



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

November/December 2014 – Vol. 21, No. 8

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

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

“The Lower Rio Grande Valley and South Padre Island of Texas”

is the title of a program John and Martha Schwegman will present for SIAS on Friday, 12/05, starting at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale. The Fellowship Hall is on the lower level of the church. Take the elevator or stairway down to the Hall.

This program covers some of the best birding spots in the southern tip of Texas. See twelve warbler species at a South Padre Island spring migration "Warbler Fallout" at the Convention Center. Also included are a wide variety of other migrants including Stilt Sandpipers, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher with males in breeding plumage. Subtropical birds include the Green Jay, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Pauraque, Subtropical Cormorant, and Chachalaca among others. All photos in this presentation are by the John Schwegman family.

John is a lifelong naturalist who had a long career as a botanist with the IL Dept. of Conservation and IL Dept. of Natural Resources. He was instrumental in forming the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and continues to serve on the board. Since John's retirement, John and Martha have continued to study wildlife, including mussels, dragonflies, birds and plants.

SIAS 2015 Meeting Schedule

January 23rd - Annual Meeting with potluck & silent auction;
Speaker: Mark Glenshaw on Forest Park Great Horned Owls

February 27th – Program Speaker: George Waring on
“Flora and Fauna of the Seychelles Archipelago”

Sunflower Seed Sale!!

SIAS is sponsoring a sunflower seed sale on Saturday, Dec. 13th, 8:30 a.m. to ?. We have an opportunity to offer high quality, clean, southeastern Missouri grown black sunflower seed in 30# bags for \$12/bag. Members & friends will benefit from being able to purchase this great seed at a great price and SIAS will make just a little profit off each bag sold.

This is a sale by pre-order, to be picked up at the home of Nelda & Conrad Hinckley, 907 S. Valley Rd., Carbondale. Nelda & Conrad will greet folks with coffee, donuts and soup.

An order form can be found on the last page of this newsletter and needs to be returned to SIAS via the mail as soon as possible or at the Friday, 12/05, SIAS meeting. Some extra might be available the day of sale.

In Memoriam: Susie Utgaard

We lost another dear friend on Oct. 21 with the death of Susie Utgaard, 75, who with her late husband, John, was a longtime, active member. At Susie's memorial on Nov. 22 in Carbondale, friends and family spoke of her great devotion to her four sons and their spouses and children, her love of reading and painting landscapes, and the decades spent each summer at geology research camps in Montana.

I also remember her at the weekly book club at the Carbondale Public Library where we bring in a book to discuss with the group. Susie enjoyed Western history and novels as well as mysteries. She was quiet but always ready to interject humor into any conversation.

Her family requested memorial gifts to be directed to SIAS or to the Carbondale Public Library. To send a condolence card: Erik Utgaard, 1806 N. Craig St., Sterling, VA 20164. – *Laraine Wright*

For several years, a small group of SIAS members met once a week for lunch at the west end of Evergreen Lake, where a picnic table sat on the lawn of the Carbondale Water Treatment Plant. John and Susie always came, except when they went out west on their yearly trip to Red Rock.

We all would scan the lake for waterfowl, check the trees for songbirds then sit down to eat our lunch and share stories and silly jokes. Sometimes someone would bring a unique type of candy or treat to share. There was never a day when John and Susie were not laughing or joking. It was such fun to share lunch with them.

At one point in time, we all got tied up with other lunchtime activities so attendance dropped. When I would talk to Susie at SIAS meetings, she would always ask me when were going to return to our weekly lunch rendezvous. We never seemed to get back on our lunchtime schedule. I missed the time spent with John and Susie. – *Rhonda R.*

Upcoming Events & Outings

Dec. 4 – Cypress Creek NWR Holiday Open House

Celebrate the holiday season with the staff and friends at the office of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, 0137 Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin. There will be good food and good friends. For more details, call the Refuge at 618.634.2231.

