new board members!

### Board members who will serve in 2020-2021 include:

Gary Gordon – President

Linda Black – Vice-President

Pam Richards – Secretary

Tim Smith – Treasurer

Juliet Moderow – President emeritus

Board members At-Large: Jeremy Dixon, Molly Doolittle, Carol Redmore, Fran Shriver, Jeff Shriver, Rebecca Shriver

### Committee Chairs:

Laura Dufford – Conservation Chairperson

Don Miller – Program Chairperson

Richard Benning – Education Chairperson

Deborah Lischwe – Publicity Chairperson

Paul Brown – Membership Chairperson

Chris Kruger – Field Trip Chairperson

Northwest Illinois Audubon Society has a strong presence in northwest Illinois because of the dedication of the wonderful board members. **Thank YOU!**

– Gary Gordon

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*P.S. I look forward to serving with this wonderful group of individuals. I know we had some exciting events planned over the next few months. I am sure we all understand the need for safety in our gatherings as we ride out this storm, but we will look forward to that time, hopefully in the not too distant future, when we can gather again as a group for a variety of activities, projects and learning experiences. In the meantime stay tuned to the website for any news on upcoming events, but more importantly take this time now to get outside and enjoy the spring migration which is just beginning to ramp up. Take care and stay safe. Gary G.*



*Phlox divaricata* (Wild Blue Phlox)  
photo by Dan Barron



Turkey Vulture | by Anne Straight



*Anemone patens* (Pasque Flower)  
photo by Carol Redmore

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### Seeds

Something's happening.  
With the waving of a wand,  
Up spring the offspring.

– Judy Corrie



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

*If this is a gift membership, please indicate the name of the person providing the gift membership:*

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*Make check payable to **NORTHWEST ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY** and mail to:  
Treasurer, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032*



# THANK YOU!

Bob Remer, Heidi Thorp, Jeff and Fran Shriver, Kara Gallup, Laura Dufford, Jim Duis, John Mueller, Peggy Badgett, Keri Rainsberger and Anne Straight for their recent donations.

Jim and Pam Richards for removing downed trees from trails at our Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserve.

Kara Gallup, Paul Brown, Jim and Pam Richards, Judy Corrie and Mary Blackmore for stewardship work at our preserves in April.

Tim and Teresa Smith, Becky Janopoulos, Pam and Jim Richards, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Mary Blackmore, Richard Benning, Kara Gallup, Merry Blake, Clay Schroll and Paul Brown for burning and overseeding at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve on March 13 and 17.

Thank you to Patty Weik for sharing her photography on Facebook during a virtual event held in April.

Thank you to Abby Strominger for providing fun family activities for the Kids and Families page during her two-year term as a board member. Congratulations and good luck as you graduate from High School and Highland!

### Twenty Visitors

After March snowfall

Old apples still hang from trees.

Wait! Those are robins!

– Mary Blackmore

### BOARD MEMBERS

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**Secretary** | Pam Richards  
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### Sustainable Agriculture

Richard Benning, Mary Blackmore,  
Laura Dufford and Heidi Thorp

### Newsletter Editor

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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Ellen and Bruce Pittluck  
– German Valley*

*Karen Foley – Orangeville*

*Barbara Nowak – Baileyville*

*Janice Young – Lanark*

*Mike Halling – Davis*

*Dale Miner – Freeport*

*Louis Weinbeck – Thomson*

*Rita Baux – Freeport*

**Northwest Illinois  
Audubon Society**

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

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