



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

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

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

The Importance of Trees for the Community

Master Gardener Tom Caldwell will give a presentation about the importance of trees as an aspect for community building for SIAS on Friday, August 28th. The program will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale, at 7 p.m.

Tom Caldwell is on the faculty at Lake Land College, Mattoon, IL where he teaches Philosophy and English. Tom is a Master Naturalist and a Certified Arborist.



2015 Meetings Calendar

Sept. 25th: John Schwegman on *Hummingbirds of the World*.

Oct. 23rd: Dr. Loretta Battaglia on *Everglades Restoration Plan*

Nov./Dec.-Dec. 4th : John Schwegman on *The Galapagos*

Jan. 22nd: SIAS Annual Meeting with potluck, program, silent auction, and election of officers.

IDOT Nixes Corridor 66; “Shawnee Expressway” Now Being Considered

In July the Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) announced that the 66 Corridor project was being discontinued. This, they said, was due to the lack of a state-to-state agreement between IDOT and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. IDOT made their decision to nix the 66 Corridor Project nearly a year after the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet notified IDOT that Kentucky was terminating their participation in the 66 Corridor Feasibility Study. But IDOT also stated that this discontinuation did not preclude any future 66 Corridor studies from occurring.

In their press release, IDOT wrote that the data collected to date and input received from the region during the 66 Corridor study indicated a need for improvements in the east-west direction in southern Illinois. This, they said, has led to the determination to focus a new study on a smaller area within the region where they identified the greatest need: between IL Rt. 3 / IL Rt. 146 and I-57. This new study is slated to begin within the next year.

The announcement of the 66 Corridor study termination was welcome news to many of us who supported the no-build option. But IDOT's statement that the collected data supports a need for improvements in the east-west direction, has many of us questioning IDOT's interpretations and intentions. In an article about the project termination, *SE Missourian* newspaper referred to the new study area as the “Shawnee Expressway.”

It's true that much of the road infrastructure in southernmost Illinois is in great need of repair but spending money on an “expressway” rather than repairing existing roads, will not resolve our transportation problems. View their press release at <http://www.66corridor.org/doclib/docs/%5C2015-07-09PressRelease.pdf>

—Rhonda R.

Flooded Fields in SI Attract Birds

This summer's rains have turned many open fields in the western bottomlands of both Jackson and Union Counties and in the southwestern area of Alexander County into great shorebird, wader, and tern habitat.

For most of the summer nesting season, the Mississippi River was at flood stage, covering the sandbars, sending Least Terns inland in search of nesting locations. Terns found spots in flooded fields southwest of Horseshoe Lake in Alexander County and, hopefully, had success. Great Egrets and Great Blue Heron could be seen along IL Rt. 3 between Gorham and East Cape Girardeau all summer long. A few shorebirds could be found but their numbers are increasing with the start of their fall migration.

Summer birding kept Don Mullison busy and he found some great birds. On 07/29, Don located American White Pelicans, Black-necked Stilts, an American Avocet, and over 100 Least Terns in Alexander County. Then on 08/11, Don located more great birds, this time in Jackson County, including Willets, Short-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers and Caspian and Black Terns.

Unrelated to the flooding, this summer a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers took up residence near Grand Tower. This species has been expanding its range in recent years.

And a certain mammal also seems to be expanding its territory. This summer an unusually high number of Armadillos have been seen in Jackson, Union, Randolph, Union, Williamson, and Johnson Counties. They've been seen as far north as Percy and as far west as IL Rt. 148, near Ogden Road by Crab Orchard NWR and even one north of Vienna. Sadly, all reports have been of road-kills. To see live armadillos, I guess we'll need to drive around at night.

—Rhonda R

Upcoming Events & Outings-

Aug. 23rd – Birding for Beginners

Master Naturalist Ruth Kelley will introduce folks to birding at this indoor program will be held at the Cache River Wetlands Center, at the intersection of IL Rt. 37 and Perks Road. Her program will focus on choosing and using binoculars and field guides, finding and identifying birds, bird habitats and behaviors, and common birds in your backyard. For more info, phone the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

Aug. 27th – Friends of the Cache Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Cache will be holding their Annual Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 27th, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale. Learn more about the Friends and their activities, including the new pollinator gardens to be established on the Cache Wetlands Center grounds. This meeting is free to all members and non-members and will include a brief presentation, "The Spirit of Exploration," by Dr. Michael Jeffords. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Paula Havlik at phavlik@illinois.edu or 217.649.4326.

