



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

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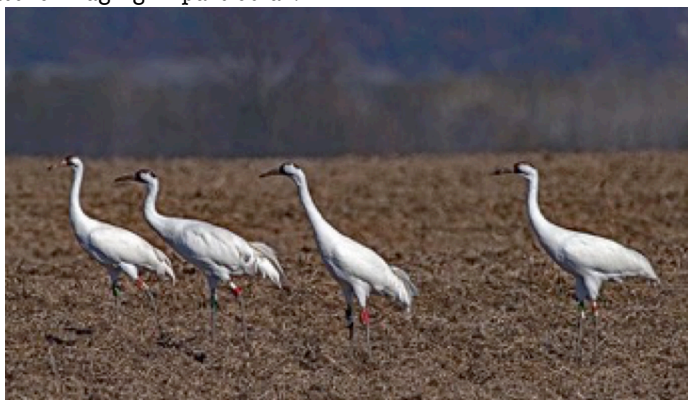
NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

Birds of 2016: An Avian Year in Review

David Brewer will share some of his amazing images of birds taken throughout 2016 with SIAS on Friday, Jan. 27th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall* of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale. Included will be some of his images of the whooping cranes residing on Kaskaskia Island.

After retiring from the faculty of the SIU School of Medicine in 2006, David turned a hobby of Nature Photography into a small business in 2007. He specializes in species portraits and fine art prints. David currently has prints in collection in nine states, with a mix of corporate and private clients. He conducted a variety of workshops and presentation on imaging in general and nature imaging in particular.



*The Fellowship Hall is on the lower level of the church. Follow signs to the elevator then take the elevator down to the Hall.

This January meeting is our annual meeting with potluck. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner followed by a short business meeting and elections of officers. **Note: earlier potluck set-up time of 5:45 p.m. with earlier potluck starting time of 6:15 p.m.** SIAS will provide the main course and some beverages. Bring an entree to share and your own dinnerware and utensils.

The slate of officers to be elected/re-elected are: President: Joe Merkelbach; Vice President: Vicki Lang-Mendenhall; Secretary: Mary McCarthy; Treasurer: Laraine Wright; and Membership Chair: Rhonda Rothrock. Our Hospitality Chair position is currently vacant. If you interested or would like more details, please ask any board member on meeting night or contact one of us any time. Contact info is at the end of this newsletter. Nominations for positions can also be made the evening of the meeting as well.

SIAS has a new collection of birding related books to sell. We will hold a silent auction and possibly a drawing for door prize(s) as part of the evening's events. Members are encouraged to bring new or lightly used items for the auction or to be given as door prizes. Folks giving auction items are asked to suggest a value at which to start the bidding. And a new collection of donated books will be available for purchase.

Treasurer's Report for 2016

We ended last year with a healthy bank balance of \$6,989, which includes a C.D. of \$4,732. In addition, we have \$953 in a separate account to operate the Birding Blitz. This latter amount comes purely from registration fees and the sale of caps and shirts paid for by those fees.

Our income for 2016 was \$2,279, from these sources: Membership dues, \$1,060; donations, \$867; and \$352, sales and silent auction. Our donations last year were more than double of 2015 and mostly come through the generosity of our members themselves.

For cash donations in 2016 we thank Kathy Benedict, Mike Brown, Lilly Crane and Jim Cather, Chelsea DeVivo, Mary Dresser, Tracy Evans, Nelda Hinckley, Cathie Hutcheson, Judith Joy, Margaret Krueger, Greg Kupiec, Dave Kvernes, Richard and Cindy LaSalle, Lois Lembke, Brenda Mayberry, Mike McNerney, Mary Rendleman, Kathleen Sanjabi, Kirsten Trimble, and Laraine Wright. Included in these donations were gifts to SIAS in memory of Cathie Maginel and Blanche Sloan.

In addition to cash donations, many members give books, artwork, bird feeders and houses, and other items for sale at our regular meetings or through our silent auction in January. To those friends, we thank you for this good way to help our organization.

