



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

October 2015 – Vol. 22, No. 7

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

## NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

**Birding Ecuador's Highlands** is the title of a program to be presented by Dr. George Waring for SIAS on **Friday, Oct. 23<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** The evening will begin with a **potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m.** Dr. Waring's program following at 7:00. The potluck and meeting will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale. Take the elevator or stairway down to the lower level Fellowship Hall.

"Birding Ecuador's Highlands" covers Dr. and Mrs. George Waring's wildlife trip in January 2015 to the central Ecuador highlands, where they explored for eight days numerous habitats on the eastern and western sides of the Andean mountain range. During their brief trip, they observed more than 260 species of birds, plus successfully completed a team-effort rescue of a trapped 1000-pound mammal. The illustrated program will show some of the highlights of their observations and experiences.

Potluck set-up begins at 5:30 p.m. with the potluck starting at 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to bring an entree to share and their own dinnerware. Some beverages will be provided.



### 2015 Meetings Calendar

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

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

### SIAS Elections 2016

If you would like to be a SIAS committee member or board member, contact any current board member for more details.

Board contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter.

### Nixed 66 Now The Shawnee Parkway Project

In July the Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) announced that the 66 Corridor project was being discontinued. 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 has led 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.

Details of this new "Shawnee Parkway" project can be found at the new website: <http://www.shawneeparkway.org>

I ask that everyone please visit the site where you'll find a lovely image of rolling wooded hills (ironic). Please thoroughly review everything there, check out all the links, AND please subscribe to their newsletter to keep up to date on the process. That link is: <http://www.shawneeparkway.org/subscribe.aspx>

**"Context Sensitive Solutions"** "Due to the difficulty and sensitive nature of providing a roadway through this area," IDOT will again utilize what is called "Context Sensitive Solutions Guidelines" or CSS for the Shawnee Parkway study. As per their website, "Context Sensitive Solutions is an interdisciplinary approach that seeks effective, multimodal transportation solutions by working with stakeholders to develop, build and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities which fit into and reflect the study's surroundings, its 'context'. Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible, creative approach to approach to design, the resulting study should improve safety and mobility for the traveling public while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass."

As part of this "Context Sensitive Solutions" process (a part that seems to circumvent an actual "stakeholder" open public forum), IDOT will be re-forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG). This Community Advisory Group (CAG) is responsible for gathering concerns from their respective groups and sharing those concerns at CAG meetings then disseminating the information they receive at CAG meetings back to their respective groups. A roster of the CAG can be found on the second page of this newsletter.

### You Are Stakeholders! Your Involvement Is Vital!

In 2011 Citizens for Southernmost Illinois (CSI), a network of folks from southernmost IL, formed to share our concerns and to disseminate information about the 66 Corridor Project via a website <http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org/> providing access to project history, announcements, and to an online petition against the 66 Corridor.

CSI is in the process of revising the site to provide info on this new Shawnee Parkway road project. A new petition will soon be available at the CSI site and CSI will reach out to all who signed the first petition with a request to sign the new one.

I was the CSI representative on the 66 Corridor CAG and have agreed to continue as that rep on the new Shawnee Parkway CAG. IDOT considers the CAG to be "a key interface in the public engagement process because IDOT understands that the success of a project is contingent upon the participation and feedback from affected stakeholders." As a CAG member, I find the CAG to be unbalanced, insufficient, problematic, and markedly less than a proper interface with stakeholders.

Environmental concerns are greatly under-represented on the CAG. The socio-economic representation, which includes quality of life, is not balanced. And at least one group of stakeholders is not represented at all.

Everyone is a stakeholder and everyone's involvement is vital! As per CAG ground rules, CAG meetings are open to the public and the media but the public and media are excluded from meeting conversations. The public and media can only observe. None-the-less, I strongly encourage everyone to attend the CAG meetings and bring your friends and neighbors.

**The first Shawnee Parkway CAG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10/21, from 6-8 p.m. at the Egyptian Community Unit School, 20023 Diswood Rd., Tamms.** Note:

It's at Diswood, not on "Old Diswood Rd. Take Grapevine Trail west out of Tamms then turn south towards Olive Branch. OR Take Grapevine Trail (IL 4) southeast from McClure. OR Take Railroad St. (IL4) northeast out of Olive Branch.

Also, everyone can submit comments at <http://www.shawneeparkway.org/comment.aspx>

-Rhonda Rothrock

Shawnee Parkway  
Community Advisory Group (CAG)

“This table lists the CAG members identified to date. This list will be updated as additional members are added”.