Dec. 7 – Alternate Gift Fair

The Alternative Gift Fair gives you the opportunity to shop for holiday gifts while listening to live music and helping out our vital local not-for-profit organizations! Unique gifts are available to purchase, including local art and jewelry, games, toys, gift memberships, and much more! Location: Carbondale Civic Center from 2-5 p.m. For more info phone 618.534.1162.

Upcoming Events & Outings con't.

Dec. 14 – Jan. 5 – 115th Christmas Bird Count Season

This is the 115th year of this 23-day period, all-day censuses of winter bird populations, providing the longest running database in ornithology.

Local counts with dates:

Cypress Creek NWR- Dec. 15 - Meet for assignments at Shawnee Comm. College Bldg. D, Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin, at 6:00 a.m. For details, phone Cypress Creek NWR 618.634.2231.

Big Oak Tree St. Pk. (MO)- Dec. 17 - Meet on Count Day at 6:00 a.m. at the restaurant at Boomland, on the southeast corner of the interchange at the Charleston, MO, off I-57. Contact compiler Dr. Bill Eddleman at weddleman@semo.com.

Middle Mississippi River NWR- Dec. 19 - Meet at Middle Miss office, 1293 Rocky Hollow Road, Rockwood at 6:30 a.m. Contact compiler John Hartleb at 618.763.4420 or Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605.

Rend Lake- Dec. 20 - Advanced registration required, contact compiler Keith McMullen at 618.632.1057/ warbler7@sbcglobal.net.

War Bluff Valley - Dec. 20 - For details contact Andrea Douglas, compiler at 618.564.2079 / anderatd@yahoo.com.

Grab Orchard NWR- Dec. 21 - Advanced registration required, contact compiler Vicki Lang-Mendenhall at 618.687.9868. Meet for assignments at the Refuge Visitor's Center, 8588 Route 148, at 6:00 a.m.

Carlyle Lake- Dec. 23 - Advanced registration required, contact compiler Dan Kassebaum at 618.233.5451/ kdan@htc.net. Meet for assignments at the McDonald's near the Lake entrance at 6 a.m.

Marion County- Dec. 26 - Meet in the parking lot of the Raccoon School, just west of I-57 at the Centralia exit at 6:00 a.m. Contact compiler Joe Merkelbach at 618.532.3112/ jemerck@ecologyfund.net.

Horseshoe Lake (Alexander Co.)- Dec. 28 - Advanced registration required. Meet in parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 3 & Miller City Rd., Olive Branch, at 6:30 a.m. Contact compiler Vern Kleen at 217.787.3515 / vkleen@comcast.net. Alexander and Union participants can use the Wicker Club at Horseshoe Lake for Saturday, 12/27, and Sunday, 12/28, night accommodations. Beds are available, but bring blankets, pillows, etc. Persons unable to meet at the Wicker Club will get their assignments at "onsite" meeting locations.

Union County- Dec. 29 - Advance registration required. Meet at the intersection of IL Rt. 3 and IL Rt.124 (in Ware) at 6:30 a.m. Contact compiler Vern Kleen at 217.787.3515 / vkleen@comcast.net. See lodging options for Horseshoe Lake.

Mermet Lake- Dec. 30 - Advance registration required. For assignments contact assistant compiler Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 / woodthrusheola@hotmail.com.

Arklands/Pyramid St. Pk.- Dec. 31 - Meet on site at the intersection of Pyatts Blacktop and Panda Bear Rd. at 6:00 a.m. Contact compiler Joe Merkelbach at 618.532.3112 / jemerck@ecologyfund.net.

Jackson County- Jan. 1 - Advance registration required. For assignments contact compiler Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 / woodthrusheola@hotmail.com. Compilation and soup (by Chef Anton) at sunset, at the home of David and Anton Kvernes, Skyline Dr., Carbondale, Jackson County CBC feeder watchers wanted!! Email your feeder bird list to Rhonda at the end of count day or send it via the U.S.P.S.

Mingo NWR (MO)- Jan. 4 - Advanced registration required, contact compiler Dr. Bill Eddleman at weddleman@semo.com. Meet at 6 a.m. at Mel's Diner in Puxico for breakfast & assignments.

