



JOURNAL

Warren County Conservation Board

Fall 2021

Species Spotlight: Northern Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

As fall and winter round the bend, several different types of animals prepare for long trips to their winter migration territories, or for their long slumbers through the coldest part of the winter. However, one bird that you will continue to see year round is the Northern Cardinal.

Northern Cardinals are a fairly large songbird, weighing on average 1.5–1.7 ounces and reaching 8.3–9.1 inches in length. The male is a brilliant red color with a reddish bill and black mask around the bill, while the female is a pale brown with some tinges of reddish brown on the wings, tail, and crest. Both male and female cardinals have a prominent crest of feathers on their head that they can raise and point when agitated or lower to barely visible when resting. Cardinals like to forage in pairs and are often found low in shrubs or trees, or on the ground. They like to frequent inhabited areas like backyards, parks, and forest edges.



Cardinals feed on mostly seeds and fruit, but will supplement their diet with insects. They feed their nestlings mostly insects. At birdfeeders, cardinals prefer black oil sunflower seeds. Cardinals will typically lay 3–4 whitish to pale blue or greenish white eggs that are marked with brown, purple, and gray. The female will incubate the eggs for 12–13 days while the male defends their nesting territory. He will fiercely attack intruding males (including his own reflection in mirrors and windows.) Both parents feed the nestlings. Nestlings will leave the nest at around 9–11 days old. Cardinals will have 2–3 broods per year.

These charismatic birds are a favorite of many beginning birders, and are often the reason someone will pick up a birding book to begin with. They are the state bird of seven different states. They have a rich song that is often said to sound like: *what-cheer, cheer, cheer, or birdie, birdie, birdie*. They also commonly make a loud, metallic chirp when warning off intruders, warning of nearby predators, as females approach their nest, or as they carry food to the nest. Cardinals are comfortable being near people and are highly visible. They add a fun splash of color to the landscape, especially against the white snowy background of the winter. These are among the reasons why cardinals are so many people's favorite songbird.



Meet A Member

Meet a Member: Staff Mallory Wells, Office Manager



Mallory Wells is one of the newest members to the Warren County Conservation. She joined our team as office manager. Mallory graduated from DMACC with a degree in Business Management. She spent over 13 years in the Mental Health and General Assistance offices running the day-to-day operations, managing claims, transitioning the office to paperless, and being the first point of contact for clients accessing Warren County's resources. She comes to Warren County Conservation to serve as office manager over seeing claims, assisting with board meetings, and continuing to be a first point of contact for guests visiting the Annett Nature Center. She is a lifelong resident of Warren County where she resides with her husband Martin and two girls, Harper and Jocelyn along with their fur babies Otis and Blackie. She loves to visit all the county parks grabbing that year's Geocache Adventure cards. Her favorite park is Zo-El Annett Woods with the swinging bridge. When she's not working, she loves to spend time with her family hosting Sunday Breakfasts, sitting around a bonfire, camping and fishing, actively volunteering for the Iowa Donor Network, singing with her church praise team, or taking a Saturday drive with her girls,

mom, nieces, and nephew to try and find Iowa's Best Tenderloin.

Next time you stop in, make sure to tell Mallory "Hello!"





Friends of Warren County Conservation

Prairie Picnic
September 18, 2021
&
Online Auction
September 11-19, 2021

Join us for an evening on the prairie with appetizers & drinks, BBQ picnic, silent auction, and live music by Ryne Doughty. Visit www.warrencb.org for all the details.

View and bid online all week for nature & experience themed baskets via <http://putneyauction.com/>

All proceeds support the redesign of educational exhibits at Annett Nature Center.

Thank You!

Wild Outdoor Women Presenters:

Bethany Grabe, Begin Again Yoga
Jess Lancial, Story County Conservation
Iowa DNR Conservation Officers
Jen Meyer, Jackson County Conservation
Jim Coffey, Iowa DNR
Canoe Sport Outfitters
Tia Rodemeyer, Art Terrarium
Andrea Metzler, Art Terrarium

Donation and Program

Salt Lickers

Butterfly Garden Maintenance:

Jessica Fearington
Jane Overland





Events

September

Monarch Tagging

Saturday September 12th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A Warren County Conservation Naturalist will teach you how to catch and handle a monarch, determine gender, and properly tag them in the wild as part of a national research project. Bring a butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Fun for the whole family! Please register by September 10, 2021. Space is limited. If you need to cancel please call 515-961-6169 so someone else may attend. Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the tagging instructions.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday September 18th | 1:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle and their miraculous migration to Mexico. A Warren County Conservation Naturalist will teach you how to catch and handle a monarch, determine gender, and properly tag them in the wild as part of a national research project. All monarchs will be released after they are tagged. Bring a butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Fun for the whole family! Please register by September 16, 2021. Space is limited. If you need to cancel please call 515-961-6169 so someone else may attend. Please arrive promptly so you don't miss the tagging instructions.



