



Southern Illinois Audubon Society Newsletter

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Southern Illinois
Audubon Society (SIAS)
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Carbondale, IL
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Established in 1970

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SIAS is the sponsor of
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Amphibians of the Cache

Join SIAS on Friday, Oct. 27th at 7:00 p.m., for a presentation by Adrian Macedo, PhD student in Zoology at SIU, in the meeting room at Carbondale Township Hall*, 217 E. Main St. Carbondale

Floodplain ponds are a dynamic and biodiverse habitat, often overlooked by those focused on recreation and hunting and fishing. However, they provide an excellent system to study how changing water levels in the swamp may influence amphibian populations. Adrian is studying the amphibian populations of these ponds to try to understand how habitat features such as hydrology, fish and insect predators, and canopy cover influence Amphibian communities.

Adrian Macedo is in his third year as a PhD student at SIUC. His research involves an inventory of the reptile and amphibian communities of Buttonland Swamp and research evaluating how water level changes many influence the herpetofauna. Specifically, he is studying the anuran breeding phenology, and larval herpetofaunal community structure across habitats with varying hydrology, and specific studies on occupancy patterns of Lesser Siren and Cope's Gray Tree Frog. He is also studying the microbiome and immune function of snakes just prior, during, and after hibernation in the Cache River of southern Illinois.

Adrian grew up in the mountains of northern California and moved to southern Illinois in 2020 to work on his degree. In his free time, he enjoys hunting/fishing, gathering, gardening, and playing banjo. He has recently joined the Friends of the Cache River board and looks forward to furthering the appreciation and conservation of the Cache River watershed.

***Entrance to the Township Hall is from the rear of the building (216. E. Monroe St.) where two parking lots are available for use. Mask wearing is encouraged but not required.**

Monthly Birding with SIAS Is Back! Monthly Outings at Evergreen Park, Carbondale Nov. 11th and Dec 9th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Second Saturday birding with SIAS is back! 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 info call Kirsten Trimble at 618.524.4166

Bost Introduces Bill to Provide ORV Access on the Shawnee National Forest

On Oct. 4th, Representative Mike Bost introduced the Shawnee Trail Riders Attaining Individuals Liberties Act (the Shawnee TRAILS Act). He states this is to improve recreational ATV, e-bike, and off-road vehicle (ORVs) accessibility along certain trails in the Shawnee National Forest.

This is not the first time legislation to open the Shawnee National Forest to off-road vehicle use has been introduced. In 2016 a bipartisan group of IL downstate state representatives put forth and adopted a resolution urging the US Forest Service to allow the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the Shawnee. At that time, Mike Bost supported the resolution.

Off-road vehicles and ATVs are not allowed on the Shawnee National Forest without a special permit. While ATV/ORV use is allowed on other National Forests, we should work to keep these activities from being allowed on the Shawnee. These machines are not compatible with other Shawnee recreational uses. -Rhonda R



SIAS Program Calendar

Nov/Dec on Dec. 1st

– Mark Vukovich on cerulean warblers

Jan. 26th –annual meeting with potluck

– Mark Vukovich on red-headed woodpeckers

Feb. 23rd – Dr. Joy O'Keefe on bat boxes

Mar. 22nd – Program to be announced

Apr. 26th – Program to be announced

May – SIAS annual spring picnic

In Memoriam: Cindy LaSalle

Longtime member Lucinda "Cindy" LaSalle, 72, died on Sept. 23 at her beloved Cedar Lake home that she and her husband, Richard, had bought from SIAS member Ben Gelman's estate. Cindy and Richard cherished the beautiful property and transformed the house and barn for themselves, their horses, and wildlife. The couple were active for many years in SIAS, serving on the board and attending our field trips and meetings. Cindy was a nurse at SIH and had previously served as a vet tech. Our deepest sympathy and love go to Richard, with our thanks for all the time you and Cindy spent for decades to sustain our Audubon society. –Laraine Wright

What's Happening in Southernmost IL...

...lots of things!! Limpkins continue to linger throughout Illinois, most warblers have headed south, and snowbirds are arriving from the north.

Cache River Boo at the Slough

Sunday, Oct. 29th, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

(Volunteers Needed! Arrive at 12:00 p.m. Call 618.657.2064 for details.)

Join folks at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center for Boo at the Slough! Families are invited to hike through the Egret Slough Trail behind the Wetlands Center on a guided trick-or-treating adventure to meet misunderstood creatures of the swamp. Learn about creatures like spiders, bats, and owls. There will be games, crafts, and more! Everyone is invited to wear their Halloween costume!