Last year the SIAS board voted to contribute \$1,235 to other organizations: \$500 to Free Again, \$300 to area teachers for starting pollinator gardens at their elementary schools, \$200 to Illinois Audubon Society, \$100 to North American Bluebird Society, \$100 to Carbondale Science Center, and \$35 to Carbondale Public Library.

Our total expenses for the year came to \$2,576, about \$300 more than income, but we have a healthy surplus. The board does not want to "hoard" our surplus but find ways to put it to good use to benefit the environment. The SIAS newsletter cost \$616, including postage, ink, and paper. Many of us now receive it online. Among other expenses were a \$200 speaker's fee to Tom Ulrich (far below his usual program fee), \$86 for our Post Office box, \$89 for our annual picnic, and \$250 in affiliate fees for Illinois Audubon Society and Illinois Environmental Council.

If you have questions or want a copy of the 2016 report, please call me at 618.457.8769. – Laraine Wright, SIAS treasurer

SIAS Meetings Calendar for 2017

Feb. 24th: Program speaker: Vern Kleen

March 24th: Program speaker: George Waring

April 28th: Program to be announced

May: SIAS Picnic-date to be announced

In Memoriam: Gary Uhlir

Longtime member Gary Uhlir, 77, died on Dec. 31 in Carbondale. Gary began attending our meetings when he was a resident of Nashville, Ill. He later married Phyllis Beck and moved to Carbondale. Our thoughts and sympathy are for Phyllis and for Gary's three children. We remember his love of the outdoors – camping, hiking, and canoeing. Memorial gifts may be made to the local Sierra Club and to the local Parkinson's organization.

Continuing Work with the CONWR Refuge Bluebird Trail

I recently looked up our history with the Crab Orchard NWR bluebird trail, which began just before I joined SIAS in 1989. Earlier that year SIAS agreed to sponsor the project proposed by Dan Roby, a professor at SIU's Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab. We donated \$590 to set up about 125 boxes in the refuge and more than 40 of our members later helped repay that amount by becoming box sponsors.

Twenty-eight years later, we are still actively involved. I continue to serve as coordinator of the project, which has 13 volunteers this year. (We need to thank SIAS member Dave Kvernes who was involved from the beginning and who, with son Anton, has now resigned as a volunteer.)

A lot of work still needs to be done to improve the trail, which now has 190 boxes. Some need to be moved to better locations. Ironically, improvements in habitat over the last 28 years have resulted in the loss of good spots for bluebird boxes. We may be removing those that are no longer viable.

In 2016 we fledged 801 birds, including bluebird, tree swallow, house wren, Carolina chickadee, and prothonotary warbler (31, an all-time high). Also, a first for the trail: 5 great-crested flycatchers. Occasionally they, too, use nest boxes.

SIAS has a standing budget line of \$250 to help purchase new boxes and predator guards. The Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge has recently added a budget line of \$300 to help us, as well.

We can always use new volunteers to serve as monitors or to help us, especially in winter, to work on the boxes ahead of the start of the next breeding season. Please call me at 618-457-8769 if you'd like more information. - Laraine Wright

Illinois Audubon Society Spring Gathering 2017

The Illinois Audubon Society will be Spring Gathering May 16-21, 2017. The Kane County Chapter will be sponsoring the event to be held at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center, 3795 Campton Hills Road, St. Charles, IL. Field trips will include visits to Hampshire Forest Preserve, Burnidge Forest Preserve, Fermi National Lab, Montrose Point, and the Ornithology Lab at the Chicago Field Museum.

Registration fee is \$15.00 but does not include field trip lunches or the banquet meal. Some field trips require an additional fee. For more details, contact Bob Andrini at 630.584.8386 or drinibird2@gmail.com.

