



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

September 2012 – Vol. 19, No. 7

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

"Winter Birding in Florida" is the title of a program by John and Martha Schwegman for SIAS on Friday, September 28th at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale, starting at 7 p.m. Parking and entrance are at the rear, off Marion and Monroe Streets.

NOTE: the Southern Illinois Audubon Society has changed its monthly program/meeting start time to 7 p.m.

This program is an illustrated birding tour of central and southern Florida. It will include images from such notable areas as Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Station 5 Sewage Treatment Area, Miami Suburbs for introduced exotic birds, Everglades National Park, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and De Soto County Park among many others. Shorebirds, Herons, and many upland birds will be shown and all are from our own photos. Some interesting species are Painted Bunting, Short Tailed Hawk, Florida Scrub Jay, and Limpkin. Many of our summer birds winter in Florida and several will be included.



SIAS Meeting/Program Schedule:

October 26th – Potluck & program to be announced

December 7th (Nov./Dec.) – Program to be announced

For the Love of Monarchs!

Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Sept. 22 & 29, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Cache River Wetlands Center

Each year the monarch butterfly makes an incredible journey from North America to Mexico but little is known about their trip and the many threats that have caused this butterfly to dwindle to the lowest population levels in decades. Help us contribute to an international effort called Project Monarch Watch that focuses on collecting data and monitoring the monarch through its 2,500-mile migration. Join staff for a presentation to learn about this butterfly, the native plants that are vital to its survival, and actions you can take to help them thrive. Following the presentation, participants will net, tag, and release monarchs. Two following Saturdays are scheduled to continue tagging butterflies in an effort to collect information that will assist with efforts to monitor their migration south to Mexico. For more info, phone 618.657.2064.



Welcome New Members!

Leah Berkman of Carbondale, Jennifer & Stephen Janasie of Carbondale, Jim Taylor of Christopher, Chelsea Devivo of Herrin.

Dear Nix I-66 Supporters, Thank you for signing the petition to Nix I-66 through beautiful southernmost Illinois. Our desire to stop the feasibility study is probably not possible—the contractor has been hired and all that stands in the way of the study proceeding is a check from the federal government. But, our desire and dream to stop the highway is as strong as ever. Friends from northern Illinois who just celebrated the withdrawal of federal funding for the Prairie Parkway proposal after fighting for 11 years have encouraged us to fight the big fight – to Nix I-66. We can do this with your help. Please ask everyone you know to sign our petition; write your legislators; write Letters to the Editor; stay tuned for updates and opportunities to help. Thank you!!

<http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org>

New Film Now Available Documenting Plight of Endangered Hawaiian Birds

The American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) has released a new 30-minute film titled *Endangered Hawai'i*. The film explores the on-going bird extinction crisis in Hawai'i that has led to about 70% of all endemic bird species in the state becoming extinct. The ABC produced the film with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

With beautiful footage of many of Hawai'i's stunning birds and their habitats, the film showcases the unique biodiversity of our 50th state and explains the environmental crisis that has caused Hawai'i to become known as the "Bird Extinction Capital of the World." It describes the nature of the crisis, its causes, and current efforts to implement solutions for species remaining on the brink.

Since the arrival of Europeans to the Hawaiian Islands, 71 endemic bird species have become extinct out of a total of 113 that existed just prior to human colonization. Of the remaining 42, 32 are federally listed, and ten of those have not even been seen for up to 40 years. A key species of concern is the Kiwikuu, or Maui Parrotbill, a honeycreeper that was once widespread on Maui and Moloka'i, but which is now limited to approximately 500 individuals high on the windward slopes of Haleakalā volcano. Another honeycreeper, the Palila, was once found throughout the Hawaiian Islands, but now clings to less than five percent of its original range on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Meanwhile, the Nihoa Millerbird, endemic to the small, rocky island of Nihoa, is down to as few as 700 individuals, and the 'Akikiki and 'Akeke'e of Kaua'i are in steep decline.

The film points out that the primary threats to Hawaiian birds are exotic species: predators such as feral cats and rats; herbivores such as goats and pigs that degrade native habitat; diseases such as avian malaria and pox transmitted by non-native mosquitoes; and plants that displace native species and reduce habitat quality for native birds. Climate change may further reduce or eliminate mosquito-free – and hence disease-free – upland habitat as temperatures rise.

An encouraging note highlighted in the film is that in areas where there has been aggressive conservation action to reduce these threats, Hawaiian birds have stable or increasing populations, and new projects underway by state, federal, and NGO partners such as the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Hawai'i's Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and ABC are also making a difference. DVDs are available for \$9.95 plus shipping. <http://www.abcbirds.org/>

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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
the Illinois Environmental Council,
& the North American Bluebird Society*



Don't forget to save your stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. ☑

Bring \$10 to any IAS meeting!

For more info visit: www.illinoisaudubon.org



I'iwi by Michael Walther

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