Crab Orchard NWR Discovery Tours

Sunday, October 29th, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Refuge will open up the restricted portion of the refuge for self-guided tours. Tours begin at the Wolf Creek Causeway, volunteers will be stationed throughout the tour to answer questions. For more details, call 618.997.3344.

Birding Hikes with Master Naturalist Lily Glaeser

Nov. 2nd, 5th, & 9th, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Join Master Naturalist, Lily Glaeser, for a leisurely walk in nature to look at birds. Locations including: Nov. 2 -Oakland Nature Preserve, Nov. 5 -Crab Orchard Visitor Center, & Nov. 9 -Giant City State Park Post Oak Trail.

All ages and experiences are welcome. Registration is required in case the event needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather. Binoculars are available for use, please reserve a pair. Online registration for each event will close the Tuesday before each scheduled event. Register at <https://shorturl.at/jstuH>

Participants will be emailed the Wednesday before the outing as a reminder to attend. If you have questions about the program, please contact Lily Glaeser at littleglaser@gmail.com. These walks are sponsored by UofI Extension. SIAS President Vicki Lang assisted in setting up arrangements.

Native American Celestial Rock Art Images in So. IL:

SIU Journey to the Eclipse Talk, at Morris Library

Friday, Nov. 3, at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Mark Wagner will discuss celestial images (sun, moon, stars) in Illinois rock art. Are they images of past eclipses, or are they associated with Native American religious beliefs such as the Morning Star Myth? He will also talk about the Shawnee Prophet who correctly predicted the Eclipse of 1806, which astounded his Native American followers. How did he do this?

Dr. Wagner's research interests include the study of Native American rock art in Illinois, the archaeology of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Cherokee Trail of Tears, and the investigation of African-African-American and Underground Railroad sites in southern Illinois. Dr. Wagner is the current President of the Illinois Archaeological Survey. Join on Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96507152537>

SNF Fall Trash Blast at Dutchman Lake

Friday, Nov. 3, 10:00 a.m.

The UofI Extension is again partnering with Friends of the Shawnee and the USDA Forest Service to host this Trash Blast at Dutchman Lake, north of Vienna. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, bring their own work gloves, wear long pants and closed toed shoes. Contact Anne Townsend for more details: cupquake@illinois.edu Or register (required) at the Extension link:

<https://shorturl.at/bIEGX>

Birding Hike at Giant City State Park

Sunday, November 4th, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Join park volunteer (& SIAS President) Vicki Lang-Mendenhall as she guides participants along the 1/3-mile accessible Post Oak Trail. Registration required. To register, phone the Visitor Center at 618.457.4836.

Mysteries of Fire: Methods, history, and man's ancient relationship with this elemental power of nature

Sunday, Nov 5, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Join Mark Denzer, Primitive Technologist and Professional Wilderness River Guide, at the Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center, as he takes you on a journey through the lens of human's ancient, complex, and romantic relationship with the technologies of fire. This lecture will cover how fire was and still is used by humans for cooking, heating, rituals, festivals, and transforming landscapes.

Following the lecture, a demonstration and hands-on workshop will be given on the various methods of creating fire from friction and percussion, including flint and steel, hand drill, and bow drill. For more details, phone 618.657.2024.

2023 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Workshops

Nov. 8th, 10th, 11th, & 17th

Learn the ABC's of a CBC. Attending a workshop will set you on the path for participation success. Online registration required at: go.illinois.edu/2023ChristmasBC Christmas Bird Count Workshops time and sites vary. Select the workshop you wish to attend. See flyer on last page of this newsletter for more details.

Shawnee National Forest and Tribal Partnerships

Thursday, Nov. 9th, 7:00 p.m.

The Shawnee Group Sierra Club is sponsoring this presentation by Heather Carey, Tribal Liaison for the Shawnee National Forest (SNF). It will be at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Park in back off of Monroe St. and enter back door.

Heather Carey, who has worked on the SNF for 20 years as an archeologist, will present on a number of federally recognized tribes that have early ties to southern Illinois. She will focus on each tribe's connection to the region, the federal consultation process, and current partnership initiatives in the Shawnee National Forest.

For more info, contact Barbara McKasson at batitaji@aol.com

Attracting Wild Birds to Your Feeder Seminar

November 18th, 10:00 a.m.