Online registration is available on IAS's website: www.illinoisaudubon.org/PROGRAMSEVENTS/SpringGathering.html

Upcoming Events & Activities

Jan. 21, 22, 28 & 29 – CONWR Eagle Tours

Crab Orchard NW Refuge is offering their Bald Eagle Tours the last 2 weekends in January! Space is limited and reservations are required. Call the Visitor's Center at 618.993-3344 to sign up.

Participants will meet at the Visitor's Center and board vans that will carry them to many good viewing sites in both the public and restricted areas of the Refuge. Each van will be led by an experienced guide, and birding scopes will be set up for use by all. Tours will be conducted on the Saturdays of Jan. 21st and 28th at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m.; and the Sundays of Jan. 22nd and 29th at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Jan. 29 – Ecology of Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers

Chris Benda will present a program on spring ephemeral wildflowers at Giant City State Park Visitor's Center, 235 Giant City Rd., Makanda, starting at 2 p.m.

A selection of Chris's spring ephemeral wildflower photographs will be on display at the Visitor's Center during the month of January.

Feb. 4 > Cache Frog & Toad Survey Orientation

Learn how to conduct listening surveys of the frogs and toads of the Cache River Watershed for the Illinois Natural History Survey. No special skills needed; families welcome to participate. All materials will be provided for surveys, conducted four times between February and June. Orientation will be held on 02/04 from 1-3 p.m. at the Cache River Wetlands Center. Call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064 for more details.

Feb. 9 > Movie Nights at the Cache

Bring your family and friends for a relaxing evening of nature movie watching on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Cache River Wetland Center. Free nature movies for viewers of all ages: this year's theme is "Peculiar Pollinators." This month's showing is Disney's *Wings of Life*. Light refreshments served and brief discussion led by AmeriCorps members from Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge after the movie. For more details, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618.634.2231.

Feb. 17-20 > The Great backyard Bird Count

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society invite you to participate in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. In 1998, the Great Backyard Bird Count became the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time.

Simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world! If you're new to the count, visit Cornell's website at the following link where you can learn more, register (via eBird), or log in to your account <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/about/>

Feb. 25 > Bellrose Bike Tour (Cache Adventure Series)

Get a special "behind-the-scenes" look at how wetland areas are managed during this bicycle tour of Bellrose Waterfowl Reserve, which is normally closed to the public this time of year. Meet at Bellrose Viewing Platform, off Cache Chapel Rd., at 10 a.m. Tour runs to 12-noon. Advance registration required. For complete details or to register, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618.634.2231.

Politicians Earn Environmental "Grades" from Illinois Environmental Council (IEC)

Both Ill. Rep. Terry Bryant (R) and Ill. Rep. Jerry Costello II (D) received scores of 88.9 percent for 2016 from the Illinois Environmental Council (of which SIAS is an affiliate).

The scores represent positive votes for eight of nine pro-environmental bills supported by the IEC, including protection of the alligator gar, additions to the Environmental Justice Commission, and the sale of a license-plate decal to fund the creation of monarch butterfly habitat by planting milkweed on public lands.

– Laraine Wright

Visit IEC's website at: <http://ilenviro.org/>

Feathered Dinosaur Tales Tails

The tail of a 99-million-year-old dinosaur, including bones, soft tissue, and even feathers, has been found preserved in amber, according to a report published in the journal *Current Biology*.

While individual dinosaur-era feathers have been found in amber, and evidence for feathered dinosaurs is captured in fossil impressions, this is the first time that scientists are able to clearly associate well-preserved feathers with a dinosaur, and in turn gain a better understanding of the evolution and structure of dinosaur feathers.

The semi-translucent mid-Cretaceous amber sample, roughly the size and shape of a dried apricot, captures one of the earliest moments of differentiation between feathers of birds of flight and feathers of dinosaurs.

