



A chapter of the National Audubon Society

# NORTHWEST ILLINOIS BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE



## JUNE – JULY 2026

The Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance celebrates diversity in nature and among the people and communities with whom we work. We are dedicated to providing an inclusive, welcoming, and judgement-free atmosphere where people of all experience levels, abilities, identity groups, and cultural backgrounds are actively encouraged to participate.

Scan QR to visit



[nwilbirdnaturealliance.org](http://nwilbirdnaturealliance.org)

## NIBNA MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Most programs are held the first Tuesday of the month (September through May) at St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 Park Blvd., Freeport and begin at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments. All programs and events are open to the public. The building is fully accessible.

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

### PLEASE JOIN US!

Please note: schedule and location of programs are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Please see newsletter and website for up-to-date information.

### INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

2. Calendar Considerations, Field Trip
3. Summer Stewardship
4. Conservation Committee News, Amazing NIBNA
5. Crane Summary, Local Foods Brochure
6. So Many Thank You's!

Feature Bird Photo by: Magnus Manske, [commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)  
Information from [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

**Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*) | Great Egrets live in freshwater, brackish, and marine wetlands. During the breeding season they live in colonies in trees or shrubs with other waterbirds, ranging across the southeastern states and in scattered spots throughout the rest of the U.S. and southern Canada. The colonies are located on lakes, ponds, marshes, estuaries, impoundments, and islands. Great Egrets use similar habitats for migration stopover sites and wintering grounds. They hunt in marshes, swamps, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, impoundments, lagoons, tidal flats, canals, ditches, fish-rearing ponds, flooded farm fields, and sometimes upland habitats.

## ELKHORN CREEK BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL

### ELKHORN CREEK BIODIVERSITY PRESERVE

Saturday, July 25 | 9:00 a.m. – noon

Due to extreme heat in recent years we have moved our Butterfly Festival from afternoon to morning. Join us for a fun, informative family friendly morning as we explore the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many butterflies that are found there. From 9 a.m. - noon participants may join guided butterfly tours or look on their own for those winged beauties. Tours will begin at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. "Illinois Butterflies and Moths" pocket guides will be distributed and we'll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, cold beverages, snacks and information about pollinators, all at no charge.



Richard Benning guides participants of our 2024 Butterfly Festival | ▲ photo by Teresa Smith  
▼ photo by Juliet Moderow

**If the weather is questionable, call Mary Blackmore at 779-302-7281.**

To date 38 species of butterflies and skippers have been documented at the preserve among which are Buckeye, Great Fritillary, Coral Hairstreak, Milbert's Tortoiseshell, Peck's Skipper, Red-spotted Purple and American Snout.

The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. The parking lot is off of West Grove Rd. This event is free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!



# CALENDAR

**June 1** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 3** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 5** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 8** – Freeport Prairie Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 10** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 12** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 15** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 17** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 18** – Firefly Campfire at our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:30 p.m. We hope to have a great firefly light show! First we'll take a stroll to observe resident birds and blooming plants. The campfire begins at 8:00 p.m., with s'mores provided. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight, insect repellent and, if desired, water.

*NOTE: Call ahead to Bob and Kara Gallup (815-871-8014) if you would like ATV transport from the parking lot to the campfire circle.*

*The Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds., with a parking area off of West Grove Rd. If weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.*

**June 20** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 22** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 24** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 26** – Field Trip: Summer Blooms on the Freeport Prairie, 9-10 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 27** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**June 29** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 1** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 7** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 9** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 11** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 13** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 15** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 8-10 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 21** – Silver Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 23** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 25** – Annual Elkhorn Creek Butterfly Festival, 9 a.m.-noon. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 27** – Elkhorn Creek Stewardship, 7-9 a.m. (See page 3 for details ►)

**July 29** – Screech Owl Campfire At our Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve at 7:30 p.m. After a stroll to observe birds and blooms, the campfire will start at 8:00, with s'mores provided. This is typically a good time of the summer to hear our resident Screech Owls. Bring a lawn chair, flashlight, insect repellent and, if desired, water.

*NOTE: Call ahead to Bob and Kara Gallup (815-871-8014) if you would like ATV transport from the parking lot to the campfire circle.*

*The preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds., with a parking area off of West Grove Rd. If weather is questionable call Mary at 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.*

**July 31** – Field Trip: Summer Blooms on the Freeport Prairie, 9-10 a.m. (See adjacent column for details ►)

# FIELD TRIP

## SUMMER BLOOMS ON THE FREEPORT PRAIRIE

**Friday, June 26, 9-10 a.m.**  
**Friday, July 31, 9-10 a.m.**

*Leader: Mary Blackmore,  
815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281*

The spring Pasque Flower display is just the beginning of the parade of blooming species on the Freeport Prairie, an Illinois Nature Preserve on Freeport's south side. Often those summer blooming species are overlooked so we'll be visiting the preserve twice to find them.