Sept. 5th – Cache River Days

Don't miss the 21st Annual Cache River Days at the City Park in Ullin! Food, music, exhibits, and family activities are just part of the fun. Enjoy guided canoe tours through the Cache River Wetlands. Reserve your spot for free canoe tours beginning August 5th by calling Cypress Creek Refuge at 618.634.2231

Sept. 19th – IOS Carlyle Pelagic Birding

The Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS) is again sponsoring this birding trip to Carlyle Lake. The trip includes the popular three-hour pelagic aboard comfortable pontoon boats. Meet at McDonald's off IL 127 in Carlyle at 6:30 a.m. This is a full-day field trip; ending around 7:30 p.m. beginning with a scan of the lake from Dam West Beach before heading to Eldon Hazlet State Park to search for migrant songbirds. Lunch will be fast food or bring your own. The boat trip begins at 3:30 p.m. from Dam West Marina to search for gulls, terns and others.

Space is limited. As of this writing, there were still a few spots available. **The fee is \$30 for existing IOS members and \$50 for non-IOS members.** The \$50 fee for non-members registers you for the field trip and also pays for a one-year IOS membership and all the benefits. In addition, \$5 per participant goes to the IOS Grants program.

Trip registration and payment shall be made through the Pay Pal feature at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>. Registration will not be accepted without full payment in advance. The trip leader is not accepting payment or registrations. Persons not using the website and Pay Pal must promptly register by sending full payment to IOS, P.O. Box 931, Lake Forest, IL 60045 and note that the payment is for "Carlyle Pelagic" AND call or e-mail the trip leader (see below) to notify their payment has been mailed.

If you have any questions about the trip, feel free to contact Keith McMullen, trip leader, at warbler7@sbeglobal.net or by phone 618.560.9450. **Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, mud boots and your hat.**

Sept. 19th – Monarch Migration-Monarch Tagging

The Monarch Watch Association, based at the University of Kansas, has been tagging and monitoring migrating Monarch flutterbys since 1992. Attend their Monarch Migration program at the Cache River Wetlands Center, at the intersection of IL Rt. 37 and Perks Road, to learn about the Monarch's life habits and their epic journey to Mexico and back. Then, spend the rest of the day capturing, identifying and tagging Monarch butterflies as part of Monarch Watch. For more info, phone the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

Sept. 26th – IAS Fall Gathering & 118th Annual Meeting

The Illinois Audubon Society's (IAS) Fall Gathering & 118th Annual Members Meeting will be held in the Trutter Center at Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL. It will include a meeting, presentations and optional field trips to Lincoln Memorial Garden and Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. For full details or to register, visit: <https://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=2046&EID=20542>

Avian Responses to Selective Logging Shaped by Species Traits and Logging Practices