Inside the lump of resin is a 1.4-inch appendage covered in delicate feathers, described as chestnut brown with a pale or white underside. [http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822\(16\)31193-9](http://www.cell.com/current-biology/fulltext/S0960-9822(16)31193-9)

Interesting Recent Research on Birds



- * When mallards sleep, one hemisphere of their brains actually stays awake to keep the ducks alert for predators.
- * Great frigatebirds stay aloft for up to two months at a time. The common swift, which travels 6,000 miles in migration from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, stays in the air during the 10 months of the year it isn't nesting.
- * Various research shows that constant loud noise from traffic adversely affects saw-whet owls' ability to find prey, migrating songbirds' ability to locate predators, and white-crowned sparrows ease at singing to attract mates. Experimental testing in some national parks is looking at the effects of lowering traffic speeds (and thus noise) and moving to rubberized asphalt for road surfaces.
- * Heavily cattle-grazed grasslands are beneficial to killdeer, horned larks, upland sandpipers, and Northern bobwhite, among other birds. Moderately grazed grasslands are best for Henslow's and grasshopper sparrows. Bell's vireos benefit most from lightly grazed areas where shrubs are allowed to grow. Grassland techniques now more likely allow for a diverse habitat rather than uniform, with cattle grazing and fire as the primary methods to follow in management.
- * **A very troubling statistic: results from the North American Breeding Bird Survey show an overall nationwide decline of 61 % in bird populations between 1966 and 2014.**
- * Says "Time" magazine: "A large study last year found that nearly 10 percent of people with high blood pressure could get hypertension under control if they spent just 30 minutes or more in a park each week."
- * Purple martin populations are remaining steady or growing only in the southeastern U.S. Research has led to the theory that martins are thriving on the spread of non-native fire ants, whose colonies produce big numbers of larger flying queen ants. Estimates are that martin nestlings each year consume 1.7 billion queen ants during the breeding season.
- * In the Florida Everglades, colonies of wading birds (such as herons and egrets) are more likely found in trees above high concentrations of alligators. The alligators help cut down on nest predation from raccoons and opossums, while the natural overflow of nestlings that drop to the ground are a good food source for the alligators. Wading birds often lay more eggs than they are able to care for, so some hatched birds starve and fall from the nest into the jaws of the waiting gators.

Kaskaskia Islands Whooper "Flambeau" Found Dead

One of Kaskaskia Island's Fab Four Whooping Cranes is dead. On December 18th a Conservation Law Enforcement Officer from Crab Orchard NW Refuge confirmed that one of the 4 whooping cranes, "Flambeau" (62-15 DAR), was found dead on the island. The male whooper had apparently hit a power line and was electrocuted.

The three remaining cranes have continued to linger on Kaskaskia Island and were spotted there as recently as Jan. 12, 2017. They are identified as:

Mendota (F) - 61-15 DAR - Right leg White/Green bands, Left leg Red/White bands
Corky (M) - 63-15 DAR - Right leg Green/White, Left leg White/Red/White
Druid (F) - 67-15 DAR - Right leg Green/White, Left leg Red

I have referred to the cranes as the Fab Four (as in the Beatles) because of their notoriety and because, when I first viewed the foursome they were walking in a line along the edge of their favorite slew on the island. Their appearance somehow reminded me of image of the Beatles crossing the street in a line on their Abbey Road album. I called them John, Ringo, Paulette, and Georgette before I knew their actual names. –Rhonda R.



Image by
David Brewer



Seeing Birds Birds are more easily seen in the winter because our view of them isn't obstructed by the lush, green foliage of spring and summer or the bright and beautiful foliage colors of fall. That and because a great number of the birds we view in the winter are really big when compared to the (mostly) songbirds we see in the other three months.

The biggest birds reported so far this winter were sandhill cranes, seen as flyovers, and trumpeter swans, viewed in several field and lake locations. Lots of various waterfowl have been reported but, other than the massive clouds of snow geese, waterfowl numbers as a whole seem to be down from past years.

For this birder, the 2016-17 Christmas Bird Counts seemed a bit atypical. I can only speculate that our mild fall and winter (through December) might have affected migration. General waterfowl counts were low. A good mix of species were present but not in any resounding numbers.