Dec. 13 – Geminids Meteor Shower

Join in this free public astronomy observation hosted by the SIU Carbondale Physics Dept. from 11:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. View meteors from the Geminids Meteor Shower, Jupiter, the Andromeda Galaxy, and the Orion Nebula. A presentation on the night sky will accompany the viewing. For more details & location, phone 618.453.2643.

Jan 10th – Mid Winter Eagle Surveys

Eagle Survey(s) will be held on Saturday, 01/10. Rain date: Sunday 01/11. SIAS coordinates two routes, one each in Union and Alexander Counties. For Union Co. contact Cathie Hutcheson at 618.529.2022 for arrangements. For Alexander Co. contact Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 or in the parking lot of Anna Walmart, off IL Rt. 146 east of Anna, at 8:30 a.m. for carpooling.

The Bald Eagle was made our national symbol in 1782.

Feb 19th – 2015 Master Naturalist Program

The 2015 Master Naturalist training will begin on February 19, 2015 and run through May 7. Sessions will be held at beautiful Giant City State Park. There will be twelve information packed sessions and optional bonus field trips. Emphasis is on the unique plants, animals and ecosystems of southern Illinois. Enrollment is limited; registration closes January 15.

See what the Master Naturalist program has to offer you and what you can offer to the program. <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mn/apply.cfm>

4th South American Adventure: *Ecuador 2015*

Join Professor Nelda Hinckley and Trevor Hinckley for some eco-trekking in Ecuador, January 4-13, 2015. Tour pricing is based on double-occupancy and a minimum of 10 paying participants. For complete details, including tour cost, contact Nelda at 618.549.7335 ext. 8820, 618.564.5588, or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Federal Agencies Offer Vision to Ensure Future Generations Can Enjoy Wilderness

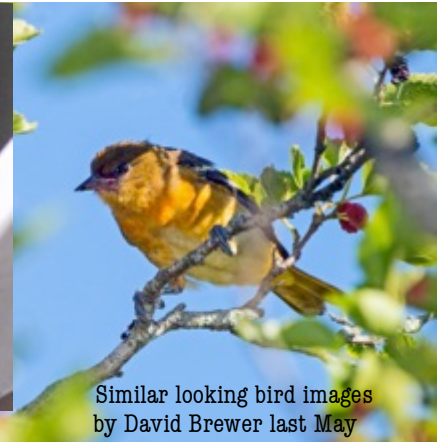
The federal land management agencies that make up the National Wilderness Preservation System recently signed an agreement that will guide interagency collaboration and vision to ensure the continued preservation of nearly 110 million acres of the most primitive of public lands. The *2020 Vision: Interagency stewardship priorities for America's National Wilderness Preservation System* will guide the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Geological Survey, all under the U.S. Department of Interior; and the U.S. Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The document outlines interagency work and partnerships with nongovernment organizations for the management of wilderness. There are 758 wilderness areas in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

A Bullock's Oriole Visit - The morning of Nov. 21st, an oriole sized yellow bird landed on the deck bird feeder at John and Martha Schwegman's home. No surprise that John grabbed his camera and snapped some photos. John was able to identify it as a first year male Bullock's Oriole. John stated that it was a golden color with a white lower belly and vent area and black beard. John reported that it did not eat any seed, rather, it just landed to see what all the birds were doing there. The oriole stayed for about 5 minutes and has not been seen since but could still be in the area.

After forwarding an email with details that John had sent to me, I got an email reply from David Brewer with an image attached. Seems David had snapped an image of a bird he couldn't quite identify. He'd seen it at Crab Orchard NWR in May. It strongly resembles Bullock's Oriole.



- Bullock's Oriole photographed by John Schwegman -



Similar looking bird images by David Brewer last May

October Program Highlights: Science Center of Southern Illinois - Making Learning Fun

Connie Adams did a great job of presenting the ideas, goals, and features of the Carbondale Science Center at the October meeting. The center is currently located in the University Mall on east highway 13 and is open Wednesday through Sunday. It is a non-profit organization that was organized 20 years ago to make a connection between the science base of southern Illinois, research at SIU and other organizations, and young students in the area.

