



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

August 2016 – Vol. 23, No. 5

## NEWSLETTER

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

*Established in 1970*

### John Schwegman's Wildlife of Mermet Lake

**Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** begins SIAS's meeting and program season. We welcome John Schwegman to start us off with his "Wildlife of Mermet Lake". This will be an illustrated overview of animals photographed by John at Mermet Lake Fish and Wildlife Area over the past 51 years. John was manager of Mermet from 1965 to 1968 and has visited the area regularly since retiring near Mermet 20 years ago. Birds make up the bulk of species covered in this program, but mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fishes are also included. Some of the birds are very rare visitors that have been seen by John just once in over 50 years. New arrivals include Whooping Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Armadillo, Green Tree Frog, and Eastern Chipmunk. Accidental species are birds that show up rarely, often many years between sightings. Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Eared Grebe. John's presentation will be at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale, starting at 7 p.m.

On *The Natural Heritage of Illinois*:  
"The ninety-three essays on the natural features of Illinois reflect the author's lifetime of study of the plants, animals, rocks, landforms, and other natural phenomena in the state. Schwegman's keen observation skills are exhibited in each of the essays. Many readers will feel as if they are with Schwegman in the field as they read these eloquently written vignettes of nature."  
-Robert H. Mohlenbrock,  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus



#### Did you know John just published a new book!

It is *The Natural Heritage of Illinois*

*Essays on its Lands, waters, Flora, and Fauna*

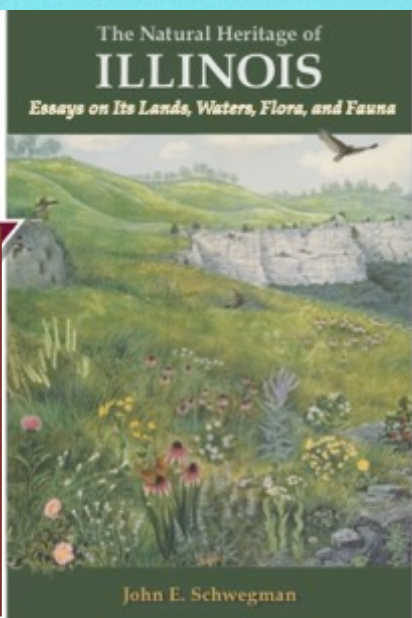
And John will have a book signing after his program for SIAS!

John's 256-page book lists for \$24.50 and is available at the Bookworm Bookstore, Eastgate Shopping Center, 618 E Walnut St, Carbondale.

Contact the Bookworm at 618.457.2665.

Pick up your copy prior to the program!

*Images by John Schwegman:*  
*Adult Bald Eagle*  
*Golden Mouse*  
*Black-bellied Whistling Ducks*



The perfect companion for exploring the natural wonders of Illinois.



### SIAS Meetings Calendar for 2016

**Sept. 23rd:** Mark Glenshaw – Forest Park Owls: Hunting and Feeding

**Oct. 28th:** Cathie Hutcheson – Chile, A three-week excursion

**Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Nov./Dec. combined meeting, program to be announced

**Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Annual meeting with potluck, program & silent auction



**In Memoriam** -- Our Audubon community lost three cherished members this summer, three women who had in common friendliness, intelligence, and caring for life of all kinds on the planet.

Cathie Maginel, 88, died on June 11. She and her husband, Cal, have been SIAS members since retiring to rural Jonesboro in the 1980s. We gave the Maginels our Conservationist of the Year Award in 1993 for their work as early stewards of the War Bluff Valley Sanctuary, owned by the Illinois Audubon Society; for annual walnut collection drives for planting at Cypress Creek NWR; for prairie restoration; and as staunch supporters of the Illinois Native Plant Society.

Cathie was constantly positive and kind to everyone she knew. Our sincere condolences go to Cal and her four sons, Jim and John who are SIAS members, David (named in 2000 as our Conservationist of the Year) and Dan.