Nineteen duck species, including a greater scaup, were located on the Crab Orchard CBC. Even with parts frozen, the big lake attracted the ducks, including 962 ruddy ducks. Never a big snow geese count, only 76 were tallied for the day. The count's total of 96 species included 7 eastern phoebes, 5 least sandpipers, 2 great egrets, a pine warbler, and a spotted sandpiper.

The Middle Mississippi CBC total was also a bit low at 64 due in part to less than perfect weather conditions. Mostly the lack of good waterfowl habitat keeps this count's total down. Specials for the day were 34 wild turkeys and 2 chipping sparrows. The Middle Miss has a bit of the circle out of state, in Missouri. The MO participants tallied 12 Bonaparte's gulls, unusual for the count. (The 2015 December flood provided the Middle Miss CBC with what will probably be its highest waterfowl species count. The ten duck species, tundra swan, and four geese species made for probably the highest Middle Miss count total of 86. That is, unless or until we experience another winter flood.)

The species total for the Arklands CBC was not available as of this writing but the total was suspected to crest near 106. SIAS friend and expert birder Kelly McKay totaled 97 species just on his list, including western meadowlark and marsh wren, along with all the many waterfowl species that use Arklands' Super Lake. Adding a sedge wren and a few common species that Vicki Lang and Rhonda Rothrock tallied but Kelly missed, the estimated total was over 103.

Regarding the Alexander Co. (Horseshoe Lk.) and Union Co. (it's 46th year) CBCs, Vern Kleen reports: "With reduced crews of observers again this year (albeit, top-notch) our target of 100 species was only achieved at Horseshoe Lake. Because of the low number of participants, key areas of both counts were not covered this year. Regardless, the final tally for the Horseshoe Lake count was an even 100; for Union County (with assistance from Missouri) it was 98. It's still difficult to find diving ducks at Horseshoe Lake; however, the numbers of white-fronted and snow geese continue to be very high as well as difficult to "count" as they are constantly flying."

Mermet Lake was unusually low on ducks on CBC day. Ten species, mostly in ones or twos, were present throughout the day but the total number of ducks on the lake was less than 300. On the up side, the Mermet count had a few migrant hanger-oners including 42 chipping sparrows and a Connecticut warbler. A bit of Kentucky is included in the Mermet circle, where a palm warbler was found. The total species tallied in Mermet was 94, low for the circle.

The last SIAS related CBC of the season was Marion Co. on 01/04. It was a cold day with much of the water frozen but birds were active. The day's species total was not available but one group tallied 56 species including six species of duck and lots of American crows. The count circle skirts Centralia, a place crows come to roost in large numbers. In the past, the team on the Centralia side of the circle has counted many hundreds of crows. On this count day, the Centralia side team only counted 335 but the team was not present at the exact time the crows fly in to roost.

Often considered the crowning CBC of the season, thanks to the amazing dinner provided by the Kvernes' and because the count takes place on New Year's Day, this year's Jackson Co. CBC was an exceptionally great. The day's total of 97 species is a record high never before achieved in the count's 20-year history! This could be due in part to good coverage (11 participants) and near perfect weather. A circle not know for ducks, waterfowl were none-the-less found here and there, including 10 duck species, all five goose species, and trumpeter swans. Five documentable species were located: common yellowthroat, palm warbler, chipping and Lincoln's sparrows, and marsh wren.

As Kelly McKay said during compilation, the best part of the Jackson Co. CBC is the outstanding after-count dinner provided by Anton and David Kvernes. Chef Anton's homemade soups are second to none. This year Anton made his gumbo and squash soups. David and Anton also provide home-made apple cider and outstanding hospitality. After a long and often chillingly cold day of birding, coming into the Kvernes home to a meal of hot soup and cider next to a warm fire is indescribably heart and soul warming. We Jackson Co. CBCers are so very grateful to Anton and David. *-Rhonda R.*



Chipping Sparrow located east of Ft. Massac St. Pk. during the Mermet Lake CBC, 12.30.17. Image by Chelsea DeVivo.

