



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

## NEWSLETTER

April 2023 - Vol. 30 No. 4

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

Established in 1970

**The Hellbender – A Journey in Saving a Declining Ozark Highland Salamander** will be the subject of a **ZOOM** presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Briggler, state herpetologist with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation for SIAS on Friday, **April 28th, starting at 7 p.m.** Dr. Briggler will discuss a review of the recovery actions occurring to save this endangered salamander.

And Dr. Briggler and a hellbender recently made the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* - Apr. 13, 2023: "First Ozark hellbender raised in captivity, at the St. Louis Zoo, reproduces in the wild"

A male hellbender raised at the St. Louis Zoo has successfully reproduced in Missouri's Current River, a first and a significant milestone for the species, zoo and Missouri Dept. of Conservation officials announced. Fewer than 1,000 Ozark hellbenders exist in the world, and the large aquatic salamander was added to the federal endangered species list in October 2011. This particular hellbender started its life in fall 2013 in a natural nest of eggs in the Current River. Missouri Dept. of Conservation and Natural Park Service staff collected the nest and took it to the St. Louis Zoo, where the eggs were hatched and raised. This particular hellbender was released in July 2019. <https://tinyurl.com/3uz4ru9m>

Dr. Briggler grew up in Morrilton, Arkansas, and received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Arkansas-Conway. He later received both his master's and doctoral degrees from University of Arkansas-Fayetteville with a focus on pond and cave breeding amphibians of the Ozarks and Ouachita Mountains in Arkansas. Since the summer of 2000, he has served as state herpetologist for the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.

He spends the majority of his time promoting, conserving, and



MO Dept. of Conservation Herpetologist Jeff Briggler (left) holds the first zoo-reared Ozark hellbender to reproduce in the wild.

*Photo courtesy MO Dept of Conservation*

monitoring amphibian and reptile populations throughout Missouri. Dr. Briggler is heavily involved with numerous state and national herpetological organizations. He has published over 70 scientific manuscripts, written numerous educational publications, and has appeared on many national and international television and radio broadcasts. For his work on hellbenders, he received the 2012 Saint Louis Zoo Conservation Award and the 2014 PARC Allison Haskell Award for excellence in herpetofaunal conservation. Dr. Briggler and his family reside on the family farm in Callaway County.

**Instructions for signing into the April SIAS Zoom presentation:** Time: April 28, 2023 at 07:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85671654806?pwd=cjBxMmluaGlhdmhLRStPb3dtRkR3UT09>

If you have to type in the link, use this shortened version:

<https://shorturl.at/wyzX2>

Meeting ID: 856 7165 4806

Passcode: 861431

Dial in by your location

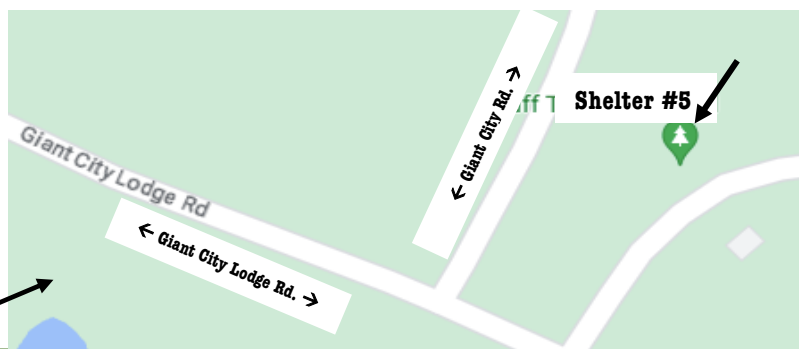
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Dial-ins,

be prepared to provide the following

Meeting ID & Passcode (see above)

Find your local number at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85671654806?pwd=cjBxMmluaGlhdmhLRStPb3dtRkR3UT09>



