



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

September 2013 – Vol. 20, No. 6

P.O. Box 222

Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

## NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

### The Summer Ecology of the Federally Endangered Indiana Bat

is the topic of a program Karen Mangan will present to SIAS on Friday, 09/27. The program will start at 7 p.m. and will be held Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale. (Remember to enter the Township Hall from the back entrance, north off East Monroe Street, where parking is available.)

For the past 3 years, both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service have been cooperatively monitoring the summer roosting population of the Indiana Bat on Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Indiana Bats hibernate in caves during the winter but spend their summers roosting under the loose bark of trees near water. Female Indiana Bats form maternity colonies of up to 100 or more bats where they give birth and raise their pups. The monitoring that has been done since 2011 has revealed an abundant population of this species along the lower Cache River, as well as allowing further insight into their summer behaviors.

Karen Mangan is a wildlife biologist at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge. She has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 10 years, and has been at Cypress Creek for 8 years.

### August Program Highlights

The Hayes' took us on an amazing African safari!  
Highlights will follow in the October newsletter.

### 2013 Meetings Calendar:

**October 25th:** John Schwegman - *Wildlife of the Ecuador Andes and Amazon Lowlands with special emphasis on birds*

**December 6th:** Nov./Dec. combined mtg. Program to be announced.

**January 24th:** Annual meeting with potluck, elections, silent auction, and program. Program to be announced.

### Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Looking to Enhance the IL Flock of Greater Prairie Chickens

Scott Simpson, Site Manager at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, states that the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) is currently seeking approval for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife State Wildlife Grant (SWG) to support another translocation of Kansas Prairie Chickens to Illinois for genetic and demographic enhancement of the Illinois Flock. Prairie Chickens have significantly declined the past three years with only 17 males in the Jasper county flock and 27 males in Marion County. Weather events such as above normal rainfall (35% above 20 year average) during hatching and early brooding, a localized severe hailstorm in April 2011 and the drought of 2012 have lead to this decline. IDNR feels these numbers are below the minimum viable population and the Recovery Plan supports a translocation at this level. The Illinois Audubon Society and the Illinois Natural History Survey are cooperators on the SWG project.

### Upcoming Events & Outings

#### Sept. 21 – Crab Orchard NWR Clean-UP Day

The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge will be hosting the annual Crab Orchard Clean Up at the Prairie Creek Recreation Area. Spend the day outdoors and help keep Crab Orchard beautiful, starting at 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Call the Refuge Visitor Center for more information 618.997.3344 ext. 1.

#### Sept. 21 – Monarch Migration

The orange and black Monarch butterfly migrates up to 2500 miles from various North American sites to central Mexico for the winter. Monarch Watch has been tagging and monitoring migrating monarchs since 1992. Join us to learn about the Monarch's life habits and their journey to Mexico and back on Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Cache River Wetlands Center. The rest of the day will be spent capturing and tagging butterflies for the Monarch Watch program. For more information, call the Cache River Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

#### Sept. 21-22 – IAS Fall Gathering & Annual Mtg.

The IAS (Illinois Audubon Society) Fall Gathering will be held at Lincoln Land Community College, Trutter Ctr., Springfield, IL. Registration form and complete details can be found at:

<http://illinoisaudubon.org/PROGRAMSEVENTS/>

A block of rooms is being held at the Baymost Inn & Suites, 217.529.6655. When making a room reservation, mention "Illinois Audubon Society"

#### Oct. 6, 13, 20 & 27 – Discovery Tours at CONWR

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge will open up the restricted portion of the refuge for self-guided tours. Tours begin at the Wolf Creek Causeway and run from 1-4 p.m. Call the Refuge Visitor Center for more information 618.997.3344 ext. 1.

#### Oct. 12 – National Wildlife Refuge Week at the Cache

In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge will provide guided canoe tours to Eagle Pond and highlight ancient cypress trees and wetland wildlife throughout the day.

Reservations are required for the canoe tour; reserve your spot beginning Sept. 12th. For more information call Cypress Creek NWR at 618.634.2231.

#### Feb. 9-18, 2014 – Vern's Birding Tours: Costa Rica

This 10-day excursion to Costa Rica, the wildlife sanctuary of the Americas, has again been designed especially for Vern's Birding Tours. For full details and reservations, contact Vernon Kleen, 1825 Clearview Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, 217-787.3515 or [vkleen@comcast.net](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net).

