

# The Graber Legacy

Drs. Richard & Jean Graber were renowned ornithologists with the Illinois Natural History Survey for nearly thirty years. Early in their careers they conducted a state-wide bird population study. It was during this survey that they were introduced to the Shawnee Hills of Southern Illinois, and Jean expressed a desire to own property in Pope County

A few years later, the Grabers purchased the first of two parcels of land which now comprise War Bluff Valley Sanctuary. They eventually retired from the INHS in 1983, and moved to their private wildlife area. Here, they continued research on the relationship of birds and insects of the forest canopy until Dick's declining health curtailed their studies.

In 1996, an opportunity to purchase a neighboring farm enlarged the sanctuary to nearly 500 acres. During their years of studying bird life from Kansas and Michigan to Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, and finally to Illinois, they gradually became concerned about the loss of habitat and its profound effect on birds and other wildlife. Because of this growing concern they became actively involved in efforts to change management practices on the Shawnee National Forest, which borders the sanctuary.

Their passion for preservation of habitat resulted in seeking permanent protection for their personal wildlife refuge, and in 1990 they chose the Illinois Audubon Society to maintain the War Bluff Valley Sanctuary. The Grabers endowed the property to help IAS with long-term maintenance. Donations from visitors and *Friends of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary* also assist with maintenance and restoration work at this special wildlife haven.

Dick Graber passed away in 1998, but Jean maintains a home in nearby Golconda and still visits and takes part in Sanctuary activities.

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## Stewardship

Stewardship of the Sanctuary rests with the Shawnee Audubon Society, the local chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society. The second Saturday of every month is Stewardship Day where you get a chance to volunteer your time and talents while spending a day in nature working and socializing with others who value nature as much as you do. For information on current activities call the sanctuary

**618-683-2222**

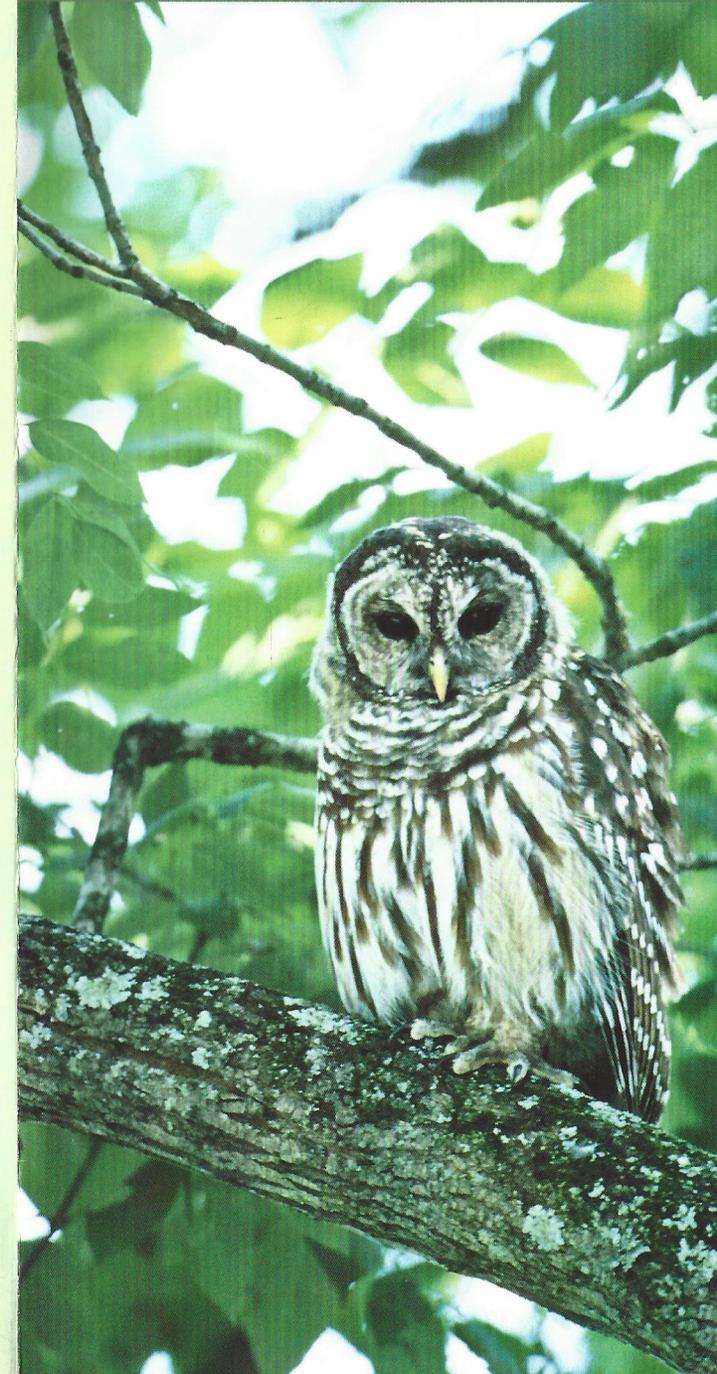
**[shawneeaudubon.wordpress.com](http://shawneeaudubon.wordpress.com)**

**War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary  
228 Bushwack Road  
Golconda, IL 62938**

## Directions

From Golconda, Illinois take State Route 146 North 3.5 miles to Bushwhack Road (look for brown Wildlife Viewing sign) and turn left. Follow road approximately 2 miles to the Sanctuary entrance.

# War Bluff Valley Sanctuary Illinois Audubon Society



### Map Legend

- Tractor trail
- Foot trail
- County road
- House
- Outbuilding
- Out house restroom
- Parking

# War Bluff Valley Sanctuary Trail Map