### SIAS Program Calendar

**May 28th** - SIAS Picnic at Giant City St. Pk.; details

**June & July** - Summer break

**August 25th** - Mary McCarthy and Pat Dunbar on Dragonflies

**Sept. 22nd** - Mark Vukovich on Cerulean Warblers

### May 28 > SIAS Annual Picnic at Giant City State Park

SIAS will hold our Annual Picnic on Sunday, May 28th at Giant City State Park, Shelter #5. Shelter #5 is located south of the Visitor Center, at the intersection of Giant City Rd. and Giant City Lodge Rd., across from the Post Oak Trail entrance. This is the most accessible shelter site, adjacent to the large ball field on the way to Indian Creek Trail. Watch for SIAS banner!

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. We hope to see you there!

## Spring Bird Count - Your Help Needed!!! Feeder watchers needed too!

Spring Bird Count(s) will take place on **Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** in all the counties throughout Illinois.

You can help by contributing any amount of time you can and covering as much area as you have time and energy to cover.

Or consider counting at your home, walking your property and/or feeder watching for one-two hours. Compilers of local counties are below.

**If possible, please provide compilers at least seven (7) days advance notice of your interest in participating.**

**Alexander Co.**, 05/06: Allen Gathman - [agathman@gmail.com](mailto:agathman@gmail.com)

**Franklin Co.**, 05/06: Jarod Hitchings - [jarod.hitchings@illinois.gov](mailto:jarod.hitchings@illinois.gov)

**Jackson Co.**, 05/06: Rhonda Rothrock - 618.684.6605, [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com)

**Massac Co.**, 05/07: Dave Edlund - [delund@illinois.edu](mailto:delund@illinois.edu)

**Pope Co.**, 05/06: Andrea Douglas - [anderatd@yahoo.com](mailto:anderatd@yahoo.com)

**Pulaski Co.**, 05/07: Rhonda Rothrock - 618.684.6605, [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com)

**Saline Co.**, 05/06: Cathie DeNeal - ?

**Williamson Co.**, 05/06 & 07: Vicki Lang-Mendenhall - 618.697.9868, [vickil@siu.edu](mailto:vickil@siu.edu)

**Union Co.**, 05/06: Vern Kleen - [vkleen@comcast.net](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net)

**March Meeting Highlights** Dr. Pease's program detailed bird surveys being conducted by his students at SIUC and taking place throughout IL. As I found it hard to adequately recap his presentation, most of the info that follows is from his PeaseLab website.

Their southern Illinois bird monitoring project seeks to document the presence/absence of bird species throughout southern Illinois using Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs). (These ARUs are recording devices about the size of a saltine cracker.) During May - July 2022, they deployed these sound recording devices at over 150 different locations spanning the 11 southernmost IL counties, resulting in over 2 Terabytes (about half a million minutes) of recordings. Site locations were selected using the block-grid sampling method utilized by the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas compiled by Vern Kleen, et al. and released in 2004. Review this publication at <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/119562>

Since when the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas (IBBA) documented the ranges and populations of bird species throughout the entirety of Illinois, with observations spanning 1986 through 1991, no effort comparable has been made on a state-wide scale in Illinois to survey bird species distributions and populations. The Pease team hopes to survey the state of Illinois using the same block-grid sampling method as the IBBA while instead relying on ARUs for data collection, BirdNET Analyzer (a deep artificial neural network) for producing a list of all species possibly present on each recording based on the audio spectrogram, and manual validation by students to ensure correct species ID by BirdNET Analyzer. Dr. Pease and his team are looking for residents who would be willing to allow monitoring recorders to be placed on their property. If you are interested, visit the PeaseLab website for further details. <https://peaselab.com/project/shawneebirds/>

SIAS thanks Dr. Pease for sharing details of his work and encourages our members and friends to participate in this important project. -Rhonda R.

