



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

## NEWSLETTER

May 2022 – Vol. 29 No.

P.O. Box 222

Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

Established in 1970

### SIAS Annual Picnic Sunday, May 22nd

We are trying a new location this year:

**the Harvey Welch Pavilion at Hickory Ridge Golf Course,  
2727 W Glenn Road, Carbondale.**

Arrive at 1 p.m. for set up and socializing. We will eat at 2 P.M. SIAS will provide the meats (& a non-meat option), buns, condiments, and some beverages. Please bring a side dish, your own plate, utensils, and a beverage. **Directions:**

From Carbondale: take Main Street (IL Rt. 13) west to the intersection with Old Hwy 13 and New Era Road, turn north (right) onto New Era Road, drive 1.6 miles to Edgewood Lane, turn west (left) onto Edgewood Lane, follow road to park maintenance building parking lot.

From Murphysboro: take Walnut Street (IL Rt. 13) east to the intersection with Old Hwy 13 and New Era Road, turn north (left) onto New Era Road, drive 1.6 miles to Edgewood Lane, turn west (left) onto Edgewood Lane, follow road to park maintenance building parking lot.

If you need further directions, please phone Outings Chair Kirsten Trimble at 618.521.4266

### SIAS Meeting & Program Calendar

**August 26** Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Jeff Hoover

**Sept. 23rd** Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Tara Kate Robinson

**Oct. 28th** Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Kelly McKay

**Nov./Dec. on Dec. 2nd** Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm;  
Speaker: Tara Beveroth

**April SIAS Program Highlights:** Our forth Zoom program featured Dr. Mike Ward speaking on the Conservation and Management of Migratory Birds. Dr. Ward covered a variety of species and their migratory habits but what they all seemed to have in common as per Dr. Ward, is that they won't make an extended flight, like a flight over the Gulf of Mexico, without enough stored body fat and supporting weather conditions.

Under adequate body fat stores and with favorable weather, the trip is not too much trouble for them. The birds tracked, flew from Ft. Morgan, Alabama across the Gulf of Mexico to the north shore of the Yucatan Peninsula. Ruby-throated hummingbirds were found to prefer a route south along the Gulf Coast of Texas. They can tank up at hummingbird feeders along that route.

Another interesting behavior had to do with Canada geese. It seems they are choosing to overwinter further north than in the past. They are using the roofs of big box stores for warmth so that they can avoid flying to warmer southern areas where they are hunted. Smart birds!

When asked about the current Bird Flu and its relationship to feeding birds, Dr. Ward stated that bird species that visit feeders are not susceptible to the virus. Likewise, for hummingbirds. He added that he would be leaving his bird feeders out.

-Rhonda R.

### What Happening in Southernmost IL...

*...besides songbirds setting up nests & mosquitoes swarming*

#### New Firefly Species in the Cache

June 3, 7:30-9 p.m., at Heron Pond Preserve

The cypress firefly, lightening bug, (*Photuris walldoxeyi*) was first documented in early 2019 in high-quality cypress swamps in Mississippi, Tennessee and Indiana. A confirmed Illinois sighting was recorded at the Heron Pond boardwalk in June 2019. Natural heritage biologist Christina Feng will tell us about fireflies of Illinois while leading a night hike on the Todd Fink-Heron Pond Trail to the Heron Pond boardwalk in search of the cypress firefly. For more details and to reserve your spot on the hike call Molie Oliver at 618.657.2064.

#### 2nd Saturday Monthly Birding with SIAS

**June 11th "National Get Outdoors Day" Outing**

**at Bogart Point, CONWR, 9:00-11:00 AM**

Directions (from Carbondale, IL Rt. 13): Take IL-13 east to S Division St in Cartersville, turn right/south onto Division. Take Division to Old Rt. 13 then turn left/east. Take Old Rt. 13 to N Wolf Creek Rd. Turn right/south onto N Wolf Creek Rd. Continue south to the causeway. Turn left/west into parking lot. Take to the point

**NOTE**— Day use passes are required on Crab Orchard Refuge and can be purchased at the Headquarters Bldg. Purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp for \$25 provides the bearer with a year pass to the Refuge. For seniors over 62, a lifetime recreation pass is \$80.

#### National Get Outdoors Day at Giant City St. Pk.

June 11th at Giant City State Park from 1-4 PM

Join local nature enthusiasts and professionals to discover cool outdoor opportunities in your backyard! SIAS will be there too.

No registration required. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center for more details at 618.457.4836

### Monarchs and 26 Other Species

#### Closer to Protection

After three lawsuits, the Center for Biological Diversity just secured an agreement on dozens of species from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — the agency committed to making decisions on whether 18 plants and animals should be granted the protection of the Endangered Species Act and will also decide whether to identify critical habitat for nine other species.

Those whose survival is at stake include monarch butterflies, tricolored bats, eastern gopher tortoises, western pond turtles, black-capped petrels, Bethany Beach fireflies, Las Vegas bearpoppies, and Mojave poppy bees.

"I'm so glad these 27 species are finally getting a shot at avoiding extinction," said Noah Greenwald, the Center's endangered species director. "It's incredibly frustrating that some of these animals and plants have waited decades for help."

Twenty-one of the species will see protection decisions by the end of fiscal year 2022. <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/>

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

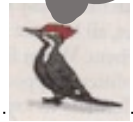
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**SIAS**  
 Membership,  
 don't knock it  
 until you try it!

**Mail to: Southern Illinois Audubon Society**  
**Attn: Membership**  
**P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

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



**Birding Blitz = Big Success!** A Big THANK YOU to everyone who either participated in or pledged to the 2022 Birding Blitz. Because of all of you, it was an overwhelming success. This year, as of this writing, we raised \$3,845.75 in pledges for the Cache River Wetlands. A standing ovation goes to the BirdPoCaLyPse Now team of Kimberly Rohling, Katy Banning, and Tony Dynek for collecting \$1,611 of that total. When the bird lists were all put together, 202 bird species had been seen in that one day. The overall winning was the SI Hotshots (Keith McMullen, Colin Dobson, Dan Kassebaum and Trevor Slovick) in the Open A true Big Day category with a total of 175 species, thought to be a blitz record. The Senior team winners were The Ancient Mariners team of Cathie Hutcheson, Nancy Garwood, and Joe Merkelbach with 118 species. The Oakwood Bottoms Boys team of Jacob Cooper, Zach Skubiszewski, and Ryan Fuller with 139 species won the county category. The Whip-poor-Wells, Nick and Kyle Wells, won the Open B with 122. The other competitors were: Judy Vickery and Ryan Jones (The Vagrants) with 152 species and Kimberly Rohling, Katy Banning, and Tony Dynek (BirdPoCaLyPse Now) with 157 species both in Open A. three other teams in the Senior category were Nelda Hinckley and Joanna Christopher (Team NJ) with 30 species, Theresa Madel and Donald Toutant (Maximum Drive) with 60 species, and Aimee Hemphill, Sam Spiller, and Kathy Belletire (The Bluebirds of Happiness) with 87 species that included a white-tailed kite! The teams of Craig Taylor and Steve Bailey (The County Hunters) with 128 species and Vicki Lang, Mark Vukovich, and Rhonda Rothrock (the Cocoa-billed Cuckoos) with 127 species competed in the County category.

### SIAS Board of Directors

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The awards brunch was held  
 At the Haven on Crab Orchard  
 Lake. Everyone agreed that it  
 is a lovely place and we should  
 use it again in 2023. -Rhonda R.



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