Blanche Sloan, 92, died on June 30. She had joined SIAS within the last few years due to the efforts of her dear friend, Greg Kupiec, who made sure to bring her to our meetings and picnics as well as to many other activities she enjoyed in the Carbondale community. She and her late husband, Fred, were well known in the field of higher education in Southern Illinois. We will very much miss her cheerful conversation and smile.

Kay Werner, 75, died on July 7 in a flash flood accident in Johnson County. She and her husband, Tim, have long been members of SIAS and of the Sierra Club. They were special supporters of Cypress Creek NWR and the restoration of the Cache River. We extend our great sympathy to Tim.

-Laraine Wright

## April Program Highlights

For our April program, local botanist and President of the Illinois Native Plant Society, Chris Benda, gave a presentation about nature in the state of Illinois. He took a statewide approach and presented natural areas according to the many different natural divisions in the state. In each area, Chris highlighted fun natural areas to visit, along with representative plants and animals at each site.

The program highlighted how diverse Illinois is, from glacial wetlands and tallgrass prairies to unglaciated rolling hills and Cypress swamps. Particularly interesting was the natural areas in the area around Carbondale. There are so many places to visit! Chris also informed the audience of a book he is working on about natural areas in southern Illinois. He can be reached at

## January Eco-Trek to Panama!

Join Professor Nelda Hinckley on this Central America adventure to learn about the Natural History of Panama, Jan. 5-13, 2017. Experience the Canopy Lodge where you'll awake to bird song, live among the birds at Canopy Tower, a repurposed radar tower, where you'll have a 360 degree view of the forest and a view of the Panama Canal. For complete details, including tour cost, contact

Nelda at 618.549.7335 ext. 8820, 618.549.5588, or [neldahinckley@jalc.edu](mailto:neldahinckley@jalc.edu)



## Upcoming Events & Activities

### August 24 > Irises, Lilies, & Orchids of Southern Illinois

Illinois is home to some spectacular native wildflowers. Enjoy photos and learn about their habits and habitats by John Schwegman for the Tupelo Chapter of Wild Ones Native Landscapers. This program will be at the Carbondale Township Hall, at 7 p.m. Enter from the rear of the Building. John will also sign copies of his new book *The Natural Heritage of Illinois*. For more info, phone Ruth Kelly at 618.684.2196.

### August 31 > Friends of the Cache Annual Meeting

Friends of the Cache will hold their annual meeting at the Carbondale Civic Center on 08/31, at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will include a program, "Amber: Window on an Ancient World" by Dr. Sam Heads, insect paleontologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey. Learn how scientists use this fossilized tree resin to unlock the key to this forgotten time. This event is free and open to the public, with advance reservations appreciated. Register with Paula Havlik at [phavlik@illinois.edu](mailto:phavlik@illinois.edu) or 217.649.4326.

### Sept. 10 > IOS Carlyle Lake Pelagic Birding Trip

Keith McMullen is again coordinating the IL Ornithological Society (IOS) annual Carlyle Lake birding field trip and pelagic tour. Meet at the McDonald's on Access Rd. off IL Rt. 127, SW of the lake at 6:30 a.m. The trip most likely will end around 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$30 for IOS members, \$50 for non-members. This covers pontoon boat rentals. In addition, \$5 of the fee goes to the IOS Grants program. **Advance registration & payment is required** and can be made thru PayPal. Visit the IOS website for complete details and to register. <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/carlyle-pelagic-september-10-2016/> (password: pelagic) If you wish to pay by check, phone Keith at 618.560.9450

### Sept. 10-11 > Annual Cache River Days

This weekend event includes food, music, exhibits and a variety of family activities taking place at the Ball Park in Ullin, IL. Also, experience the Cache River Wetlands through guided canoe tours provided by Cypress Creek NW Refuge on the 10th. Be sure to reserve a spot in advance, phone 618.634.2231.

