



Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

The most common owl in North and South America, the great horned owl has adapted to a wide variety of habitats and climates.

August—September 2011 Newsletter
www.nwilaudubon.org

Elkhorn Creek Butterfly Festival—Saturday, July 30

Join us for a fun, informative family-friendly afternoon as we explore the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve for the many butterflies that are found there. From 1-5 p.m., participants may join butterfly tours or look on their own for those winged beauties.

Tours will begin at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. Free "Butterflies and Moths" pocket guides will be distributed at no charge while supplies last. Other information about butterflies also will be available. We'll have a shady rest area with chairs, as well as a restroom, cold beverages and snacks. If the weather is questionable, call Blackmores at 815-938-3204 before 10 a.m. on July 30.

Explorers at last year's Butterfly Festival found 19 species of butterflies and skippers, among them Tiger Swallowtail, Meadow Fritillary, Buckeye, Comma, Pearl Crescent, Peck's Skipper and Silver Spotted Skipper.

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 Road. We hope to see you there!

NIAS Monthly Meetings:

- Held on the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Oct.-Mar., location is St. John United Church of Christ, 1010 S. Park Blvd., Freeport; 7 p.m. for announcements and reports. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by refreshments.
- April, May & Sept. special mtg. times/place.

"Atwood Center's Birds of Prey"

NIAS Monthly Meeting and *Potluck*

Sept. 6, 2011

Oakdale Lodge, 3 miles south of Freeport off of Baileyville Rd.

Lucas Bradley, Coordinator with the Rockford Park District's Environmental Recreation and Education Dept. (and NIAS President) will present "Atwood Center's Birds of Prey." This live bird program will feature several of the birds housed at the Atwood Center, including a great horned owl, barred owl, American kestrel, and red tailed hawk. Bring your cameras for a presentation that is sure to be a "hoot".

***Please bring a dish to pass and complete table service for the potluck dinner, which starts at 6:00 p.m. Beverages will be provided.**



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Calendar Considerations

July 28—The NIAS Conservation Committee and all other interested individuals will meet at Amigos Restaurant, 306 N. Galena Avenue in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and a stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30 p.m.

July 30—Butterfly Festival at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, 1-5 p.m. Join us for this great family activity! For directions, see August 11 listing below.

August 2—Freeport Prairie Work Session, 7-9 a.m. with breakfast afterwards at a nearby restaurant. Tools, gloves and water provided. Wear long sleeves and long pants and shoes or boots that you don't mind getting wet from dew. If weather is questionable, call Blackmores at 815-938-3204.

August 6—"Green Fire," a documentary-style film about the life of a giant in American Conservation, Aldo Leopold. It will be shown at the Ingersol Wetlands Center at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. To reach the Center, drive about 4 miles south of Savanna on HWY 84. Turn right onto Riverview Rd. and drive about 1/2 mile. The Center is on your left. **NOTE:** *This same film is scheduled to be shown at our October 4 monthly meeting in Freeport.*

August 9—Freeport Prairie Work Session, 7-9 a.m. Details same as August 2.

August 11—Perseids Meteor Shower Campfire at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Prairie walk at 7 p.m.; campfire begins at 8 p.m. S'mores and water will be provided. Bring a lawn chair and flashlight. Carpool from the Staples lot just off of HWY 26 in Freeport at 6:30. The Preserve is located about 3 miles southwest of Forreston in the southeast corner of West Grove and Freeport Rds. Parking is off of West Grove Rd.

August 13th & 14th—Tenth annual Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair. Takes place at the Ogle County Fairgrounds in Oregon, IL. Saturday 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Keynote speaker Fred Kirschenmann. See details on page 6.

August 17—"Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Tim and Teresa Smith, 1975 Mound Hill Rd., Dixon, 815-835-5109. Carpool from the Staples parking lot off of HWY 26 in Freeport at 6:15 p.m., or follow these directions: From Freeport go south on Route 26 until you get to the stop sign about 4 miles south of Polo. Turn right at the stop sign and you will be on Sterling Road. Travel about 1 miles on Sterling Road and then turn left on Union Road (this road is not labeled, but it has a white house at the corner) and go for 1 mile until you get to the stop sign. Turn right at the stop sign, Pilgrim Rd. and travel about .25 miles. Next, turn left on Mound Hill Rd. and travel for about 2 miles. When

you get to the curve in the road, turn right into our driveway which is shared with the neighbors. Once you are in the driveway, veer right.

Everyone is welcome at these informal discussions of various environmental issues.