Learn how to attract and recognize the birds at your feeders by attending this seminar presented by Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, President of the Southern Illinois Audubon Society, at Plantscape Nursery, 720 N. 33rd St., Herrin. This seminar is free but registration is required. To register call 618.942.4865.

3rd annual Invasive Species removal at Garden of the Gods

Nov. 7th, 14th, 28th & Dec. 2nd, 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Friends of the Shawnee National Forest and partners are holding their third annual Non-native Invasive Species (NNIS) autumn olive removal events starting November 7. Autumn olive is an aggressive invasive species that has infested Garden of the Gods along the road to the Observation Trail and hundreds of feet deep in some areas.

Volunteers should wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. Safety glasses, gloves, helmets, and other tools will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to bring their own personal protection equipment. Volunteers will receive a free "Volunteer and Steward of the Shawnee" long-sleeve orange T-shirt. This project is in cooperation with the USDA Shawnee National Forest, UofI Extension, and the Nature Conservancy of Illinois. Registration required at go.illinois.edu/NNISR2023Shawnee

The Friends of the SNF and their partners have made tremendous progress during the last two years of this project. With good weather and some fine stewards, they are hoping to have most of the mature and sapling autumn olive trees removed by the end of this year.

September SIAS Program Highlights First, a small error correction from the Sept. 2023 newsletter. The August Program Highlights were titled as the April Program Highlights in error. My apologies to Mary McCarthy and Patricia Dunbar for the titling mistake.

Our September program, *Shawnee National Forest: "Where we've come from and where we are today with management"* was presented by Justin Dodson, Natural Resources, Planning, & Monitoring Staff Officer with the Shawnee National Forest. Justin started the presentation with a bit of history on the beginnings of the Shawnee National Forest. In 1931 interest in a national forest in Illinois brought the US Forest Service to southernmost IL to analyze the possibility. The Forest Service concluded a national forest would be important to this area to prevent erosion, for timber production, and for demonstration areas. They had determined that agriculture and past logging activities, with the area having been logged from one to ten times, had left most of the area void of trees and the soils depleted. As this was found to be common throughout the landscape, the area was determined prime for a national forest. It was said that the trees of the forest beautify the land, regulate the water flow, influence climate, aid in agriculture, and foster wildlife. In 1939 the Shawnee National Forest was officially designated.

Justin showed aerial photos of the Shawnee at the time land was first acquired and today to show the lack of trees then to what exists now. He spoke on the amount of carbon sequestration taking place in the Shawnee and how that changes as the forest ages.

He discussed the mid 1990s lawsuit and injunction, that was put into place. It was not because of the forest management practices that were being implemented but because the forest plan didn't follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The injunction was lifted in 2012 after the management plan was corrected to satisfy NEPA requirements. At that time management practices and timber sales resumed.

Justin then presented data on current timber management which included descriptions of sales used to convert some of the non-native pines back to hardwoods, oaks and hickories, by thinning the pine plantations. He provided stats on hardwood regeneration that has resulted from these thinning sales and the use of prescribed burns. He also discussed the impacts these management practices are having on bird species that use these areas. Some species declined or were displaced in these areas with numbers of others species increased. Those displaced from active managed areas had habitat available in other areas of the Shawnee. Data on the more recent hardwood management sites is still being collected.

There was discussion of how these small sites where thinning management is taking place are being misrepresented as 1000-acre cuts. Justin added that timber harvests are not always esthetically pleasing during operation, but it doesn't take long for sites to recover and results to be realized. He encouraged folks to get out into the Shawnee to see for ourselves and draw our own conclusions.

Research is taking place in the Shawnee and Hoosier National Forests at the landing areas to turn them in to pollinator habitats. It's called Pollinator Habitat in Log Landings (PHILL). Landings are small open areas, parking lots, where cut trees are processed and stacked prior to being hauled off. Landings planted with native forbs and grasses would provide pollinator habitat to help reverse the decline in pollinating species.

It was a very informative presentation. Justin welcomed and answered many questions related to his presentation and forest management.

Severe Space Weather is Messing Up Bird

Because birds use magnetic fields to navigate at night during long-distance migrations, severe space weather can throw them off course. New research indicates that severe space weather events, such as solar flares, disrupt birds' navigational skills during long migrations. Previous research has indicated that when flying at night, birds (and many other animals) use Earth's magnetic field for navigation. Because solar events disrupt the magnetic field — as well as produce auroras — birds have more difficulty navigating during them.