### Proposed New Madrid Levee Threatens Wetlands, Wildlife, Cities by Barb McKasson

We thought it was defeated, but the Army Corps of Engineers has resurrected the New Madrid Levee Project. This divisive project would build a 60-foot high, ¼ mile long levee, severing the last remaining connection between the Mississippi River and its floodplain in Missouri. The EPA has found almost 50,000 acres of wetlands in the New Madrid Floodway, which is now in jeopardy if we don't act! Let the Corps of Engineers know your concerns during the comment period, which ends Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Danny Ward, Project Management Branch, 167 N. Main, Room B-202, Memphis TN 38103-1894,

**Send a comment by the September 6<sup>th</sup> deadline by mail or email Email comments to [daniel.d.ward@usace.army.mil](mailto:daniel.d.ward@usace.army.mil)**

To see the full project: <http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/StJohnsBayouandNewMadridFloodwayProject.aspx>  
For further information, go to [www.nwf.org/newmadrid](http://www.nwf.org/newmadrid) Scroll down to "End New Madrid Levee Factsheet" and view the map.  
A National Wildlife Federation lawsuit stopped the project in 2007 for being out of compliance with the Clean Water Act. The court ordered the Corps to restore the project site – to actually un-build the project. The Corps completed the restoration work but now is working on planning the project again.

Watch for: *Earthflight* – a PBS “Nature” Special

Ride on the backs of birds – more than 100 species in 40 different countries – for 6 Wednesdays (episodes) beginning Sept. 11 through Oct. 9 on WSIU-TV (Channel 8) at 7 p.m.

This is a "Nature" special presentation that took some four years to film. "Whether retracing the North American flight paths taken by thousands of migrating wild snow geese traveling to their Arctic breeding grounds or witnessing for the first time the aerobatics of devil rays as they somersault and splash back into the sea, the goal was to show the world on the wings of birds." Cameras were put on bald eagles and brown pelicans and small songbirds, as well. Each part of the series covers a different continent. For more information, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/earthflight/introduction/8388/>

-Laraine Wright



Home Garden Store Plants found to be Killing Bees

Friends of the Earth have released a report that found bee-killing pesticides in more than half of the “bee-friendly” home garden plants sold at stores like Home Depot and Lowe’s – with no warning to consumers. Their report shows this problem is widespread and that many unsuspecting home gardeners are purchasing plants pre-treated with pesticides proven to kill bees.

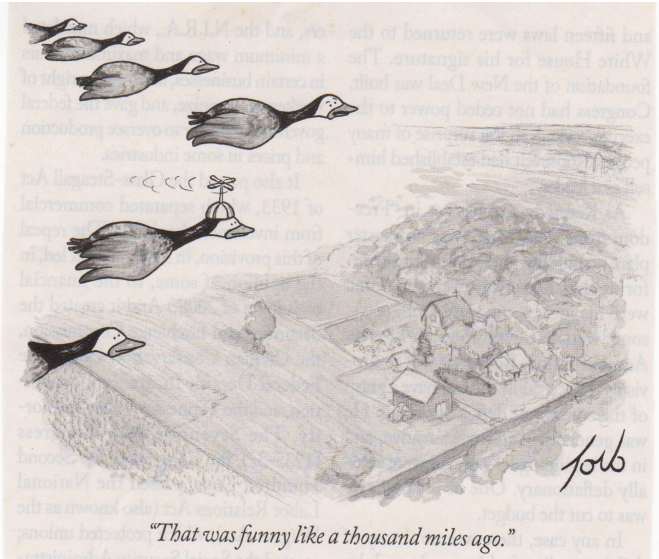
The toxins in question are the world’s most popular pesticides, neonicotinoids (or neonics), implicated as a key factor in escalating global bee die-offs. From 50,000 bumble bees found dead in a Target parking lot in Portland to beekeepers across the country losing up to 90 percent of their bees last winter, stories of bee die-offs are emerging from around the world. We must act now to stop this global disaster or risk losing the more than 2/3 of our food crops that are pollinated by bees, from apples to almonds to watermelons.

Help Friends of the Earth put Home Depot's CEO Frank Blake and Lowe's CEO Robert Niblock on notice. Write to them now, insisting that they stop selling plants laced with bee-killing pesticides immediately and pull all bee-killing poisons from their shelves. [http://action.foe.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=14136](http://action.foe.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14136)



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“That was funny like a thousand miles ago.”

✂—cut here and return with dues—cut here and return with dues—✂✂✂✂✂—cut here and return with dues—cut here and return with dues—✂

-- Join SIAS Renew Your Membership --

To join or renew your membership, fill in the following form and return it along with your dues to:

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
I/we would like to receive my newsletter via email. YES or NO

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society** Individual member \$15  
Attn.: Membership Additional member in a family \$10  
P.O. Box 222 Student voting member \$ 5  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222 Amt. Enclosed:\$\_\_\_\_\_  
Annual membership renewal month is January and coincides with board elections held at the annual meeting in January.  
Member address labels reflect current dues status.

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



Indiana Bat - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

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