FWCC Prairie Picnic

Saturday September 18th | 5:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Friends of Warren County Conservation would like to invite you to our annual prairie picnic to support environmental education programming and exhibits at the Annett Nature Center. This year's event includes an evening on the prairie with live music by Ryne Doughty. There will be delicious appetizers, a Smokey D's BBQ meal complete with desserts, and a silent auction. The online auction items will be on display that evening as well, see below for how to bid online. The cost is \$30 per person. Seating is limited. Registration is required by September 7, 2021. Please call 515-961-6169 to reserve your seat.

FWCC Prairie Picnic Online Auction

September 11-19th | Online-

<https://www.putneyauction.com/online-auctions/>

In addition to the in person event FWCC will be hosting an online auction through Putney Auction. Join us from the comfort of your couch, in your PJS if you wish. All online items will be listed with photos and descriptions of each item on the Putney Auction website. Short videos will be posted on the Annett Nature Center Facebook page to give you a sneak peek of the items. A big thanks to Putney Auction for listing our online auction.

You will need to set up a free account with Putney Auction to be able to place your bid at: **[putneyauction.com/online-auctions/](https://www.putneyauction.com/online-auctions/)**

Pheasant Mentor Hunt-Tentative

Saturday September 25th | 9:00 a.m. | Izaak Walton League

This is an opportunity for youth to learn more about pheasant hunting and everything that goes along with it including hands on experiences.

The day will include learning about pheasant hunting including firearm and hunting safety reviews, learning about and reviewing laws and regulations, dog handling skills, target practice, and a mentored hunt with cleaning practice. An adult must attend with their youth.

Space is limited, please register at www.warrencb.org/events by September 21st at noon and only for the youth attending.

October

Iowa Trail Run Series

Saturday October 10th | 9:00 a.m. | Annett Nature Center

Friends of Warren County Conservation are excited to announce that we will be hosting the Iowa Trail Run Series here at Annett Nature Center. Check out what the IA Trail Run Series has to say about the course.

"We're back for a third year at Warren County Parks' Annett Nature Center for a beautiful fall run on Sunday morning. Race, relax, and enjoy the beautiful October colors through the gravel paths, dirt trails, and prairie grass." There will be a 5K or 10 K (two laps) option.

Packet pick up to be announced at Annett Nature Center. Parking will be in the lot and overflow parking will be signed. (Lake Ahquabi State Park).

To register, visit; <http://iowatrailruns.com/#singlerace>

Volunteer:

We could use some extra assistance with water station and packet pick up. No experience necessary, just a fun attitude. If you would like to volunteer at this event please contact Karen by email: karenjohlaszalkowski@warrencb.org or call 515-961-6169.

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrencb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.

Events



October Cont'd

Prairie Seed Harvest & S'mores

Friday October 15th | 5:30 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Have you ever wished you could learn a little more about some of the prairie practices used by the Warren County Conservation Board? Do you want to help us preserve our beautiful prairies? Come out to help with the prairie seed harvest! You will learn to identify and how to harvest seeds from several prairie plants. Come out to the Annett Nature Center and take the opportunity to roll your sleeves up, enjoy the beautiful fall weather, and preserve the prairie seeds to be planted somewhere else. Then head up to the pavillion and roast some smores to cap off the evening!

You can bring a bucket, hand nippers or we will have some to use. We recommend bringing a pair of gloves and dress to be amongst the prairie plants (long pants are best to keep itchy prairie plants off of your legs!)

Please register at warrencb.org/events by October 13th at noon so we can assure we have enough materials. Program will be canceled if less than 5 participants are registered.

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrencb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.

Plant & Pollinator Palooza Halloween Hike

Monday October 25th | 6:30 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Head on out to the Annett Nature Center for our Plant and Pollinator Palooza Halloween Hike. This non-scary hike is educational and fun for the whole family. You will be guided along the trail to meet the following characters: butterfly, bat, prairie blazing star, hummingbird, and cup plant. After the hike you can make a craft and enjoy some treats. The cost is \$4 per person and those under 3 are free.

*Registration is required. Contact 515-961-6169 to register.

*Hikes leave the nature center at 6:30, 6:40, 6:50, 7:00, 7:10, 7:20, and 7:30.