Old Checklist Shows Changes in Area Bird Populations

In 1952, a group of birders from SIU and the Murphysboro area compiled one of the first official checklists of Southern Illinois birds. Using historic data, personal observations, zoology students, and extensive records of Lee "Shaker" Bush of Crab Orchard Refuge, the SIU Museum printed a spiral-bound, 17-page volume that listed 257 species from common to purely accidental.

Sixty-five years later, we can find some fascinating changes that have happened to area bird populations. Most of the changes are for the worse. For instance, the king rail was a "common migrant" in 1952, a "summer resident. Breeds at Crab Orchard refuge." Today it is considered rare only in spring and fall.

In 1952 the permanent resident birds included barn owls. "Recorded at all sections but difficult to locate." Small colonies of prairie chickens could be found near DuQuoin and Tamaroa. One colony contained 19 birds. Bewick's wrens were residents, but even then, "difficult to locate." The loggerhead shrike "fluctuated" from one year to the next.

Today, the barn owl is struggling for a comeback in Southern Illinois (sightings are still kept relatively secret), but the chickens, wrens, and shrikes are considered gone in our area.

Better news is found elsewhere on the list. Sixty-five years ago, there was no mention (even as a rare sighting) of black-necked stilt, fish crow, white-fronted goose, or trumpeter swan. Now the stilt and crow nest here and the goose and swan are commonly seen each winter.

By the early 1950s, wild turkeys were considered former permanent residents "subject to introduction. Rumored to occur in a heavily wooded section south of Marion. If present, remnant of experimental stocking of several years ago." Today it's good news for those who love seeing big flocks of turkeys and hunters who enjoy pursuing them. The reintroduction has been very successful.

Another change for the better: Mississippi kite, "one sighting, 1949," says the old checklist. Now they are easy to find breeding at Giant City State Park, Union County Conservation Area, and even in Carbondale itself. - Laraine Wright

Obama Administration Increases Protection for a Humble Bumblebee

The rusty-patched bumblebee, once common across the continental U.S., has been designated an endangered species by the Fish and Wildlife Service: the country's first bumblebee, and the first bee from the lower 48 states, to be added to the register. Seven bees were previously listed as endangered, but they are found only in Hawaii.

Since the late 1990s, the population of the rusty-patched bumblebee has declined by nearly 90%, a result of a combination of factors, including exposure to pesticides, climate change, habitat loss and disease, federal wildlife officials said. The species, once found in 28 states, the District of Columbia and two Canadian provinces, is found today only in small pockets of its once-sprawling habitat. The designation will accelerate efforts to protect the bees' habitat and to reduce the use of pesticides that are killing them.

It is the latest in a flurry of last-minute efforts to protect the environment and preserve President Obama's legacy on climate change. In the last month, he has issued a permanent ban on offshore oil and gas drilling in large areas of the Arctic and much of the Eastern Seaboard; announced two new national monuments in Utah and Nevada, protecting 1.65 million acres of federal land; and denied six permits for oil exploration in the Atlantic, partly because the seismic testing harms marine animals.

And the announcement about the bee came a day after the Fish and Wildlife Service said that human-caused climate change is the biggest threat to the polar bear's survival, and that without significant action to fight global warming, the bears will most likely vanish.

Federal wildlife officials noted that the process of listing a species as endangered can take years, sometimes even decades. More than 300 species have been listed during the Obama administration, second only to the more than 500 species listed under President Bill Clinton. During the George W. Bush administration, just 62 species were added to the list. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/10/science/endangered-bee.html?_r=0

Climate-Related Local Extinctions Are Already Widespread among Plant and Animal Species.

A survey of 976 plant and animal species shows that climate-related extinctions have already occurred in hundreds of species (47%). Includes South American bird species.