## What's Happening in Southernmost IL...

**Spring time Spring time, walking with the flowers, and the birds, and the flutterbys. Spring time Spring time.**

**I like spring because it is the best by far!**

### Butterfly & Dragonfly Monitoring Training

**April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - noon** at Crab Orchard NW Refuge and

**April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. - noon** at the Cache River Wetlands Center

The IL Butterfly Monitoring Network & IL Odonate Survey are recruiting volunteers to monitor these species in southern IL. For more details visit <https://ibmn.org/> Register by phoning the Refuge at 618.997.3344

### 2nd Saturday Monthly Birding with SIAS Outing Moving to Evergreen Park, Carbondale

**May 13<sup>th</sup> & June 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Meet at the Red Oak Shelter that sets along Carbondale Reservoir lake in Evergreen Park on the south side of Carbondale.

Directions (from IL Rt. 51 a.k.a. South Illinois Avenue): Take IL Rt. 51 south from Carbondale to the stop-light intersection with Pleasant Hill Rd., turn west onto Pleasant Hill Rd., follow it to west most park entrance, turn south, follow road south then east to the small shelter near the water. For more details phone Kirsten Trimble at 618.524.4166

### SI Native Plant Sale Fundraiser - Grow Native!

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the Turley Park, Carbondale

Green-Up your thumb! Native perennial wildflowers and grasses, grown locally at Southernwood Gardens, Anna, will be for sale. Online pre-order and curbside pickup available. To pre-order, visit:

<https://greeneearthinc.org/plant-sale> . Sponsored by Carbondale GreenEarth and the Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter.

## Need for Prescribed Burning in SI Forests

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

"The Need for Prescribed Burning in Forests of Southern Illinois" will be presented by Dr. Charles Ruffner, Professor of Forestry at SIU, in person at the Carbondale Township meeting room. Parking off of Monroe St. Enter back door off of parking lot. Masks required and provided. Sponsored by Shawnee Group Sierra Club.

### May 20-22 IOS Southernmost IL Birding

Join the IL Ornithological Society (IOS) for an intensive weekend of birding in some of southernmost Illinois' most treasured hot spots. Leaders will be Vicki Lang and Rhonda Rothrock.

Friday eve will be birding on your own. Saturday will be a day of birding thru the western counties including several areas in the Shawnee National Forest. Sunday morning will be birding at Crab Orchard NW Refuge. For full details or to register, visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelSsclagy7aQIEK4akxZr8tsmbKoiNNF\\_muEf\\_Rwx32Xi3qA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelSsclagy7aQIEK4akxZr8tsmbKoiNNF_muEf_Rwx32Xi3qA/viewform)

### Nature Walks at SunnySide On Hickory Ridge

**Prairie Plants - June 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.- noon**

SIAS Outings Chair Rhonda Rothrock (and her hubby Robert) invite you for another nature walk on their 40-acre property in rural Jackson County, adjoining the Shawnee National Forest, just two miles north of the Little Grand Canyon on the same road. A combination of woodlands and a prairie planting, June brings a new look to SunnySide. As some prairie plants are going to seed, many other species will be blooming. Google map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/pyY1ZNABEC7npPMHA>

Rothrocks request that interested persons register, either by calling them at 618.684.6605 or emailing Rhonda at [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com) . (Cell service in this area is limited.)

## Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Steps for Climate Resilience and Forest Conservation

WASHINGTON, April 20, 2023 – In anticipation of the upcoming Earth Day celebrations, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and the Dept. of the Interior (DOI) announced actions to foster forest conservation, enhance forest resilience to climate change, and inform policymaking on ensuring healthy forests on federally managed lands administered by the USDA Forest Service and the DOI's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

To support these actions, USDA and DOI worked together to develop several reports, as directed by President Biden's Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies (E.O. 14072), which he signed on Earth Day 2022. The Executive Order calls for inventorying mature and old-growth forests, setting reforestation targets on federally managed lands, and analyzing reforestation opportunities on state, Tribal and private lands. In addition, the Forest Service is releasing a new tool that illustrates the risks and vulnerabilities of climate change across the landscape along with a call for public input on how national forests and grasslands should be managed for climate resilience.