The Freeport Prairie is a north-facing bluff on the edge of an ancient channel of Yellow Creek and is described as "the last of the original upland prairie known as Shannon Prairie." Owned by the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation for almost 50 years, it was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1977.

Meet in the preserve's new parking area off of Meadows Dr., just east of the Ford dealership. Enter through the curb cut which will be marked for better visibility. Bring insect repellent and water. A hiking stick would be helpful as the terrain is steep and uneven. If the weather is questionable, call Mary.

## TICK AVOIDANCE

As ticks are active in our area, we recommend that you use tick avoidance strategies for all outings.

An easy method is to wear socks long enough to tuck your pant legs into, followed by using insect repellent from the knees down. Both socks and pants should be light-colored for easier tick detection, and always do a tick check when you get home.



**VIEW OUR CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS AT:**

[mwilbirdnaturealliance.org/news/calendar/](http://mwilbirdnaturealliance.org/news/calendar/)

- M** Meeting
- F** Field Trip
- S** Stewardship

- P** Program
- E** Event
- O** Other



# SUMMER STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please join us for one or more of the following stewardship sessions scheduled below for either the Elkhorn Creek or Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves or the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve. Depending upon the site or 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.

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!). Take along insect repellent, sunscreen and water.

Tools, gloves, snacks and directions about our

work always will be provided. If the weather is questionable or you need more information, contact the listed leader.

*NOTE: Both the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve and the Freeport Prairie Nature Preserve contain steep slopes. There is uneven ground at all 3 sites, and there are no restrooms.*

## 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.
- **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 Meadows Drive, in the new parking area, just east of the Ford dealership.
- **Silver Creek Biodiversity 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. about ¼ mile south of the intersection (S. Main St. crossing HWY 72 in Leaf River becomes Leaf River Rd.)

## SCHEDULE

**June 1** – Elkhorn Creek, Corner Planting, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**June 3** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**June 5** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, 815-440-5768.

**June 8** – Freeport Prairie, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**June 10** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Juliet Moderow, 201-233-0946.

**June 12** – Elkhorn Creek, Old Joe Seep, 7-9 a.m. Leaders: Nancy and Randy Ocken, 815-440-5768.

**June 15** – Elkhorn Creek, Swamp Sparrow Wetland, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Juliet Moderow, 201-233-0946.

**June 17** – Elkhorn Creek, Spiderwort Vista, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Anne Straight, 706-248-9344.

**June 20** – Elkhorn Creek, Bluestem View, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8041.

**June 22** – Elkhorn Creek, Elkhorn Riparian Strip, 8-10 a.m. Leader: Jeremy Dixon, 815-821-3921.

**June 24** – Elkhorn Creek, Blazing Star Saddles, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Bernard Lischwe, 815-275-9200.

**June 27** – Elkhorn Creek, Sandy Slope, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Anita Nienhuis, 815-443-2401.

**June 29** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**July 1** – Elkhorn Creek, Fruit Bowl, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Kara Gallup, 815-871-8041.

**July 7** – Elkhorn Creek, Goats 'n Roses, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**July 9** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, 815-338-4049.

**July 11** – Elkhorn Creek, Froggy Meadow, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Dan Barron, 815-541-3261.

**July 13** – Elkhorn Creek, Jim's Hill, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Teresa Smith, 815-238-3963.

**July 15** – Elkhorn Creek, Black Oak Savanna, 8-10 a.m. Leaders: Pam and Jim Richards, 815-338-4049.

**July 21** – Silver Creek, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

**July 23** – Elkhorn Creek, Upper Planting and Butterfly Festival Prep., 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.

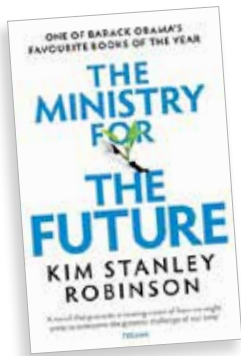
**July 27** – Elkhorn Creek, Lower West Planting, 7-9 a.m. Leader: Mary Blackmore, 815-938-3204 or 779-302-7281.



*Judy Corrie and Bernard Lischwe rest after cutting and bagging Wild Parsnip. | Photo by Kara Gallup ►*

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Conservation Committee would like to invite everyone to participate in our next book discussion to be held in the fall (date to be announced later). We will be reading "The Ministry for the Future" by Kim Stanley Robinson.