Environment

Citizens for Southernmost Illinois  
Friends of Cache River Watershed  
Shawnee National Forest  
Sierra Club

Economic Development

Cape Chamber of Commerce  
Southern Five RPD  
Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone

Quality of Life

Dongola Community Unit Schools  
Head Start/Southern Seven Health  
Pulaski County Ambulance  
Rural Health Incorporated  
Shawnee Community College

Agriculture

Jordan Trucking  
Pulaski-Alexander and Massac Farm Bureau  
Ulen Farms  
Vick Farms

Industry

Procter and Gamble (Cape Girardeau)  
Villages/Cities/Towns/Counties  
Alexander County Engineer  
Pulaski County Engineer  
Village of Dongola  
Village of Pulaski  
Village of Ullin

Small Business

Bledsoe Seeds, LLC  
Food Town/Cairo Foods, Inc.  
Sandy’s Beauty Shop

Tourism

Southern Most Illinois Tourism

Commuter

Commuter 1 - Commutes from Missouri through the study area  
Commuter 2 - Commutes from Missouri through the study area



What are the limits of the study area?

The study area is located in the counties of Alexander, Pulaski, and Union. It is bounded by Illinois Route 146 to the north, Interstate 57 on the east, and along Illinois Route 3 to the west and south.

Where will this new roadway be constructed and what type of roadway is being planned?

This study is currently in the preliminary planning stage. The location or type of roadway has not been determined at this time. As the study progresses, engineering and environmental analyses will be performed. This information along with public input received will be used to determine the alignment and type of roadway. The name “Parkway” has been assigned to many different kinds of roadways in many states, including two lane and four lane highways that allow commercial vehicles. The use of Parkway is merely a way to name the study at this point.

Is the Shawnee Parkway study funded?

Phase I (Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study) is currently funded. Phase II (Final Design & Construction Bid Documents), Phase III (Construction), Land Acquisition, and Utility Relocation are not funded at this time. Additional funding will be considered in the future based on fund availability and project readiness.  
<http://www.shawneeparkway.org/FAQs.html>

There is no doubt that the roads of southernmost Illinois are in great need of repairs and improvements, but the proposed Shawnee Parkway does not address those issues. The funding for this study would have been better spent on fixing our current infrastructure. Support ‘No Build’. –Rhonda R.

Did you know your soaps, cosmetics, and even toothpaste may contain bits of plastic?

Many of our personal care products contain tiny microbeads that can create big problems for our environment. Microbeads are so tiny that they slip through wastewater treatment and right into nearby waterways. More than 8 trillion of these microbeads enter aquatic habitats EVERY DAY in the United States. [1] Microbeads are a special concern for our rivers, lakes, and oceans because they absorb pollutants, persist in aquatic habitats for decades, and can cause harm to fish and wildlife that mistake them for food. [2]

There is growing bipartisan support to ban microbeads. A dozen states have already banned, limited, or are considering banning microbeads, and bills have been introduced in Congress to ban microbeads in cosmetics. [3] However, some personal care companies are trying to create loopholes in both state and federal legislation that would allow for the use of so called "biodegradable plastics," many of which do not break down safely in aquatic environments. [4]

Tell Congress to ban all plastic microbeads from all personal care products. Tiny beads can be big trouble for our waterways and wildlife, but we can stop this problem before it gets worse. Write your legislators or sign the petition at <https://environmentillinois.webaction.org/>  
From Shelley Vinyard, Environment Illinois Regional Program Director  
1. Society for Conservation Biology, "Scientific Evidence Supports a Ban on Microbeads."  
2,4. Environmental Science & Technology, "Scientific Evidence Supports a Ban on Microbeads," 2015.  
3. Energy and Commerce Committee, "SubHealth Reviews Bipartisan Legislation to Protect Waters from Microbeads in Cosmetic Products," May 1, 2015.

In 2015, IL Governor Rauner signed a new law authorizing IDNR to administer a bobcat season, taking effect January 1, 2016. But the bobcat hunting and trapping season will remain closed during the upcoming 2015-2016 hunting/trapping season. In months leading up to the 2016-2017 hunting seasons, IDNR will first draft rules to implement a bobcat season. The statute allows for a limit of 1 bobcat per person per season at the price of \$5 per permit with a limit of 500 permits during the first season.

Ilovemountains asks that we Tell the Obama administration to protect Appalachian streams

The U.S. Department of the Interior has released a draft version of the Stream Protection Rule, which could be the most significant action taken to reduce the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining on the region's waterways. But it needs to be stronger, and that will only happen if the administration hears from thousands of advocates like you.

The Stream Protection Rule is intended to limit the dumping of toxic mountaintop removal waste into streams. We've been demanding these protections for almost eight years and are glad the Obama administration is finally taking action. But we need this rule to be stronger!

