



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

April 2018 – Vol. 25 No. 4

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222
Established in 1970

Flowers of Southern Illinois Woodlands and Fields

is the title of a photographic presentation Dr. George Waring will present for SIAS on Friday, April 27th at 7:00 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. Follow signs to the elevator then take it down to the Hall.

Dr. Waring states that his choice of photos will sample the diversity and up-close beauty of our regional wildflowers.

Dr. Waring is Professor Emeritus of Zoology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His research spans from ethology and vertebrate natural history to biological impacts of human activities on wild vertebrate populations and has taken him all around the world. This program is just one of a list of presentation topics from A-Z that Dr. Waring offers to present free of charge. To view the amazing list, visit his website at <http://mypage.siu.edu/waring/lecturetopics.html> or email Dr. Waring at warin@siu.edu.

March Program Highlights: North (and West) to Alaska

Our good friend, and the SIAS guide to our small planet, John Schwegman, took us on a memorable family and photography trip that is probably no longer possible along the rock surfaced Alcan highway through northwestern Canada and into southeast Alaska.

The dual purposes of the trip were a family vacation and a quest to locate and photograph species of orchids in the north. This was during John's tenure as the state's Department of Conservation botanist. The traveling party consisted of John, Martha, their sons John Jr. and Christopher, and John's brother and wife driving two vans kitted out for camping. They left from their home in Springfield, IL and traveled along paved highways to Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the southern terminus of the highway built during world war II to connect the lower 48 states to Alaska.

From there on the road they followed what was the graveled surface Alcan Highway constructed during World War II. It was through scenic wild country in the Yukon Territory up to the north end of the Alaskan panhandle. They made a trip down to see the glaciers on a spur that went to Valdez, with a guided charter trip to get as close as was safe to the calving front with pressure formed blue ice.

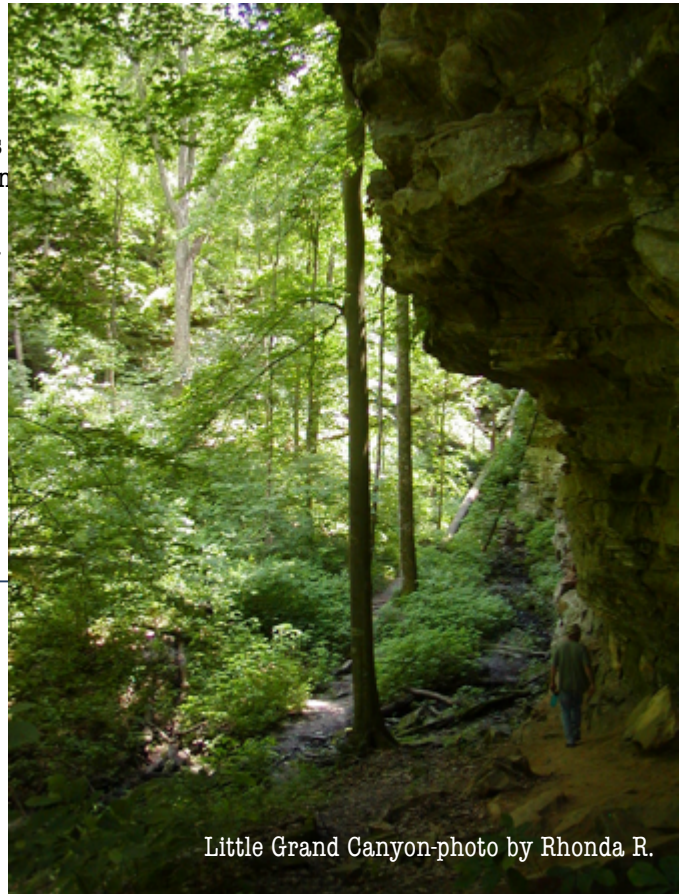
They returned to the main highway stem and went to the Kenai Peninsula to travel to the farthest west road in the US at the time fronting on the bay below Anchorage.

John was photographing orchids at the time and was looking for the most northerly blooming ladyslippers. He had some beautiful shots of the spotted ladyslipper, both red and brown, and the small white sparrow's egg ladyslipper as well as other lovely flowers seen on the trip.

This is a trip of a lifetime type adventure, which can never be duplicated now that the road surfaces have been paved.

Thanks to the Schwegmans for taking us along vicariously.

-Joe Merklebach, President



Little Grand Canyon-photo by Rhonda R.