August 25—The NIAS Conservation Committee and all other interested individuals will meet at Amigos Restaurant, 306 N. Galena Avenue in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and a stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 3—"Ghost Bird," a fascinating film on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker will be shown at the Ingersol Wetlands Center at 10 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. For directions, see the August 6 listing.

Sept. 6—"Atwood Center's Birds of Prey" program at the NIAS Monthly Meeting and Potluck at Oakdale Nature Preserve. See details on the front page.

Sept. 10—Quarterly Audubon Council of Illinois (ACI) meeting hosted by the Quad City Audubon Society, 10 a.m.—3 p.m. For agenda and carpool information, contact Blackmores at 815-938-3204.

Sept. 13—NIAS Board Meeting, St. John United Church of Christ, 7-9 p.m.

Sept. 17—Green Fair will be held one day only at Highland Community College and this year, **ADMISSION IS FREE.** A new venue, new speakers, new booths, new programs for kids and new vendors. Mark your calendar! For more information, see article on page 5.

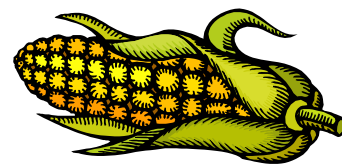
Sept. 20—"Talking About the Issues" monthly discussion session, 7-9 p.m. at the home of Mary and Keith Blackmore, 9024 W. West Grove Rd., Forreston, 815-938-3204. Carpool from the Staples parking lot off of HWY 26 in Freeport at 6:30, or follow these directions: from Forreston drive 1 1/2 miles south on HWY 26. Turn left (east) onto West Grove Rd. After 4 1/4 miles, turn left (north) onto Blackmore's lane. Everyone is welcome at these informal discussions of various environmental issues.

Sept. 22—The NIAS Conservation Committee and all other interested individuals will meet at Amigos Restaurant, 306 N. Galena Avenue in downtown Freeport at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fine food and a stimulating discussion. We wrap it up before 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 27—New Moon Campfire at Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Prairie walk begins at 6 p.m. and campfire starts at 7 p.m. Other details same as August 11 campfire.

October 1—National Solar Tour Day. Check out the details of this free educational opportunity on page 5.

Nov. 5—SAVE THE DATE for the Food For Thought workshop. See details on page 4.



The public is welcome at all chapter activities.

THANK YOU TO...

- 👍 **Alice Akins** for hosting an outstanding breakfast in her home for volunteers at the July 5 work session at Elkhorn Creek. YUM! YUM!
- 👍 **Teresa Smith** and **Mary Blackmore** for preparing a local foods picnic at the June 11 field trip.
- 👍 **Lynn Feaver** and **Keith Blackmore** for mowing trails at Elkhorn Creek.
- 👍 **Carol Redmore** for her willingness to serve as our chapter's Conservation Chair.
- 👍 **Chris Hartung** for agreeing to chair our chapter's Membership Committee.
- 👍 **The following 25 prairie work session volunteers** for their wonderful work at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve and the Freeport Prairie through July 11: John and Anita Nienhuis, Melody Farringer, Mary and Keith Blackmore, Kara Gallup, Tom and Chris Hartung, Dan and Diana Nye, Larry and Phyllis Seffrood, Judy and Harlan Corrie, Anne Straight, Nancy and Randy Ocken, Sandy and Lynn Feaver, Carol and Fred Redmore, Chris Kruger, Dave Derwent, Tim Smith and Jeremy Dixon.



⇐ No, that's not Prius fuel behind that car...it's wild parsnip and other undesired plants that try to elude volunteers on work days at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve. Quite an accomplishment!

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome **Gary Monigold** from Freeport and **Sheila Wyeth** from Lanark as new members to Northwest Illinois Audubon Society.

Bird Walk Fun

Our chapter had another successful series of spring bird walks this year. Eight to 18 people participated in each walk, and species totals ranged from 23 to 57 per outing. Except for Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve, all sites were in Stephenson county.

Observers had many opportunities to get close looks and to view fascinating behaviors of various species. The special sightings for each walk included: American Pipit, Great Horned Owl with owlet, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Brown Creeper, Sandhill Crane, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Solitary Sandpiper, Barred Owl, Scarlet Tanager, Blackburnian Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher.

The strangest sighting was a Merlin (rare in our area) carrying a freshly killed bird to a utility pole top. As the Merlin was eating, we were trying to identify the prey species, but couldn't agree on what bird it was. It wasn't until hours later when we returned to the site and found the head of the prey species that is was positively identified as a Killdeer. Congratulations to Heidi Thorp who at the time of sighting had correctly identified the prey species!