The new study analyzed images taken from 37 NEXRAD Doppler weather radar stations, which can detect groups of migrating birds, as well as data from ground-based magnetometers, to study 23 years of bird migration across the U.S. Great Plains. The researchers discovered that the number of migrating birds in this region decreases by 9 to 17 % during severe space weather events. They also noticed increased rates of birds becoming lost during migration, a phenomenon known as migratory bird vagrancy. The team's findings were published in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) on Oct. 9, 2023. *Excerpts from:*

<https://www.space.com/severe-space-weather-affects-nocturnal-bird-migration>

SIAS ardently thanks Justin for both updating us on and helping us understand the management taking place in our beloved Shawnee National Forest.

-Rhonda R.

Illinois Big Tree Champions

The Illinois Big Tree Register was established in 1962 as a citizen outreach program in order to discover, record, recognize, and appreciate the largest native tree species here in the Prairie State. For 60 years, the Illinois Big Tree Register has spawned a generation of Big Tree hunters and aficionados who relish the opportunity and bask in the glory of finding and nominating the next Illinois champion tree! Produced by J.R. Hampton and J.C. Hayek, U of I Extension Forestry. Check out the Big Tree Register and map at <https://tinyurl.com/4w4mc8ek>

The Southern Illinois Audubon Society 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. Lusk Creek Wilderness was designated as a wilderness area by the Illinois Wilderness Act of 1990.

Welcome new members: Rita Rivas of Edwardsville, Peg Wickline of Cobden, and Michaela Wickline & Michelle Johanson of Carbondale.

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

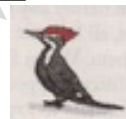
Individual Member	\$15
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Mail to: Southern Illinois Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

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.

Reading that SIAS has been around for over 50 years makes me feel proud (and old).



free training CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WORKSHOPS

Learn the ABC's of a CBC!
Is this your first time on a Christmas Bird Count (CBC)?
Join one of our workshops to get set up on a path for success. We will go over National Audubon Policies, local count circles, and practice how to count.



Register at
go.illinois.edu/2023ChristmasBC

NOVEMBER 8 Giant City
1 - 2 p.m. State Park

NOVEMBER 10 Rend Lake Project
10 - 11 a.m. Visitor Center

NOVEMBER 13 Pinckneyville
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Community Center

NOVEMBER 17 Crab Orchard National
1 - 2 p.m. Wildlife Refuge

START A NEW TRADITION
AND CONTRIBUTE TO LOCAL
CITIZEN SCIENCE EFFORTS!



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encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your needs.

Christmas Bird Count Season Dec. 14 – Jan. 5

Christmas Bird Count Season is just under two months away.
It will be the 124th year of this important bird census, the nation's
longest running community science bird project.

In southernmost IL there are more than 10 counts:

Rend Lake, War Bluff Valley, Crab Orchard NWR, Cypress Creek
NWR, Arklands/Pyramid, Horseshoe Lake, Union County., Mermet
Lake, Middle Miss NWR, and Jackson County.

All local count dates and details will follow in the November
newsletter but will likely parallel last year.

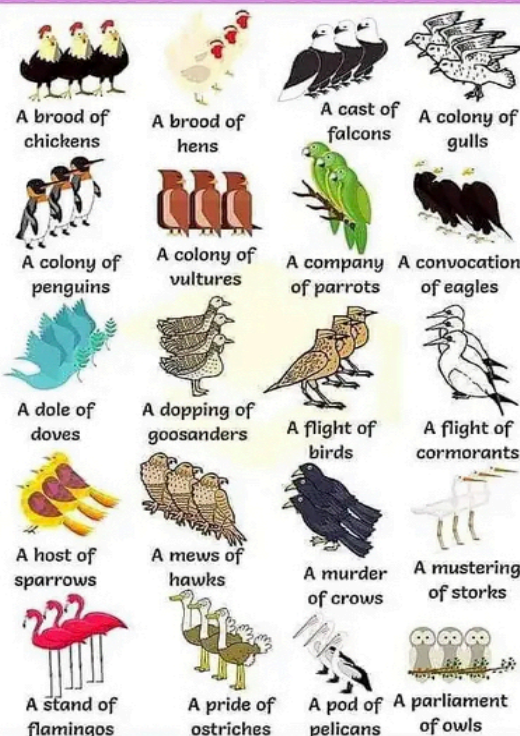
To learn more about Christmas Bird Counts,
visit Audubon's website:

<https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>



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



Collective nouns for birds