Do you sometimes muse about what the future could look like if we successfully tackle our most serious environmental problem, climate change? Can you imagine a future world of beauty and hope? Science fiction can help us envision what such a world might look like and what we might have to do to get there.

The premise of The Ministry for the Future is that following a devastating heatwave in India, a new UN body is formed to fight climate change, operating outside traditional political constraints. The Ministry for the Future's task is to advocate for future generations and all living creatures on earth.

The book blends multiple perspectives, from policymakers to climate refugees, and explores potential solutions like new financial instruments (the "carboni") and the ethics of radical action, presenting a hopeful but realistic vision of humanity's struggle to avert disaster.

If this sounds intriguing to you, please add "The Ministry for the Future" to your summer reading list and join us for the book discussion in the fall!

– Candy Colby

## AMAZING NIBNA!

As I reflect on the past two years during my term serving as the President of Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance I feel a very high level of gratitude for all the people who have helped to offer wonderful programs, events, and field trips thought the past two years. I am also grateful for the people who behind the scenes kept the organization ticking by sending out membership cards, writing newsletter articles, updating brochures and fliers, producing newsletters, proof reading newsletters, promoting events, update the website and paying bills throughout the year. I am delighted with the people that organize the stewardship days by bringing tools, great treats, friendship, endless knowledge and cold washcloths to keep folks cool on hot mornings. So thankful for the people who mow the trails at our two preserves so that others can enjoy the beauty right here in northern Illinois. I appreciate the time and talents of the people who organize and participate in the controlled burns at our preserves to help manage woody invasive species.

Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance includes some absolutely amazing people who are willing to serve on the board to keep the organization thriving. Serving on the board has not been a chore but has indeed been a delight. It has been great to be part of an amazing community of people who work together for one purpose: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

With great appreciation,

– Teresa Smith  
Past - President



During our May program, Mary Blackmore gifted Teresa Smith a pika t-shirt as thank you for serving as NIBNA President over a two year term.



The work crew at Elkhorn Biodiversity Preserve were surprised to find a plethora of turkey feathers on the prairie. Upon further searching we found this nest of turkey eggs and unfortunately one destroyed. But we continued on to our destination to eradicate the Wild Parsnip, Poison hemlock, Garlic mustard, or any other nasties we came upon. | Photo by Pam Richards

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Boelkens - Mount Carroll  
Matt Ludolph - Freeport  
Shirley Munda - Freeport  
Gina Alis - Rockford

## 2026 CRANE COUNT SUMMARY



The 2026 Crane Count was held on Saturday, April 18th, with temperatures the day of the count starting at 34 degrees at 5:30 a.m. and a brisk wind. The day before the count had a high temperature in the 80's and the week prior to the count Stephenson County had over 6 inches of rain. With dry temps early in the spring and a large amount of rain in one week many of the observers noted flood conditions at their sites and potentially some washing out of the crane nests. The crane counters enjoyed the morning sunrise listening to the sounds of owls, numerous songbirds, snipe, geese, ducks, eagles, and Sandhill Cranes.

This year, we had counters at 13 sites throughout Stephenson County. We welcomed two new counters: Debbie Salm and Adam Brown in 2026. We also had 21 counters that are veteran counters: Jeremy Dixon, Richard Benning, Bernard Lischwe, Phil Swalve, Colleen Wilson, Sherrie Shoemaker, Mary Blackmore, Gary Gordon, Elizabeth Boettner, Judy Corrie, Molly Doolittle, Anne Straight, Juliet Moderow, Laura Youngblut, Teresa Smith, Phil Swalve, Rebecca Shriver, Jeff Shriver, Fran Shriver, Chris Fye and Glen Hagemann.

This year, the counters spotted a total of 44 cranes including 13 pairs of cranes. The warm weather early in the spring may have contributed to more cranes migrating early in the season with fewer cranes noted this year compared to the previous 2 years. Also, the numerous storms hitting Stephenson County the week before the count may have modified the number of cranes spotted on the day of the crane count with many of the areas flooded. Typically, on count day we see/hear between 60-70 cranes.

This citizen science project sponsored by the International Crane Foundation started in Wisconsin in 1976 and expanded over the years to become the Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count. Illinois has been part of this event since 1994. Thank you to all the volunteers in Stephenson County for helping with the 2026 Annual Midwest Crane Count. Thank you to Teresa Smith for coordinating the count for Stephenson County.