### Newly Released Joint Reports on Forest Conservation

The Mature and Old-Growth Forest report defines what mature and old growth forests are, establishes the first-ever initial inventory of those forests, and shows their distribution across lands managed by the USDA Forest Service and the Dept. Of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management. The initial inventory identified more than 32 million acres of old-growth and around 80 million acres of mature forest across 200 types of forests. The initial inventory found that old-growth forest represents 18% and mature forest another 45% of all forested land managed by the two agencies. Recognizing the many values of mature and old-growth forests, both agencies conducted significant outreach to gather public input from communities, tribes, scientists, and agency professionals in the report's development.

Like all the nation's forests, mature and old-growth forests are threatened by climate change and associated stressors. The initial inventory and definitions for mature and old-growth forests are part of an overarching climate-informed strategy to help retain carbon, reduce wildfire risk, and address climate-related impacts, including increased insects and disease.

As directed in President Biden's Executive Order and laid out in the report, the USDA Forest Service and the Interior Dept's Bureau of Land Management will use these definitions and initial inventory to continue to refine results, assess threats to old growth and mature forest stands, and conduct public engagement. In the near future, the USDA and DOI BLM also plan to incorporate information gathered from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation mission, which will provide forest inventory and analysis plots using space-based laser measurements. These efforts will help the agencies meet the science-based approach required in the executive order as well as develop management policy and strategies to recruit, sustain, and restore mature and old-growth forests. For full article, visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1101968>

-Since it's designation in 1933, our beloved Shawnee National Forest has grown to 289,000 acres and is visited by up to 1,000,000 forest lovers annually.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee>

Based on that number, the Shawnee National Forest ranks equal to the 26<sup>th</sup> most visited of the 63 (true) National Park units and 76 out of all 424 National Park units.

[https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/NationalReports/AnnualParkRankingReport\(1979-LastCalendarYear\)](https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/SSRSReports/NationalReports/AnnualParkRankingReport(1979-LastCalendarYear))

-Many organizations respect and enthusiastically work with the US Forest Service in the Shawnee. Groups including The Shawnee Trails Conservancy, the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, and The Friends of the Shawnee all regularly put in their time and energies assisting employees of the Shawnee National Forest with projects such as trail maintenance, invasive plant species eradication, and trash round-ups.

-With regard to a National Park for Illinois, efforts are underway to get Cahokia Mounds designated a unit of the National Park System. In 2016, a study that took 2 years to complete found that Cahokia met all criteria. We are still waiting for that designation to occur. Southern Illinois would then have a National Park And a National Forest!

<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/durbin-duckworth-urge-biden-to-designate-cahokia-mounds-as-unit-of-national-park-system>

## Planting for the Birds, Bees & Butterflies

\* GO NATIVE! \*

### Forbs/Flowers:

- \*Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
- \*Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- \*Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- \*Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- \*New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
- \*Blue Wild Indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
- \*White Wild Indigo (*Baptisia alba*)
- \*Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*)
- \*Rose Verbena (*Glandularia canadensis*)
- \*Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa*)
- \*Button Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*)
- \*Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- \*Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
- \*Bee Balm (*Monarda bradburiana*)
- \*Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- \*Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)
- \*Wild Sweet William (*Phlox divaricata*)
- \*Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
- \*Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea Purpurea*)
- \*Grey-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida Pinnata*)
- \*Sweet Coneflower (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)
- \*Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- \*Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*)
- \*Royal Catcatchfly (*Silene rigia*)
- \*Wild Pink (*Silene caroliniana*)
- \*Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*)

\* \* \* Grow Native! \* \* \*

### Vines:

- \*Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
- \*American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
- \*Passion Flower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