Many thanks go to the volunteers who led the walks: Keith and Mary Blackmore, Somer Bovosky, Carol Redmore, Anne Straight and Dick Luthin. We hope you can join us next year when we'll once again enjoy the beauty and wonder of the spring migration.



Fall Prairie Seed Collecting

While our only long-range scheduled seed collecting outing at the Elkhorn Creek Biodiversity Preserve is on Sunday afternoon, October 9, we will be collecting on many more days, on shorter notice, as weather permits.

To get on the call list for these and other seed collecting outings, sign up at the September meeting or call **Mary Blackmore at 815-938-3204**. When called, you may join us if you are available, or if not, we will catch you another time. We typically gather seeds for about two hours at a time during afternoons.

Seed collecting is an easy, leisurely task. Novices are welcome. There will always be a leader to point out which plants to pick seed from. Water and equipment will be provided. Wear long pants and long sleeves. It's a fun way to spend a couple of hours on nice fall afternoons. We hope you can join us!

Seed Savers Exchange Featured at November 5 FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

Mark your calendars now! Staff from Seed Savers Exchange, an internationally recognized organization dedicated to preserving agricultural biodiversity, will present the keynote talk at this year's Food For Thought workshop on Saturday, November 5 at the Oakdale Nature Preserve lodge near Freeport. Seed Savers Exchange was highlighted in the article "Food Ark" in the July, 2011 National Geographic magazine.

At Food For Thought, you'll be able to enjoy great sessions, delicious local food and informative displays, all for a very reasonable price. A flier with all of the details will be mailed to members in late September. Remember to register early as the workshop typically fills quickly. We hope to see you there!

2011 Local Foods Brochure



The 2011 Local Foods Brochure is hot off the press. Each year, the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society and Stephenson County Extension partner to offer an annual brochure to inform people about the farmers in our area who offer local produce. The brochure includes vendors who offer local fruit, vegetables, flowers, herbs, honey, eggs, nuts and meat. If you would like a copy of the brochure, contact Teresa Smith at 815-238-3963.

It's Coming—The Green Fair Fare

- The Green Fair Fare is coming to Woodbine Bend, August 19 at 6:00 p.m. \$25 per person and cash bar. Dinner will feature Tom Arnold's chickens and other local produce. The Green Fair Fare is sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension and working with the chef at Woodbine, the Extension is making the dinner as local as possible; both the entrée' and the dessert will feature local food.
- The Fare is always a chance for a bit of camaraderie, a time to think about sustainability and a chance to look forward to the Green Fair. And, of course, the dinner is also a small fundraiser for the very popular and successful recycling efforts in Jo Daviess County, sponsored by the Jo-Carroll Solid Waste Agency, and to help defray the cost of the Green Fair itself.
- This year our keynote speaker is C.E. Pugh, National Development Director of the National Cooperative Grocers Association (NCGA) which was founded in 1999. The NCGA is a business services cooperative for retail food co-ops located throughout the United States. Mr. Pugh will help us learn about what a food co-op is. Find out more. Send a check and reservations to University of Illinois Extension, HCC, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, IL 61032.
- **Also, please NOTE:** The Green Fair is moving to Freeport on Sept. 17 for one day only at Highland Community College in Freeport and admission is FREE. It's going to be more exciting than ever!



National Solar Tour - October 1

On this Saturday, thousands of citizens across the nation will open their homes to the public in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of their solar installations. From photovoltaics to solar hot water systems, various methods of harnessing the sun will be explained. This is a wonderful FREE educational opportunity!

Mark your calendar now! To find out which homes will be open in your area, consult www.illinoissolar.org or www.illinoisrenew.org.

Toward a Cooler Planet

23rd in a series

INCH BY INCH



"Inch by inch, life's a cinch;

yard by yard, life is hard." Alma Derby was fond of saying. It certainly has applicability to global warming. Virtually everything that we do and/or the manner in which we do it affects the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in nearly every aspect of our lives, that makes it so tough to deal with. If there were only a single change that one had to make in order to reduce his/her carbon footprint, most folks would probably be willing to do it.

Instead, we must:

- Eat lower on the food chain
- Drive less
- Shut off lights when not in use
- Better insulate our homes
- Take shorter showers
- Buy highly efficient automobiles

- Reduce the speed of our driving
- Use clotheslines to dry our laundry
- Repair leaky faucets
- Replace inefficient windows
- Set the thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer
- Reduce the amount of garbage we produce
- Recycle everything possible
- Purchase and install efficient light bulbs
- Wash clothes in cold water
- Keep furnaces tuned up
- Properly inflate our auto tires
- Walk and bicycle more
- Etc., etc., etc.