## 2026 LOCAL FOODS BROCHURE AVAILABLE

Each year, the Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County produces a Local Foods Brochure. It is a resource to connect local food buyers with local food growers. The brochure gives you the information you need to contact local growers and get the know the local growers. The 2026 brochure lists over 40 growers in Northwest Illinois that offer local produce, maple syrup, cheese, honey, eggs, poultry and meat. Buying food locally has many advantages; limiting the amount of fuel used to transport food across the country, an opportunity to get to know the farmer that produced the food that you consume, and keeping dollars locally to promote a healthy community.

**If you are interested in a free copy of the 2026 Local Foods Brochure you can pick one up at the University of Illinois Extension in Stephenson, Winnebago and Jo Daviess Counties.**

**The brochure is also available at [nwilbirdnaturealliance.org](http://nwilbirdnaturealliance.org) or by calling 815-238-3963**



◀ A group of NIBNA volunteers conducted roadside cleanup at Elkhorn Creek and Silver Creek Biodiversity Preserves. Pictured (left to right): Mary Blackmore, Bill Palmquist, Kara Gallup, Judy Corrie and Bernard Lischwe at Silver Creek. Photo by Anne Straight

Produce illustrations by Sarah Barron ▶

# THANK YOU!

- Elizabeth Boettner and Juliet Moderow for hosting a station at the Arbor Day event hosted by the City of Freeport and Freeport Park District.
- Juliet Moderow for presenting to the Freeport City Council on May 4 for the annual World Migratory Bird Day proclamation reading.
- Major thanks to all who helped with the World Migratory Bird Day event on May 9 at Oakdale Nature Preserve! NIBNA volunteers: Candy Colby, Molly Doolittle, Gary Gordon, Haley Kurtz, Don Miller, Adam Moderow, Juliet Moderow, Karen Moderow, Willow Moderow, Teresa Smith, and Jeff Shriver; Freeport Park District volunteers: Kaye Nichols, Kate Stone Cross, Mandy Stone, Chenin Rude, Shelby Stone (Jr. Miss Stephenson County), and Marielle Rude (Little Miss Stephenson County); Illinois Extension Program Coordinator Nikki Keltner; 4-H Educator Kelly Lafferty; and Freeport Public Library Youth Services Director Amanda Meyers.
- Early March overseeding volunteers at both preserves: Judy Corrie, Bernard Lischwe, Anne Straight, Mary Blackmore and Kara Gallup.
- Jeremy Dixon for kiosk panel repairs at our Elkhorn Creek preserve.
- Tim Smith and Jeremy Dixon for removing downed trees from trails at our Silver Creek preserve.
- Kara Gallup and Mary Blackmore for trail checking and branch removal at both preserves.
- Spring stewardship volunteers: Paul Brown, Bernard Lischwe, Mary Blackmore, Judy Corrie, Anne Straight, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Bill Palmquist, Merry Blake, Kara Gallup and Pam Richards.
- Event, field trip and birdwalk leaders: Mary Blackmore, Laura Dufford, Richard Benning, Somer Elgin, Anne Straight and Juliet Moderow.
- Volunteers who picked up preserves roadside trash on Earth Day: Bill

Palmquist, Bernard Lischwe, Kara Gallup, Mary Blackmore, Anne Straight and Judy Corrie. Special thanks go to Mary for organizing the event and for dropping off the accumulated recyclables and trash.

- Teresa Smith for coordinating the 2026 Stephenson County Crane Count.
- Richard Benning, Jack and Debbie Barron, Paul Brown, John and Kay Day, David and Virginia DeSwarte, Richard Montgomery, Barbara Kitz, Jeannie McKewan, Lynne Wilburn and Wendy Dahlberg for their recent financial donations.
- Josh Elliott & Elliott Graphix for printing and donating the signs for the migratory game for use at our WMBD event and future events.

## BANQUET VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU

Kara Gallup, Judy Corrie and Anne Straight for freezing corn. Kara Gallup for coordinating the desserts. Tim Smith for tabulating the registration forms and organizing name tags. Deborah Lischwe, Laura Dufford and Tim Smith for setting the tables. Richard Benning for acting as the MC for the event. Chris Kruger, Mary Blackmore, Jim and Pam Richards for all their efforts with the silent auction. Juliet Moderow for providing technical support. Laura Dufford and Elizabeth Boettner for being on the banquet committee. Teresa Smith for acting as banquet committee chair.

## THE SOUND OF 'YUM!

Many thanks to the NIBNA members who donated a dessert for our March 31st annual Banquet. As usual, folks grabbed their favorite before the meal even started... these homemade desserts are always a big hit.

Thanks to: Paul Brown, Deborah Lischwe, Pam Richards, Anita Nienhuis, Judy Corrie, Mary Blackmore, Anne Straight, Molly Doolittle, Kara Gallup, Teresa Smith.