### Sept. 20 > SINPS Wildflower Walk at Fults Hill Prairie

Join Chris Benda and Chris Evans of the Illinois Native Plant Society (southern chapter) on a wildflower walk at Fults Hill Prairie, along Bluff Rd. north of Prairie Du Rocher, in Monroe County. Meet on site at 10 a.m. Consider carpooling with friends because parking space is limited. This hike is co-hosted by Clifftop Alliance. Email Chris Benda for more details [botanizer@gmail.com](mailto:botanizer@gmail.com).

## Whooping Crane Partnership Vision for the Future

In January 2016, in an effort to improve the success of the Eastern Migratory Population of whooping cranes, the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership agreed to modify all methods of rearing and releasing whooping cranes. The announcement came as the result of meetings among the partners to focus on the long-term viability of the Eastern Migratory Population. Modifications are to put emphasis on more natural methods of rearing and releasing young whooping cranes, which means discontinuing ultralight-led migrations and perhaps other techniques that rely heavily on human intervention as recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Report your whooping crane sightings at:  
[www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane/sightings/sightingform.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane/sightings/sightingform.cfm)



Pair of whooping cranes at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Photo by USFWS; Joel Trick

## Changes are hatching in the

### Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

*July 6, 2016*

Whooping Crane chicks have already started hatching at captive rearing centers across North America. This year, the captive-raised chicks to be released in Wisconsin will be doing things a little differently from their predecessors. The first thing whooping crane chicks will see when they hatch in captivity will be an adult whooping crane – not a human caretaker in a white crane costume. It's the first step on a new path to bring a self-sustaining migratory population of whooping cranes to the eastern United States.

The 2016 chicks will learn behaviors from other cranes rather than costumed humans, and instead of following an ultralight aircraft, they will follow members of their own species as they migrate from Wisconsin to Florida.

Since 2001, the partnership has successfully taught young cranes to learn to migrate from nesting grounds in Wisconsin to wintering areas in Florida using costumed humans and ultralight aircraft, as well as by releasing costume-reared birds directly into the wild flock. Those efforts have resulted in a population of about 100 whooping cranes in the eastern migratory population. Despite this success, the population is not self-sustaining due to poor survival of chicks hatched in the wild. "These young cranes are doing just about everything we want them to do," says Peter Fasbender, USFWS field supervisor for Minnesota and Wisconsin. "They are migrating, establishing pairs, mating and laying eggs. The one thing they're not doing is successfully raising their young."

This year the partnership will use more natural means of raising and releasing young whooping cranes. It is hoped that minimizing exposure to humans and providing more opportunities for chicks to interact with other whooping cranes will help the birds gain skills to successfully raise their own young. This year, partners will use the parent-rearing method to release chicks hatched in captivity into the wild. In this approach, whooping crane chicks are raised in captivity by adult whooping cranes, isolated from human contact. In the fall, the young chicks are released to wild whooping crane pairs or single adults, who will serve as surrogate parents, guiding the young birds on their first migration south.

"While our methods are changing, our goal remains creating a wild, migrating, self-sustaining population of whooping cranes east of the Mississippi River. We are confident that by working together, using the best science, and adapting as needed, we can achieve that goal," says Lizzie Condon of the International Crane Foundation. The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership is a group of agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals, formed to restore a migratory population of whooping cranes to eastern North America. More information about the partnership or to donate to the cause, visit their website <http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/>

## The SI Whooping Foursome

Four whooping cranes made a brief visit to Crab Orchard NW Refuge this past winter. From Crab Orchard, the foursome flew northwest, stopping at Kaskaskia Island (Randolph Co.), across the Mississippi River from Chester. They lingered on Kaskaskia Island for an extended period of time.

Referred to as the "DAR cohort" (DAR=direct autumn release\*), the 4 whooping cranes identified by the numbers 61\_15 (F), 62\_15 (M), 63\_15 (M), and 67\_15 (F) migrated from their "wintering grounds" at Kaskaskia Island to Macomb County, MI. They moved around Michigan for a while then were captured and translocated "home" to Wisconsin on May 5.