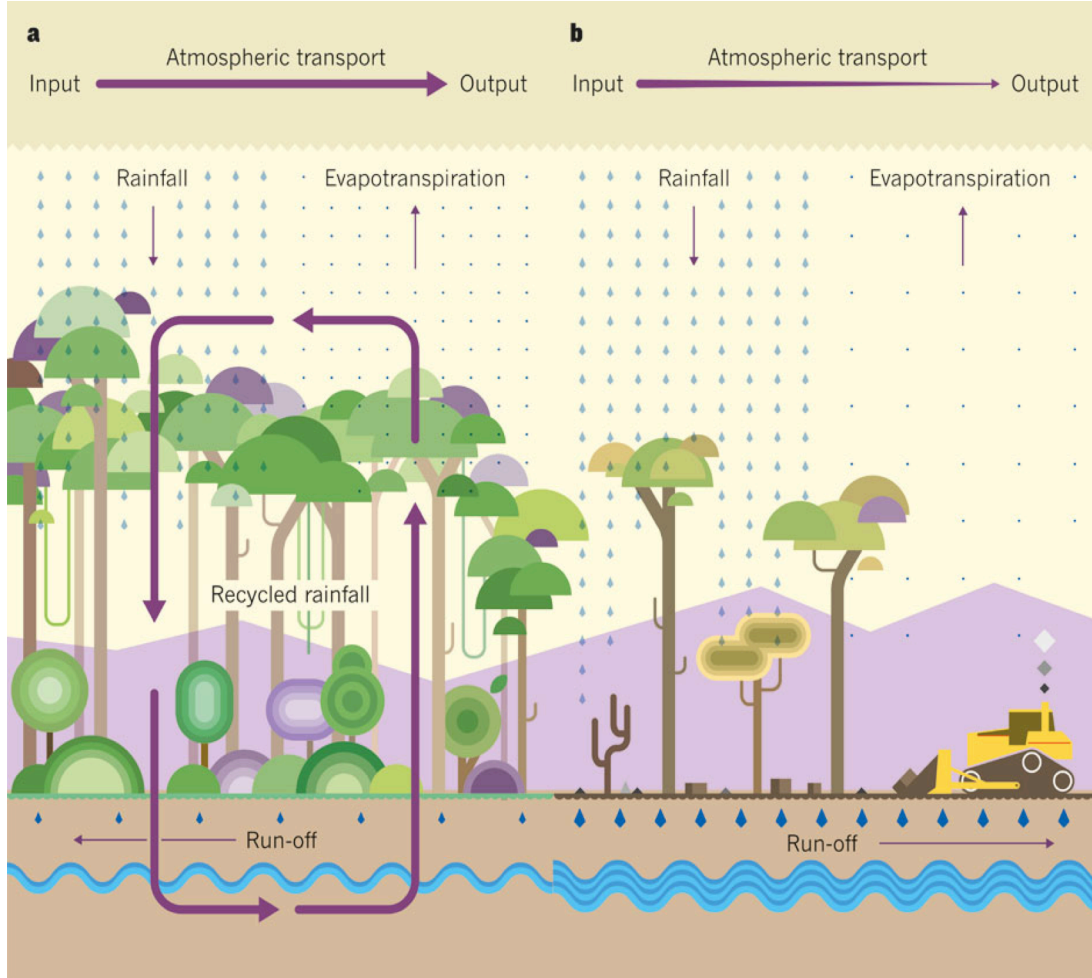
Selective logging is one of the most common forms of forest use in the tropics. Although the effects of selective logging on biodiversity have been widely studied, there is little agreement on the relationship between life-history traits and tolerance to logging. A recent study assessed how species traits and logging practices combine to determine species responses to selective logging, based on over 4000 observations of the responses of nearly 1000 bird species to selective logging across the tropics.

The analysis showed that species traits, such as feeding group and body mass, and logging practices, such as time since logging and logging intensity, interact to influence a species' response to logging. Fruit and insect eating birds were most adversely affected by logging and declined further with increasing logging intensity. Nectar and grain eating species responded positively to selective logging for the first two decades, after which their abundances decrease below pre-logging levels. Larger species of omnivores (species with both a plant and animal/insect based diet) and grain eating species responded more positively to selective logging than smaller species from either feeding group, whereas this effect of body size was reversed for carnivores, herbivores, fruit eaters and insect eaters. Most importantly, species most negatively impacted by selective logging had not recovered approximately 40 years after logging cessation.

The scientists conclude that selective timber harvest has the potential to cause large and long-lasting changes in avian biodiversity. But the scientist added that the results suggest that impacts can be mitigated to a certain extent through specific forest management strategies such as lengthening the rotation cycle and implementing reduced impact logging. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*
<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/282/1808/20150164>

The Rainforest's Water Pump - <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v489/n7415/full/nature11485.html>

An investigation of naturally occurring water recycling in rainforests, by Luiz E. O. C. Aragao, marries the results of global climate models with observations and suggests that deforestation can greatly reduce tropical rainfall.



Effect of deforestation on rainfall in the tropics: **a.** Much of the rainfall over tropical forests comes from water vapor that is carried by the atmosphere from elsewhere. But a large component is 'recycled' rain — water that is pumped by trees from soil into the atmosphere through a process called evapotranspiration. Water exits from forests either as run-off into streams and rivers, or as evapotranspirated vapor that is carried away by the atmosphere. The atmospheric transport of water vapor into the forest is balanced by the exit of water in the form of vapor and run-off. **b.** Analysis suggests that deforestation reduces evapotranspiration and so inhibits water recycling. This decreases the amount of moisture carried away by the atmosphere, reducing rainfall in regions to which the moisture is transported. Decreasing evapotranspiration may also increase localized run-off and raise river levels.