Appalachia's economic future depends on sustainable communities and a healthy environment, and we can't afford to let the coal industry weaken this proposed protection for the region's waterways. It is more important than ever for you to add your voice in the fight against mountaintop removal.

Visit the website link below to tell the Obama administration to finalize a strong rule that protects Appalachian streams and communities. <http://ilovemountains.org/spr-comments>



# Lots of Upcoming Events & Outings

## Oct. 22 > Orionids Meteor Shower

Celestial spectacles are again gracing the October night skies. The main one, the Orionids meteor shower, is on tap for after midnight on Thursday, 10/2.

UniverseToday.com states that mid- to late October is “fireball season”, a time when several key meteor showers experience a broad peak. Observing meteor showers such as the Orionids is as simple as sitting back and patiently watching the skies. Dark, moonless skies are key. Be sure to keep a pair of binoculars handy to examine any lingering smoke trails post-fireball passage.

## Oct. 24 > Kincaid Mounds Archaeology Field Day

The Kincaid Mounds Support Organization is sponsoring its annual Field Day at the Mounds on Saturday, 10/24. Programs start at 10 a.m., 12 noon, and 2 p.m. and there will be Mississippian artifact displays and information tables, New this year are the children’s activities from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the assistance of Jessica Crisp, Museum Educator, Wickliffe Mounds, Wickliffe KY.

Dr. Brian Butler and other members of the Kincaid Mounds Support Organization will present information on the Kincaid Mounds and the Mississippian Culture. Dr. Paul Welch, Corin Pursell, and Darwin Ramsey will discuss the SIUC Summer Field Schools excavations at Kincaid Mounds.

The event and programs are free of charge and there will be restroom facilities, but no refreshments sold. Part of the program, which is optional, includes a walking tour to Mound 8, hiking shoes are recommended.

The Mounds can be reached by turning east on Unionville Road at the north edge of Brookport. After 6.25 miles (through Unionville) turn right at a sign to the Mounds. For more about the mounds visit their website kincaidmounds.com.

## Oct. 24 > SNF Atwood Ridge Wildflower Walk

Take a walk at Atwood Ridge and learn how to identify common plants and flowers. Meet at the Shawnee National Forest Office in Jonesboro at 11 a.m. Walk will last up to 4 hours and will be limited to the first 20 participants. Contact Chris Benda at botanizer@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

## Oct. 24 > SNF Lusk Creek Canyon Wildflower Walk

Take a walk at Lusk Creek Canyon near Eddyville and learn how to identify common plants and flowers. Meet at the gas station in Eddyville at 1 p.m. Walk will last up to 4 hours and will be limited to the first 20 participants. Contact Chris Benda at botanizer@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

## Oct. 29 > Senior Van Tours in the Cache

Come along on one of three guided van tours for senior citizens and persons with physical limitations. This is an opportunity to see and share knowledge about the animals, native plants, fall colors, history and hydrology of the bottomland section of the Cache River watershed. The tours will run at various times along the Tunnel Hill State Trail between the Cache River Wetlands Center near Cypress, IL and the Tunnel Hill State Trail office in Vienna, IL.

Advance reservation required: please call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064

## Oct. 30 > CONWR Nighttime Bat Program

Crab Orchard NW Refuge will host a nighttime bat program. Come at 7 p.m. to learn about bat life history, current research at Crab Orchard and Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuges, and field survey methods and equipment. Meet at the Visitor Center, on IL Rt. 148, 2 miles south of IL Rt. 13. Presentation will be followed by a night hike to detect and identify bats and other nighttime creatures. There will be a children’s costume contest with prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring a flashlight or headlamp if you have one! For more information, please contact the Visitor Center at 618.998.5933.

## Oct. 31 > CONWR Bat Box Building

Join Crab Orchard NW Refuge staff for a bat box building workshop and learn how to attract these beneficial insect-eating creatures to your own backyard. Meet at the Visitor Center, on IL Rt. 148, 2 miles south of IL Rt. 13, at 10 a.m. Participants will be building bat boxes to take home with them that day. Space is limited and on a first-come-first-serve basis for both events. Reserve your spot by contacting the Visitor Center at 618.998.5933.

## Nov. 7 > “Oh, The Places You’ll Go” Fults Hill Prairie

Southern Illinois University Carbondale’s Touch of Nature Environmental Center is offer people the opportunity to explore some of the region’s hidden gems and natural sites. Everyone is welcome at each event and costs vary up to \$20, depending on the location and activity. Each session is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Those attending will board a bus in the SIU Student Center parking lot by 8 a.m. the day of each program. The bus will return there at the end of each excursion.