The foursome spent about a week at their "home" at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (WI) before migrating west and south to Boone County, MO, and then back to their "wintering grounds" on Kaskaskia Island. As of this writing, they are still on the Island.

\*What is the "direct autumn release" (DAR) reintroduction technique you ask? The direct autumn release is a reintroduction technique used in addition to the ultralight aircraft-led technique. The DAR technique consists of rearing whooping crane chicks according to a strict costume, isolation-rearing protocol and then releasing them with older whooping cranes that have successfully migrated in the past or into wild sandhill flocks with which these older whooping cranes are likely to associate. These released juveniles then learn a fall migration route from the older, wild birds. <http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/>

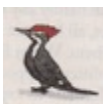


**To Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form and return it with payment. Thank You!**

Individual Member \$15  
 Family \$25  
 Student Voting Member \$ 5  
 Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 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**  
 Member mailing labels reflect current dues status.  
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,  
 Contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.  
 (Annual membership renewal month is January.)

## Renewed Attempts to Open the SNF to ATVS

As Les Winkeler wrote in his *So Illinoisan* column of 07.14.16, there have been no press releases distributed and no plans have been made public yet it appears that IDNR is seriously about allowing ATVs at Sahara Woods State Fish & Wildlife Area. Les negates all the “positives” ATV proponents tout.

Seriously, ATVs will hurt everyone else’s experience. ATV proponents want access to Illinois’ public lands and folks are listening. Rep. Brandon Phelps has introduced legislation in IL to allow the use of ATVs in the Shawnee. (Not that a state Rep. can legislate federal lands.) And Phelps’ bill also urges the USPS “to expand the existing system of horse trails and explore additional ways to allow greater recreational use of Shawnee” (a way to appeal to more than just ATV proponents.) Among the supporters is Rep. Mike Bost who has stated he is sympathetic to those wanting ATV access in the Shawnee and working in that direction.

According to the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America, a trade association. Illinois has no restrictions on age, use of helmets, number of passengers, or requirements for ATV safety certification. That leaves basic safety guidelines, including the age of operators, up to the owners who operate them. And what about liability?

Southern Illinois soils are erodible clay and cannot withstand the wear and tear of ATV use, especially after rains, observed to be “the times” for the most fun by ATV riders.

Please let your representatives and senators, including Durbin & Kirk, know that the use of ATVs in the Shawnee is too destructive. ATVs would harass the wildlife, destroy the land, and ruin the Shawnee experience for everyone. -RR

## Keep writing your letters against the Shawnee Parkway!

The folks from Cape Girardeau want it badly and keep pushing for it. **It offers** southernmost IL nothing but economic loss and damage to the Shawnee Nat. Forest. Please post a comment against the project at the Parkway website [www.shawneeparkway.org](http://www.shawneeparkway.org) Click on “contact us”.

### SIAS Board of Directors

President: Joe Merkelbach 618.532.3112  
 Vice President & Programs Chair:  
 Vicki Lang-Mendenhall 618.697.9868  
 Secretary: Mary McCarthy 618.684.8182  
 Treasurer: Laraine Wright 618.457.8769  
 Conservation/Education Chair:  
 Cathie Hutcheson 618.529.2022  
 Finance Chair: Greg Kupiec 618.684.5168  
 Hospitality: Karen Kaufman 618.412.1333  
 Outings: Don Mullison 618.203.2869

Membership Chair & Newsletter  
 Editor: Rhonda Rothrock  
 618.684.6606  
[woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com)  
 SIAS Webmaster: Jim Shofstall  
[selsyn@midwest.net](mailto:selsyn@midwest.net)  
 SIAS email:  
[siaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:siaudubonsociety@gmail.com)



**Southern Illinois Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 222  
 Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

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



*Eared Grebe*

*Image by John Schwegman*