In short, we must consciously consider each of our actions to minimize the cumulative impact of our lifestyles. While certain personal changes will yield a greater reduction of CO₂ than will others, we can collectively inch toward a healthier planet.

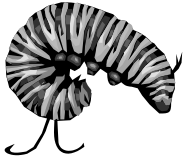
— Keith Blackmore



2011 Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair

Attend the tenth annual Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair on August 13th and 14th at the Ogle County Fairgrounds in Oregon, Illinois and attend workshops, explore booths and exhibits, music, field trips and more. The keynote speaker, Fred Kirschenmann, has been actively involved in efforts to make our food systems more sustainable. He is a distinguished fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. He is president of Kirschenmann Family Farms, a 3,500-acre certified organic farm in Windsor, N.D. His presentation at the fair, "Redesigning the Human Adventure: Challenges and Opportunities," is broad in scope. He sees the human enterprise on the planet as having reached a critical juncture. We now confront major challenges that present us with unprecedented opportunities to rethink and redesign our future.

For more information, visit www.illinoisrenew.org.



Carol's Choices

Books for Kids for Late Summer Days



Sharing Nature with Children and Sharing Nature with Children II

Joseph Cornell. Thank Keith Blackmore for these. He has lent these to me and they are invaluable. Billed as the "Classic parents' and teachers' nature awareness and guidebook," these present innumerable insights on awakening children "to the delights of nature."

Backyard Birding for Kids: A Field Guide and Activities

Fran Lee. Includes activities such as making a bird bath dripper, bird feeding advice, making a bird watching notebook — and tells what to do if you find a baby bird on the ground (mostly, leave it alone).

A Place for Butterflies

Melissa Stewart. Higgins Bond's illustrations greatly enhance this book, which includes attractively presented information on butterflies, where they live, what they eat, etc. Range maps show the United States areas where some of the most well-known live.

Born to be a Butterfly

Karen Wallace. For beginning readers, this is a Level I telling the exciting story of the butterfly's beginnings.

Usborne's First Nature Butterflies and Moths

Rosamund Kidman Cox. Colorful, complete, but easy-to-understand explanations of the differences between moths and butterflies. Includes much information about each — wings, feeding, keeping warm, a butterfly's day and a moth's night, making and laying eggs, finding a partner, etc. Includes "Hunt the Little Green Caterpillar" game.

Caterpillars, Bugs and Butterflies

Take-Along Guide, Mel Boring. For elementary kids. Detailed information, but colorful and well-presented — with activities such as "Make Moth Sugar" and "Use a Cricket Thermometer."

Peterson Field Guide Color-In Books

— sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Includes 230 bird stickers.

Fifty Favorite Birds

Lisa Bonforte, a Dover Coloring Book. Excellent.

Wild Flowers

Pam Forey. Science Nature Guides, Thunder Press. The flowers are presented as those from Eastern Forests, Grasslands, Western Forests, Wetlands, Deserts, Roadsides and Parks, with a flower symbol shown alongside each plant with a calendar of petals, the red petals showing at a glance which months of the year the plant flowers. Includes 20 easy-to-do science projects.

Wildflowers, Blooms and Blossoms

Diane L. Burns, Take-Along Guide. Show what the plant looks like, where to find it, what eats it, and interesting facts.

One Less Fish

Kim Michelle Toft and Allan Sheather. Set in Australia's Great Barrier Reef — twelve angelfish shimmer along until, one by one, they slowly disappear — ending with one fish left but thousands of people working to save the coral reefs.





BOARD MEMBERS:

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Rockford, IL 61108
Home: (815) 238-7120
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Secretary—Judy Kurr
Treasurer—Mary Blackmore
At large—Steve Simpson, Tony Grahame, Tim Smith, Sharon Shaw, and Willem Dijstelbergen.

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Conservation—Carol Redmore
Programs—Keith Blackmore
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Publicity—Dan Barron
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Keith Blackmore
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Name: _____ Address: _____

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Membership Type:

- Individual ____ (\$20)
- Student ____ (\$9)
- Senior Citizen ____ (\$15)
- Chapter only ____ (\$15)

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X Sorry, this discount does not apply to renewals

ADDRESSES OF YOUR LEGISLATORS

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(17th District)
Rep. Bobby Schilling
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Moline, IL 61265

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Sen. Mike Jacobs
State House
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Rep. Jerry Mitchell
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