**This outing includes a hike in the Fults Hill Prairie State Natural Area and a visit to Fort De Chartres.** Fults Hill is a nature preserve featuring the largest high-quality loess prairie in the state and the hike is a 1.4 mile loop including steep and challenging terrain. Fort de Chartres was originally constructed by the French in the 1720s and reconstructed in the 1900s and furnished largely in period style. The price is \$20 for adults and \$10 for ages 10 and younger.

To pre-register, call 618.453.1121 or email toned@siu.edu.

## Nov. 17 > Status of Prairie Remnants in Illinois

The Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society is sponsoring program speaker Bill Handel to speak on the Status of Prairie Remnants in Illinois. Program to be held at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale at 6:30 p.m.

## Nov. 21 > “Oh, The Places You’ll Go” Piney Creek Ravine

Piney Creek Ravine State Natural Area is the destination for this Touch of Nature adventure and will include a hike along a 1.5 mile trail featuring moderate inclines, creek crossings and rocky areas. Participants will likely have a clear view of the ravine and be able to see many of the 200 Native American petroglyphs and pictographs, part of the largest rock art collection in the state. The cost is \$20 for adults or \$10 for ages 10 and younger.

To pre-register, call 618.453.1121 or email toned@siu.edu.

## Dec. 14 – Jan. 5 > Christmas Bird Count Season

Christmas Bird Count Season is less than two months away! This is the 116<sup>th</sup> year of the all-day census of winter bird populations, providing the longest running database in ornithology. The dates and details for local circles will follow in the Nov./Dec. Newsletter.

And mark your calendar for the Geminids Meteor Shower that will peak the second week of December.

## Eco-Trek: Birds & Natural History of Costa Rica

Join Professor Nelda Hinckley and Trevor Hinckley for some eco-trekking in Costa Rica, January 3-11, 2016. Wake up your first day to the tropical dawn chorus of the New World tropics. Visit the La Selva Biological Station, Cerro de la Muerte, the Savegre River, and the Carara National Park. 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

## 28th Annual Tropical Adventure / June 3-11, 2016

Trinidad & Tobago: Experience a tropical evergreen rain forest, a mangrove, tide pools, a tropical deciduous forest, a giant Leatherback Turtle watch, and West Indian cuisine. More details, contact: Nelda W. Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

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

Individual Member	\$15	Your Name	_____
Family	\$25	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.





**A Goose of a Different Color**

On 09/28 an odd bird showed up in a flock of Canada geese on the lawn of Linda and Dennis Bobo. It appeared to be a Cross between a Canada Goose and a Snow Goose.

Nikki Martin had a treat on 10/04 when she and her husband came across a Barred Owl, at a little after 9 p.m., sitting on a thick utility wire at the intersection of Old Hwy 13 and S. Williams St., Murphysboro. Nikki stated that they hear them in their woods every night but only see one 4 or 5 times a year.

At 2:30 p.m. on 10/12, David Brewer counted a flock of 12-15 Yellow-rumped Warblers swarming the in-ground water feature in his garden, drinking and bathing. David had seen a few of these over-wintering warblers sporadically the previous days.

SIAS Outings Chair Don Mullison wants folks to know that he regularly goes out birding and welcomes members to join him. Don also notes that he has been leading birding outings for Crab Orchard NW Refuge. If you'd like to know about Crab Orchard Bird outings or would just like to go out birding, give Don a call at 618.203.2869.



**SIAS Board of Directors**  
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Membership Chair & Newsletter Editor: Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6605  
woodthrusheola@hotmail.com  
SIAS Webmaster: Jim Shofstall selsyn@midwest.net  
SIAS email: siaudubonsociety@gmail.com

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



**Saving Cranes Continues – 2015 Journey South**

As of this writing, the 2015 class of 6 captive born Whooping Cranes were in the 15<sup>th</sup> day of their guided migration and, at least 4 of them had made the flight to Marquette, Wisconsin. Two had dropped out on the way, so were captured, crated and driven to join the others at the Marquette location. You can follow their journey by checking the *In The Field With Operation Migration Official Blog and field Journal* at <http://operationmigration.org/InTheField/>

The guided migration will again take them to a viewing spot within driving distant of southernmost Illinois. To find your nearest migration departure flyover viewing location visit: <http://operationmigration.org/public-viewing-opportunities-for-operation-migration.asp>

As per the website, “As a rule, departures happen within ~10 minutes of sunrise, so you will want to be in place at the viewing site by that time. Remember that our ability to fly on any given day is entirely weather dependent, and we rarely know more than a few minutes in advance of take-off whether or not we will be flying that day. Operation Migration crew will be on hand at Flyover Viewing Locations to respond to your questions. They will be equipped with aircraft radios so you can hear pilot transmissions and have Operation Migration merchandise available for purchase.”