SIAS Meetings Calendar Spring 2018

May 20th: SIAS annual picnic at Giant City State Park
Details on page 2 of this newsletter.

June & July: Summer Break! (no program or newsletter)

August 24: Program speaker to be announced

Consider Pledging to a Birding Blitz Team

If you'd like to be a part of the Birding Blitz but don't want to be part of a team, consider pledging to one. Pledge donations will be used to support habitat restoration and preservation efforts in the Cache River Watershed. You don't even need to pledge to a team, just send a pledge check payable to **Friends of the Cache River**. Mail it to:

Birding Blitz of SI c/o So. IL Audubon Society
P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903

FYI: The **awards brunch** at Crab Orchard NWR Visitors Center at 9 a.m. on 04/29 is **open to the public**, so come be a part of the experience and share



May 20 > SIAS Annual Picnic at Giant City

SIAS will hold our Annual Picnic on Sunday, May 20th at Giant City State Park, Shelter #4. Arrive for dining at 1 p.m. As usual, SIAS will provide the main course grilled. Members are always asked

Spring and Summer Events & Activities

Apr. 22 > Earth Day

Make every day Earth Day! <https://www.earthday.org/>

Apr. 28 > Birding Blitz of Southernmost Illinois

There's still time to form a team and register for the Blitz! You'll find it's really a lot of fun and a fun challenge. An awards brunch, open to the public, will be held the following day at the Crab Orchard NWR Visitors Center at 9 a.m. The collecting pledges is again required. The 5 categories remain the same as in past years: Open A Big Day, Open B Dawn to Dusk, County Big Day, Senior (over 55) and Muscle-powered.

For all Blitz details including registration forms (due 04/22) and pledge forms, contact Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 or via my email woodthrusheola@hotmail.com or visit the Blitz Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/317666471615613/> Or

May 5 & 6 > Spring Bird Count(s) - Your Help Needed!

The Spring Bird Count(s) takes place on Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th. If you're not available to help the full day, consider feeder watching for two hours. Compiler contact information for local areas as follows: Alexander County, 05/05: Allen Gathman - agathman@gmail.com Franklin County, 05/05: Bob Drennan - drennanb@hughes.net Jackson County, 05/05: Rhonda Rothrock - 618.684.6605 Massac County, 05/05: Frank Bennett - frankbennett@gmail.com Pulaski County, 05/06: Rhonda Rothrock - 618.684.6605 Pope County, 05/05?: Andrea Douglas - anderatd@yahoo.com Saline County, 05/05?: Tara Beveroth - beveroth@illinois.edu Union County, 05/05: Vern Kleen - vkleen@comcast.net Williamson County, 05/05: Vicki Lang-Mendenhall - vickil@siu.edu

May 5 > Sierra Club Native Plant Sale

From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Town Square Pavilion in Carbondale, just west of the RR tracks at the corner of Jackson St. and Illinois Ave. Many varieties will be available, from Southernwood Gardens in Alto Pass and Missouri Wildflowers. Pre-orders welcome to save your favorites and bypass shipping fees. See mowildflowers.net or call Southernwood Gardens at 618.833.2769 and mention the Sierra Club Native Plant Sale for delivery on May 5th.

May 6 > Crab Orchard NWR Birding Tour

Experienced birders will lead with birding tour around the Refuge. Binoculars will be available for checkout. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:14 a.m.. Reservations are required, phone 618.998.5933.

May 12 > Oakwood Bottoms Citizen Scientist Inauguration & Migratory Bird Day Celebration-data tentative

This is the tentative date for the field inauguration of the Oakwood Bottoms Citizen Scientist Monitoring Program initiated by Ducks Unlimited and supported by a whole host of agency and organizations. SIAS will have an information booth to direct visitors to the survey spots and provide instructions on how participants can survey and enter their data directly online via their smart phones. Volunteers are needed, contact Rhonda R. at 618.684.6605 or via woodthrusheola@hotmail.com

30th Trinidad & Tobago Adventure - May 19-26

Join Nelda Hinckley and other naturalist guides for a tour of this two-island nation. Experience a tropical evergreen rain forest, a mangrove, tide pools, a tropical deciduous forest, and stay at the 200-acre, world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge.

Contact: Nelda W. Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

May 12 > Bicycle the Back Roads at CONWR

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day while biking in the restricted areas of Crab Orchard NW Refuge. Biking is a great way to take in the sights and sounds of the birds and other wildlife that make the Refuge their home. Bring your bikes and the whole family. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m.. Reservations are required, Phone 618.998.5933 for more details and to register.

