

**It is time to get outside! Community science workshop at the Maq Pij Preserve,
March 14, 2026, 1221 N Ferry Landing Rd, Galena, IL.**

Would you like to get involved recording your observations and submitting them to scientists, and want to learn more?

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation invites you to the Maq Pij Preserve and the historic Hess House for a day of nerdy naturalist fun led by JDCF staff and volunteers! Stay for the whole day or pick what you would like to learn about. This JDCF property is only open for events and programs so come and enjoy learning and exploring with us in this very special place.

Community Science Workshop

Turn your nature observations into science and see the wonder in the world.

10:00-11:30am Bluebird box care and monitoring

What to expect in caretaking a Bluebird Box
How to monitor a Bluebird Box and report your observations to JDCF
Tips and tricks from experienced monitors
Walk a blue bird box trail

Experienced monitors are encouraged to come spend time with us and share your advice and stories!

11:30-12:00pm How-to use Cornell's NestWatch app

Get your nest box observations into the hands of scientists

12:00-1:00pm Explore Break

Bring a picnic lunch
Spend time at Maq Pij Preserve hiking and making observations

1:00-3:00pm How-to use the most popular community science apps

Why they are a benefit to you and the community. We will meet and review inside the Hess House going over real examples, then use the skills learned with a discovery walk. We will show examples on iPhone. Android users will have similar navigation on the apps. The principles will be the same on both operating systems.

iNaturalist - Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science, from the rarest butterfly to the most common backyard weed. iNaturalist shares your findings with scientific data repositories like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](https://www.gbif.org/) to help scientists find and use your data. All you have to do is observe.

EBird - Advancing Science and Conservation. Your sightings contribute to hundreds of conservation decisions and peer-reviewed papers, thousands of student projects, and help inform bird research worldwide.

Merlin Bird ID - Free global bird guide with photos, sounds, maps, and more.

Please note there is limited space for the 1:00-3:00pm How-to use the most popular community science apps workshop.