Environmental Groups Petition to Ban Natural Gas Exports - On 08.12.15, three environmental groups formally petitioned the Obama administration to immediately ban all exports of natural gas. The request challenges the recent tenfold increase in exports of natural gas, mainly as liquefied natural gas (LNG). "Exporting natural gas worsens global warming, harms local communities, raises domestic energy prices and benefits only multinational fossil fuel corporations," Bill Snape, senior counsel at the Center for Biological Diversity, said of the petition his group filed with Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. "If the Obama administration's really serious about addressing the climate crisis, it has to rein in the gluttonous natural gas industry," he said in a statement. That's been spurred largely by unconventional drilling techniques such as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which have increased domestic gas supplies exponentially, to the dismay of green groups. <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>

Shell Gets OK to Drill off the Coast of Alaska - Very troubling news for the Arctic and the climate crisis: The Obama administration has given Shell the last permit it needs to begin dangerous oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska this summer. Not only will this decision put polar bears and other wildlife at direct risk from an oil spill, but it'll push the planet deeper into the rapidly unfolding climate crisis. Shell's first attempt to explore for oil in the Arctic Ocean ended with the embarrassing grounding of its drillship in 2012 and the Coast Guard's discovery of 16 significant safety violations on its drill rig. The Obama administration has admitted there's a 75% chance of one or more large oil spills in the Chukchi Sea if oil is developed there. And we know that an oil spill in the harsh conditions of the Arctic would be nearly impossible to clean up. "As scary as it is to think about an oil spill in the Arctic, the climate consequences of Arctic drilling are the real horror story," said the Center for Biological Diversity's Rebecca Noblin. "If we don't keep this dirty oil in the ground, there's not going to be much of an Arctic left to protect." <https://medium.com/@EndangeredOcean>

Sportsmen frustrated with temporary success of Pebble's delay tactics for protections to Bristol Bay's world-class fishery. U.S. District Court Judge Holland released a ruling in a lawsuit filed by the Pebble Limited Partnership, allowing the case to proceed into discovery and temporarily keeps the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to protect Bristol Bay on hold. "Today's court ruling does not in any way change the fact that putting a giant mine on top of Bristol Bay's salmon runs remains a horrible idea. The science has made this clear and Alaskans have repeated over and over again that Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place," said Brian Kraft, owner of three sport fishing lodges in Bristol Bay. "We are confident that this lawsuit will result in the confirmation that the EPA conducted a fair process to protect Bristol Bay salmon and jobs from the threats posted by Pebble Mine," said Tim Bristol, manager for Trout Unlimited's Alaska program. www.savebristolbay.org

New Regulations Ban Domestic Trade of African Ivory

In response to a growing poaching crisis that is rapidly pushing populations of African elephants, rhinos and other species to the brink of extinction, President Obama announced that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing new regulations that would prohibit most interstate commerce in African elephant ivory and further restrict commercial exports. This action, combined with others the USFWS has already taken, will result in a near total ban on the domestic commercial trade of African elephant ivory. The proposed rule builds upon restrictions put in place last year following President Obama's Executive Order on combating wildlife trafficking. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-pressoffice/2013/07/01/executive-order-combating-wildlife-trafficking>

Endangered Species Conservation Efforts Receive \$37.2 Million Boost Through Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding \$37.2 million in grants to 20 states to support conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitat for threatened and endangered species across the nation. The grants, awarded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF), will benefit numerous species ranging from the coastal California gnatcatcher to the Karner blue butterfly. (Illinois is not on the list to receive any of the funding.) www.fws.gov/endangered/grants/index.html

When Animals Attack Drones

A Wedge-tailed Eagle attacks a small, camera-carrying drone:



eagle on attack



zooming in



powering up



talons ready



image of the

eagle's tail at the point when the eagle takes out the drone

No animals were injured, but the drone crashed.

See video of this eagle and other animals, including a swarm of bees, attacking annoying camera-carrying drones at <http://www.msn.com/enus/news/offset/eagleknocksdroneoutofsky/viBBH11U?ocid=sf>

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