May 19 > Exploring Cave Creek Glade

Join botanist Erin Medvecz for a hike at Cave Creek Glade (Cache River State Natural Area), from 10 a.m. 'til noon. Learn how to identify blooming plants by their flowers and later season bloomers by their leaves. Come observe the spectacular display of blooming purple coneflowers at the top of the glade. The trail is short but very steep. Meet at parking lot near glade, phone 618.657.2064 for more details and directions to the location.

June 9 > Illinois Milkweed & Milkweed Pollination

Join John Schwegman from 10-11 a.m. at the Cache River Wetlands Center as he shares the natural history of the numerous varieties of milkweed found in Illinois. Considered a weed by many of us, they provide a haven for many pollinator insects. Phone 618.657.2064 for more details.

June 23 > Natural Areas Of Illinois

A tapestry of nature's treasures is protected in Illinois by a nationally acclaimed program called the Illinois Nature Preserves System. From the Cache River basin's cypress swamps in southern Illinois to the Illinois Beach dunes along Lake Michigan, many of our state's most rare, natural areas are protected as nature preserves. Natural Heritage biologist Mark Guetersloh will share his knowledge on some of the natural areas and nature preserves in southern Illinois and Cache River watershed. Presentation at the Cache River Wetlands Center from 10-11:30 a.m. Phone 618.657.2064 for more details.

July 17 > Milkweeds of Illinois

John Schwegman will again be sharing his wealth of knowledge of the Milkweeds of Illinois. This presentation is being sponsored by the IL Native Plant Society Wetlands Center and will be held at the Carbondale Township Hall 217 E. Main St., Carbondale, at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 4 > Bats of Illinois

Illinois is home to at least 12 species of bats. Karen Mangan of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will highlight the life of these bats, how common they are, their importance to humans and the environment, and methods used to research and monitor their activity. Indoor program at Cache River Wetlands Center is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., followed by an optional field trip to experience bats' evening emergence. Phone 618.657.2064 for more details.

Illinois' Bird Appreciation Week

IL Governor Rauner has proclaimed April 22nd-28th as Illinois' Bird Appreciation Week. In his proclamation, he acknowledged the centennial of the signing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1918 that recognized the significance of an international commitment to protect and conserve migratory birds. The Governor encourages, "...all citizens to take this opportunity to observe the portion of this magnificent natural phenomenon (migration) that takes place in Illinois."

Illinois' Pollinator Week

IL Governor Rauner has proclaimed June 18th-24th as Illinois Pollinator week, coinciding with National Pollinator Week.

ILLINOIS POLLINATOR WEEK
JUNE 18 - 24
"Bee" a Pollinator Champion

Pollinators are essential to the healthy plants humans depend on.
They are endangered by loss of habitat and pesticide use that threaten their survival.

YOU CAN HELP BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES

5 things that help pollinators thrive and survive

- 1. PLANT FOR POLLINATORS**
 - Utilize a regional plant guide <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/pollinator-plants-midwest-region/> to choose appropriate plants for your area.
 - Plant in clusters with a succession of bloom to create a "target" for pollinators to find.
 - Select a site that is sheltered from wind, has at least partial sun, and can provide water.
 - Allow material from dead branches and logs to remain as nesting sites; reduce mulch to allow patches of bare ground for ground-nesting bees.
- 2. MAKE YOUR GARDEN COUNT - REGISTER IT**
 - Monarch gardens with Monarch Watch
 - Pollinator Partnership <http://pollinator.org/mpgmap/register>
- 3. REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE IMPACT OF PESTICIDES**
- 4. REACH OUT TO OTHERS - INFORM AND INSPIRE**
 - Add an informational sign to the site/garden.
 - Talk with neighbors and friends about pollinators and monarchs.
 - Tell local and state government officials that you care about pollinator health.
- 5. SUPPORT THE WORK OF GROUPS PROMOTING SCIENCE BASED, PRACTICAL EFFORTS FOR POLLINATORS**

dupagemonarchs.com

Flood Control Efforts Cause Bigger Floods, reports *Nature* in an article co-authored by SIU researcher Jonathan Remo. Flood control engineering along the Mississippi River during the last century has caused floods to increase in magnitude when they do happen. The article argues that climate patterns, such as El Niño and others, also strongly affect flooding trends. But changing the river's channels, through confining it with levees, has greatly amplified flooding when it does occur. View at: <http://news.siu.edu/2018/04/040518-flood-control-research-siu.php>

The Shawnee Parkway a.k.a. Interstate 66 Canceled

We receive a bit of good news in early April when it was announced in the Federal Registry that an environmental impact statement would not be prepared for the proposed project. The Registry also stated that "the project is being cancelled and no further activities will occur for the Shawnee Parkway project at this time." The Parkway project's website it states, "The 66 Corridor Study was discontinued. This does not prelude any future 66 Corridor studies from being conducted."