The center has numerous exhibits in its mall location including live organisms and models of dinosaurs sure to attract youthful curiosity. Connie's husband Bill is the model maker for the recently installed Allosaurus that is a chief attraction in the center. Carbondale sends dinosaur models out around the world to other science exhibits based on Bill's work. The Adams have been able to direct visitors to their home by telling people to look for the dinosaur (work in progress) in the driveway or backyard. The logo sign at the mall entrance to the center is also a combination piece done by Connie and Bill. See it here: <http://yoursciencecenter.org/>

The live exhibits include fish, reptiles, rabbits and several others that are friendly and fun for children. There are also hands on manipulative exhibits about math, chemistry, and physics that visitors can experience. The recently upgraded volcano is a big attraction and it won't leave exploding extruded goop on your kitchen counter or table.

This eye-appealing center for presenting science to youngsters is a real benefit for the area. They both welcome visiting classes or take the ideas of science demonstrations to groups in off site locations for a nominal fee to support the resource.

Many thanks to Connie for hitting a pinch-hit home run while representing the Science Center at the October meeting. Details of memberships, programs, hours of operation are at: <http://yoursciencecenter.org/> -Joe Merkelbach, President

To Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form and return it with payment. Thank You!

Individual Member	\$15	Your Name _____
Additional Family Member	\$10	Street Address _____
Student Voting Member	\$ 5	City, State, Zip _____
Donation	_____	Phone Number _____
Amount Enclosed	\$ _____	Email _____

Mail to:
Southern Illinois Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

I/We would like to received our newsletter via email: YES / NO

Annual membership renewal month is January and coincides with board elections held at the annual meeting each January.
 Member mailing labels reflect current dues status.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

	Quantity	Each (\$12.00)	Total
30 lbs. Black Sunflower Seed	_____	_____	_____

Cut at dotted line below and mail form along with your check for the total to: SIAS Seed Sale
 P.O. Box 222
 Carbondale, IL 62903-0222



The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Nearing Its End

The Midwinter Bald Eagle survey began as a way to monitor the status of Bald Eagles over-wintering in the lower 48 states. The data analysis started in 1986. It will reach the 30-year point in 2016 at which time coordination by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will end. SIAS began contributing data in 1996. At that time there was no other data on over-wintering Bald and Golden Eagles being collected anywhere in southernmost IL other than that from Christmas Bird Counts. *The survey was first initiated in 1979 by National Wildlife Federation.*

Return your order form by 12/08/14 or bring it to the Dec. 05 SIAS meeting. Pick up your seed on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the Hinckley's, 907 S. Valley Rd., Carbondale. Questions? Phone Vicki Lang-Mendenhall at 618.697.9868.

SIAS Board of Directors

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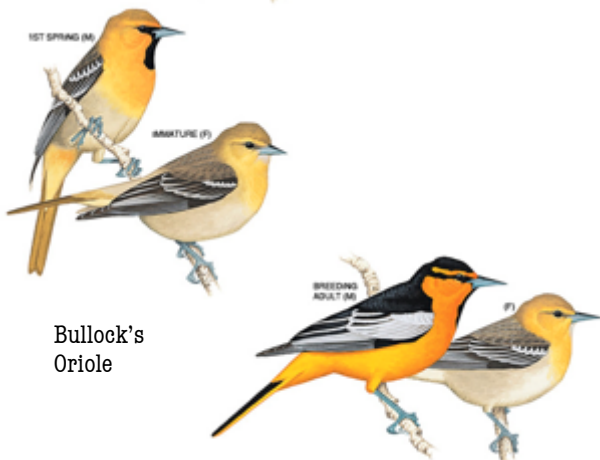
Newsletter contributions welcome, contact Rhonda Rothrock at:
 618.684.6605 or
 woodthrusheola@hotmail.com
 SIAS Webmaster:
 Jim Shofstall
 SIAS Website:
<http://www.siaudubon.org>

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



Bullock's Oriole