Current climate change may be a major threat to global biodiversity, but the extent of species loss will depend on the details of how species respond to changing climates. For example, if most species can undergo rapid change in their climatic niches, then extinctions may be limited. Numerous studies have now documented shifts in the geographic ranges of species that were inferred to be related to climate change, especially shifts towards higher mean elevations and latitudes. Many of these studies contain valuable data on extinctions of local populations that have not yet been thoroughly explored. Specifically, overall range shifts can include range contractions at the "warm edges" of species' ranges (i.e., lower latitudes and elevations), contractions that occur through local extinctions.

Data on climate-related range shifts were used to test the frequency of local extinctions related to recent climate change. The results show that climate-related local extinctions have already occurred in hundreds of species, including 47% of the 976 species surveyed. This frequency of local extinctions was broadly similar across climatic zones, clades, and habitats but was significantly higher in tropical species than in temperate species (55% versus 39%), in animals than in plants (50% versus 39%), and in freshwater habitats relative to terrestrial and marine habitats (74% versus 46% versus 51%). Overall, these results suggest that local extinctions related to climate change are already widespread, even though levels of climate change so far are modest relative to those predicted in the next 100 years. These extinctions will presumably become much more prevalent as global warming increases further by roughly 2-fold to 5-fold over the coming decades.

Excerpts from:
<http://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.2001104>

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 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 Contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.
 (Annual membership renewal month is January.)

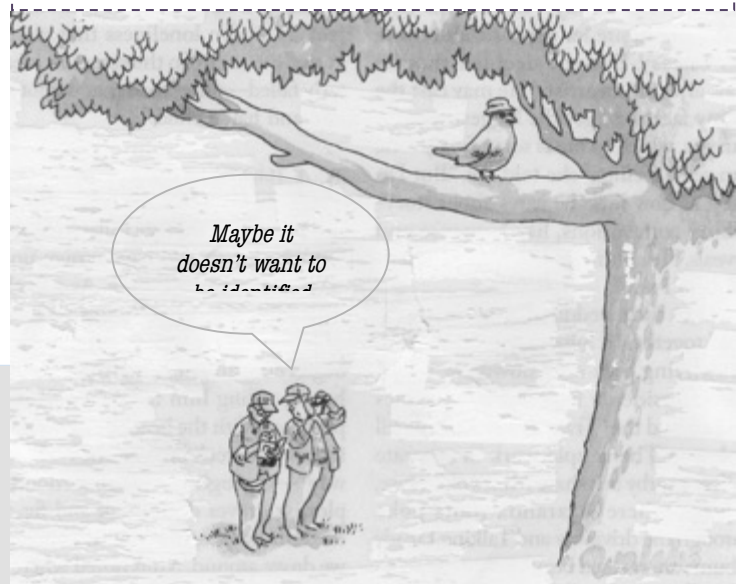
USFWS Final Rule to Further Conserve, Protect Eagles thru Revised Permitting/Monitoring Requirements

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service announced it has finalized a rule that will help protect and conserve eagle populations through revised permitting processes and monitoring requirements. Under the revised rule, permits may be granted only when the applicant agrees to specific measures to first reduce take to the greatest extent possible.

To protect local eagle populations, the Service uses precautionary, conservative estimates to arrive at the eagle take number for each permit, meaning fewer birds will likely end up being taken than are permitted. The permittee also must agree to assume additional responsibility for monitoring eagle loss at its facilities, which is critical to developing a better understanding of ways impacts to eagles can be reduced in the future.

Other changes to the rule include revisions to permit issuance criteria, compensatory mitigation standards, criteria for eagle nest removal permits, permit application requirements, and fees.

Time for renewing dues! Please check your mailing address label to view your current dues "paid to" date. We encourage members to renew at the first of each new year. Those of you receiving an electronic version of the newsletter via email, please verify your paid-to date with SAIS Treasurer Laraine Wright. Laraine's contact info is below. We thank everyone for your continued membership and support!



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



**Artist's Concept
 of Dinosaur with
 Feathered Tail**