We encourage folks to send a thank you for cancelling letter or note to: Jeffrey L. Keirn, Deputy Director of Highways, Region 5 Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation, 1102 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. Include a request to be notified if the project were to be revisited in the future.

A Highway Project Worth Supporting – New Bridge over the Mississippi River at Chester

Located southwest of Chester, IL, and northeast of Perryville, MO, the Chester Bridge is the only connection for motorists across the Mississippi River between St. Louis, Missouri to the north, and Cape Girardeau, Missouri to the south. The current truss bridge was originally constructed in 1942, and was re-constructed in 1944 after a severe storm destroyed the main span. The bridge has allowed motorists to travel both east and west across the Mississippi River for more than 73 years.

Over the course of seven decades, the Chester Bridge has become less functional for modern vehicles. The bridge is now in poor condition and too narrow by today's design standards. (The average life span of such a bridge is 50 years.) In addition, the bridge has had to close several times throughout its life due to Mississippi River flooding. When the Mighty Mississippi has been over flood stage access to the bridge from the Missouri side is under water. Locals and other travelers are then forced to drive hours out of their way to work and business.

Thus the Missouri Dept. of Transportation's (MoDOT) Southeast District, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting an environmental study of the Chester Bridge (Route 51) over the Mississippi River. The goal of this study is to develop a safe and reliable Route 51 river crossing. Details including the study site and route alternatives can be viewed at: <http://chesterbridgestudy.com/site/>

The Chester Bridge is a vital economic link between workers and their jobs, businesses and their transport of goods, and tourists and their destinations. It is one highway project worth supporting. Comments can be made at the study website: or by email to: Jason Williams, Project Manager, MoDOT at Jason.williams@modot.mo.gov

As someone who was born in Chester and has spent most of my life in the area, I can attest to the importance of this bridge and it's need for repair/replacement. There is public land near the project study area but not within it. Some riverside wetlands would be impacted but the proposed expansion area is small. So, believe it or not, this is one highway project that I encourage all to support. – Rhonda R.



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 Amount Enclosed \$ _____



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I/We would like to received our newsletter via email: YES / NO
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.

Oakwood Bottoms Citizen Science Surveying Working in close partnership with the Illinois Audubon Society (and its affiliate chapter Shawnee Audubon Society), Southern Illinois Audubon Society, and American Bird Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited will help establish a network of "Citizen Scientist" volunteers to monitor avian response to bottomland hardwood habitat improvements being made at Oakwood Bottoms. This long-term monitoring program will establish permanent survey points and transects that volunteers can use to collect avian data in a consistent and systematic fashion. The Illinois Natural History Survey and Southern Illinois University will serve as important consultants in identifying survey sites and developing survey protocols. "Citizen Scientists" will be asked to report bird sightings to e-bird and/or other data repositories managed by conservation partners. A "Birding the Bottoms" field event will be organized by partners as a kick-off for the new monitoring program. In addition to collecting useful data on avian use, this long-term monitoring program is expected to help engage the birding community more deeply in the habitat conservation work that is underway at Oakwood Bottoms. This important relationship between the Forest Service's Shawnee National Forest and the Southern Illinois birding community will help grow local support for future conservation efforts that are beneficial to birds, forest ecosystems and people. National Forest Foundation grant funds (\$2,500) will be used to purchase survey sign markers, printing costs of the survey routes/protocols, and for stipends to cover travel costs of Audubon volunteers who help establish monitoring sites. -Eric Schenck, Ducks Unlimited

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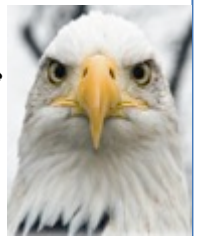
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How do you turn a
 Beagle into a bird?

Remove the "B"



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

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