### Trees & Shrubs:

- \*Red Buckeye (*Aesculus discolor*)
- \*Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
- \*American Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa americana*)  
<cover American Beauty Berry in mulch over winter>
- \*New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*)
- \*Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- \*Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- \*Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
- \*Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*)
- \*Spice Bush (*Lindera benzoin*)
- \*Golden Currant (*Ribes odoratum*)
- \*Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

### Shopping for Natives:

- ⇒ Southernwood Gardens, Jonesboro  
618.833.2769 / Sells at the Farmer's Market,  
West Main St., Carbondale, IL
- ⇒ Bluestem Nursery / 217.532.6344
- ⇒ Prairie Earth Nursery / 309.897.9911
- ⇒ Missouri Wildflower Nursery  
www.mowildflowers.net / 573.496.3492
- ⇒ Prairie Moon Nursery  
www.prairiemoon.com / 866.417.8156

larkSpur your Blazing star Passion flower for rattlesnake Mastering Landscaping with Native Plants! Your yard will redBud into an American Beauty berry. Bee patient, native perennials put most of their growth underground the first few years, then Wahoo!

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

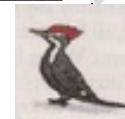
Individual Member \$15  
 Family \$25  
 Student Voting Member \$ 5  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't knock SIAS.  
 We've been friends  
 for 53 years!**

**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.



**Southern Illinois Audubon Society is 53 years old!** SIAS was established in 1970, the same year as the first Earth Day, by a mix of local citizens and scientists who came together to protest plans to dam Lusk Creek. Happy 53<sup>rd</sup> Birthday SIAS! & Happy Earth Day!

## SIAS Board of Directors

President & Programs Chair:  
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 Vice President: Joe Merkelbach 618.532.3112  
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[woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com)  
 SIAS email: [siaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:siaudubonsociety@gmail.com)  
 SIAS Webmaster: Jim Shofstall  
 SIAS Website: <http://www.siaudubon.org>

## Consider Pledging to a Birding Blitz Team

Please consider pledging to a Birding Blitz team. Pledge donations are used to support habitat restoration and preservation efforts in the Cache River Watershed. If you'd like to pledge but don't know a team, just send your pledge check, payable to Friends of the Cache River, to: Birding Blitz of SI c/o So. IL Audubon Society, P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

And everyone is invited to attend the Blitz Awards Brunch on Sunday, April 30th. It will be held at the beautiful Haven on Crab Orchard Lake, off IL Rt. 13 (10289 Haven Rd, Carbondale). The Brunch is open to the public! Set up at 9 a.m., socializing at 9:30 a.m. Teams must turn in checklists by 10 a.m., the awards ceremony starts at 10:30 a.m.



**Southern Illinois Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 222**  
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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,  
 the Illinois Environmental Council, & the North American Bluebird Society*

## What Your Favorite Migratory Warbler Says About You



**Northern Waterthrush**  
 No matter how nice your outfit is, your boots are always covered in mud.



**Yellow Warbler**  
 You're a source of joy and light. Everyone is terrified to cross you.



**Wilson's Warbler**  
 You like anyone who is wearing a tiny hat.



**Painted Redstart**  
 Your personal style is beguiling to your lovers and terrifying to your prey.



**Cerulean Warbler**  
 You got good looks at a Cerulean Warbler one time and you won't ever let anyone forget it.



**Orange-crowned Warbler**  
 You're too cool for the rest of us and you know it.



**Black-throated Blue Warbler**  
 You're the helpful friend who always has a clean tissue in your pocket.



**Black-and-white Warbler**  
 You enjoy parties but you often get shy and duck behind furniture.



**Blackburnian Warbler**  
 You like scented candles because they're a socially acceptable way to set small fires.



**Mourning Warbler**  
 You were emotionally overwhelmed by the return of MCR.



**Blue-winged Warbler**  
 All you want to do is talk, loudly and often, about bees.



**Whatever Warbler**  
 You're Looking At  
 You are lucky!  
[Birdandmoon.com](http://Birdandmoon.com)