Please arrive at the Annett Nature Center 5-10 minutes early to get checked in. The hikes leave the nature center at the scheduled times. In order to maintain the schedule throughout the entire night, we will not hold hikes. If you arrive late for your scheduled time, we will do our best to get you into the next open time, however that may be at the end of the night. We do have a maximum number of hikers per group time to avoid overcrowding, and to make sure everyone can hear at each stop on the trail.

**FWCC Presents A
Plant & Pollinator Palooza
Halloween Hike**

**October 25, 2021
6:30PM-7:30PM**

Hikes leave every 10
minutes.
\$4 per person

**Annett Nature Center
Reservations Required
Call 515-961-6169**



Events

**NOVEMBER 18, 2021
5-8 P.M.
MIDDLESWART LODGE
15875 118TH AVE
INDIANOLA, IA 50125**

WARREN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD'S



FALL NATURE MARKET

Come out to a beautiful park setting and look through the nature themed vendor booths with items that are: hand crafted, upcycled or repurposed, Iowa based, locally grown or inspired by nature.

**Vendor fees will
support educational
exhibits at the
Annett Nature
Center**

*Free to
Enter*

**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
WWW.WARRENCB.ORG/EVENTS**

Events



November

Moonlit Winter Painting Class

Tuesday November 9th | 6:30 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Painting with a Twist will guide you through how to paint a "Moonlit Winter" canvas. All materials, instructions, and light snack will be provided. This event is geared towards those 10 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is required at <https://www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/des-moines-urbandale/event/2816295/>

The cost is \$39 per person.

Make & Take Family Day

Saturday November 13th | 2:00–5:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Bring the family out for a self-guided fall hike, make & take essential oil gifts, and a snack. This is a come and go as you please event and will be held outside so please dress for the weather. (If inclement weather we will move to inside the nature center.)

For \$25 your family can participate in the activities and make the following gifts: hanging ornament, soothing lotion, bath salt, hand purifier, Thieves Cleaning Spray, and roller bottle. (one of each item) Additional gifts can be made for a small charge.

Not interested in making the items yourself? We will premake your items and have them available for pick up during the event. Please note premade items in the registration comment section.

Fall Nature Market

Tuesday November 18th | 5:00–8:00 p.m. | Annett Nature Center

Warren County Conservation Board is hosting our first local nature and craft related vendor fair. We want to support local merchants in our beautiful park setting. Vendors will have all sorts of items to get you ready for the upcoming holiday season.

Each vendor was selected based on how well their products fit into the following categories: nature-themed, hand crafted, up cycled or repurposed, Iowa based, photography, artwork, items locally grown or created, and items inspired by nature. Unique items are preferred, and similar vendors will not be doubled.

Interested in being a Vendor? Please fill out an application at this link: <https://forms.gle/3BLFk95MbtjRDLET9> and return to us no later than October 11th. You may also request a paper form by calling 515-961-6169. Vendor fees support educational exhibits at the Annett Nature Center.

Nature Family Trees

Friday November 20th | 10:00 a.m. | Annett

Nature Center

Come spend some time with the naturalist to make your very own family trees, nature style! We will go on a short hike to gather materials, and then move inside for a family and individual craft project. Each family will have one jar or vase, and will build up the nature-art from there. Each family member will decorate their own branch.

Participants have the option to bring their own materials, it could be fun to go on a nature walk around your back yard or neighborhood to find neat leaves and other items on the ground. This is an opportunity to embrace that inner child, go ahead and collect the nature trinkets, and learn a little more about what nature items are intriguing to different family members! We will take a short hike at the beginning of the program, and have extras available during the event.

Registration required by Wednesday, November 17th and space is limited. Please register for your family, including how many members will be attending. The materials cost is \$5 per family.



Winter Plant & Animal Adaptations

Monday November 29th | 5:00 p.m. | Annett

Nature Center

The weather is cooler, the perfect time of year for snuggly sweaters, coats, and mittens! Do you ever wonder how the animals and plants prepare for the winter? Come out to the Annett Nature Center to learn about Plant and Animal winter adaptations!

A WCCB naturalist will lead this family friendly program on a short twilight hike, and then head inside to learn how plants and animals adapt to the changing season.

This is a free program, perfect for the whole family! Please register by Friday, November 26th at noon.

For more details and information, or to register for events, please visit www.warrencb.org/events or call 515-961-6169.



Fall 2021

Warren County Conservation Board



The Warren County Conservation Board manages over 2,200 acres of land for the benefit of its citizens. Visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities on areas being conserved for this generation and generations to come.

Subscribe to *Three Rivers Journal* via email! Reduce waste and get frequent updates on programs, parks, & projects:



wccb@warrencb.org



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The Warren County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Warren County Conservation Board of the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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