*Photo by Chris Kruger*



**Would you like to become a NEW Member or give a GIFT membership?** Two types of membership are available:

**1. Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance 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 Bird and Nature Alliance 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 Bird and Nature Alliance** and mail to:  
Treasurer, NIBNA, P.O. Box 771, Freeport, IL 61032

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**President** | Laura Dufford  
**Vice-President** | Jeff Shriver  
**Secretary** | (open)  
**Treasurer** | Tim Smith

**Board members At-Large:**

Kee Henze, Kara Gallup, Bernard Lischwe, Esther Schippers, Elizabeth Boettner, Jeremy Dixon

**President Emeritus** | Teresa Smith

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Membership** | Gay Broocks  
**Programs** | Carol Beatty  
**Conservation** | Juliet Moderow  
**Education** | (open)  
**Publicity** | Sarah Barron  
**Field Trips** | Mary Blackmore  
**Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (ad hoc)**  
Juliet Moderow and Gary Gordon  
**Newsletter Layout** | Dan Barron  
815-541-3261 | dan@driftlessflora.com

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

rev 5/26

**2026 SILENT AUCTION THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who bid at this year's silent auction fundraiser. More than \$1000.00 was raised. All auction proceeds fund local chapter activities, and our two preserves. Our thanks to all who donated items for the auction: Kriss Mulder, Doug Firebaugh, Betsy Kroeger, Kara Gallup, Tim & Christine Last, Juliet Moderow, Carol Beatty, John Walt, Teresa Smith, Judy Corrie, Bruce & Jeanie Benning, Mary Blake, Anne Straight, Pam & Jim Richards, Linda Black, Estate of Bonnie Bade, Shey Lowman, Sue Miller, Mary Blackmore, Estate of Sharon Shaw, Jeanie McKewan, Sue Merchant, Gay Broocks, Amera Striegel, Bob Remer, Jeff & Fran Shriver, Somer Elgin, Chris Kruger, Jim Duis, and Shirlee Munda.

Photo by Chris Kruger





**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS  
BIRD AND NATURE ALLIANCE**

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**ADDRESSES/EMAILS OF YOUR LEGISLATORS**

**Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 • State House Switchboard (217) 782-2000**

*When using the state switchboard simply ask to be connected to the legislators office.  
When using the capitol switchboard follow the series of prompts.*

rev 3/25

**FEDERAL**

**Senator Richard Durbin**  
230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3892  
Chicago, IL 60604  
309-786-5173 | [durbin.senate.gov/contact/](http://durbin.senate.gov/contact/)

**Senator Tammy Duckworth**  
230 S Dearborn Suite 3900  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-886-3506  
[duckworth.senate.gov/connect/](http://duckworth.senate.gov/connect/)

**16th District Rep. Darin LaHood**  
527 Colman Center Drive  
Rockford, IL 61108  
779-238-4785 | [lahood.house.gov/](http://lahood.house.gov/)

**17th District Rep. Eric Sorenson**  
2401 4th Ave., Rock Island IL 61201  
779-513-4960 | [sorensen.house.gov/](http://sorensen.house.gov/)

**STATE**

**45th District Sen. Andrew Chesney**  
50 W. Douglas Street, Suite 1001  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-232-0774 | [senatorchesney.com](http://senatorchesney.com)

**34th District Sen. Steve Stadelman**  
State of Illinois Building  
200 S Wyman Suite 301  
Rockford, IL 61101  
815-987-7557 | [senatorstadelman.com](http://senatorstadelman.com)

**37th District Sen Li Arellano**  
86 South Galena Ave Suite 2  
Dixon, IL 61021  
779-251-5003 | [senatorli.com](http://senatorli.com)

**90th District Rep. John Cabello**  
1702 Hutchins Road  
Machesney Park, IL 61115  
815-974-0090 | [cabello@ilhousegov.org](mailto:cabello@ilhousegov.org)

**89th District Rep. Tony McCombie**  
9317B IL Route 84  
Savanna, IL 61074  
815-291-8989  
[mccombie@ilhousegov.org](mailto:mccombie@ilhousegov.org)

**74th District Rep. Brad Fritts**  
101 W 1st Street Suite 501  
Dixon, IL 61021  
815-561-3690 | [fritts@ilhousegov.org](mailto:fritts@ilhousegov.org)

**67th District Rep. Maurice West**  
303 N Main Street Ste 110  
Rockford, IL 61101  
815-987-7433  
[assistance@StateRepWest.com](mailto:assistance@StateRepWest.com)

*Note that many elected officials no longer have an email address (with an @ sign) but instead prefer to be contacted via their website listed and using the "Contact Us" option.*