



Southern Illinois Audubon Society Newsletter

February 2024
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Southern Illinois
Audubon Society (SIAS)
P.O. Box 222
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Established in 1970

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SIAS is the sponsor of
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Over 21 years of
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Details can be found at:
[www.facebook.com/group
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Providing Natural and Artificial Homes for Bats will be the subject of a presentation by Dr. Joy O'Keefe for SIAS on Friday, Feb. 23rd, starting at 7 p.m. in the meeting room at Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Carbondale*.

Bats are essential to a healthy ecosystem, as they eat insects that are pests to trees, crops, and us. Most bats use trees as their daytime roosts during spring, summer, and fall. If you have good places for bats to hunt for food, how do you attract them to roost on your property? Learn what makes good natural and artificial roost habitat for bats and other ways to support your local bat population.

Dr. Joy O'Keefe is an Assistant Professor and Wildlife Extension Specialist at the University of IL. She studies endangered bats in landscapes where bats intersect with human activity, deriving new information about bat biology and ecology, and identifying strategies to facilitate coexistence of bats and humans. Her research focuses on ways to facilitate the coexistence of bats and humans in human-altered landscapes. She works to understand the roosting and foraging ecology of bats, identify best practices for studying bat ecology, characterize bat behaviors, and assess the quality of mitigation practices designed to help bats. Dr. O'Keefe collaborates with many organizations and people who interact with bats, including private landowners, the USDA Forest Service, the National Park Service, and state agencies.



At our Feb. 2022 meeting, Dr. O'Keefe described the status of bats and the threats they face, both globally and regionally. She shared her research from her lab and others to show that bats have been undervalued in forests and that, while we may have given bats too much credit for insect suppression in big agriculture, we need more deliberate, localized studies to fully understand their value in the ecosystem. She accepted our invitation to come back to so share her knowledge on natural and artificial homes for bats.

***Entrance to the Township Hall is from the rear of the building where two parking lots are available for use. (216. E. Monroe St.)**

Image of Dr. O'Keefe and Reed Crawford with bat boxes.
<https://aces.illinois.edu/news/do-artificial-roosts-help-bats-illinois-experts-say-more-research-needed>



2023 Annual Treasurer's Report By Laraine Wright

From January 1 through December 31, 2023, our SIAS expenses exceeded our income primarily due to a continuing decline in membership dues. The board continues to monitor this, which isn't yet a big concern. As of February 6, 2024, our checkbook balance is \$2,511.26 (\$1,246.02 Birding Blitz earmark and \$1,265.24 for SIAS) and our SIAS CD is \$3,992.08, both at the SIU Credit Union.

Expenses for 2023 were \$3,358.38; income was \$3,056. Of the latter, membership donations of \$910 exceeded membership dues of \$810. In turn, we donated \$500 to Free Again and paid our own membership dues to Illinois Audubon Society (\$100 affiliate) and the Illinois Environmental Council (\$150 supporter).

Many of us support SIAS through items donated and purchased at our auction and sales, as well as the donations of food and coffee at our meetings. But the people below are ones who gave money in the 12 months of 2023 that greatly helped our solvency. We all so appreciate these special supporters:

Phyllis Beck, Bob Camp, Lilly Crane, Elizabeth Crelling, Vickie Devenport, Mary Dresser (in memory of Dave Maginel), Linda Dutcher, Andrew and Janet Earnest, Friends of the Cache (earmarked for Birding Blitz), Nancy Garwood, Denny and Esther Hays, Nelda Hinckley (in memory of Cindy LaSalle), Cathie Hutcheson, Elizabeth Klaver, Greg Kupiec, Dave and Anton Kvernes, Richard LaSalle, Brenda Mayberry, Mary McCarthy, Barbara McKasson, Loretta Satterwaite, Robert Stamps, Richard Thomas, Lyle White, and Laraine Wright (in memory of Cindy LaSalle)



SIAS Upcoming Calendar:

Mar. 22nd – Dr. Nancy Garwood on botany and working with the Hauorani people in Yasuni Ecuador

Apr. 27th - The Birding Blitz **Apr. 28th** - Blitz awards brunch →

May – SIAS annual spring picnic, date & location to be decided

Apr. 28th: * As announced in our annual meeting in January, the April meeting will be on Sunday April 28 at the Haven (10289 Haven Road Carbondale, IL, across from Cambria Neck off Rt. 13) located along the shore of Crab Orchard Lake at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. The program will be a recap of the Birding Blitz along with a tally of the bird species seen or heard the day before. More information to follow in upcoming newsletters. *

Thank You Greg! A huge acknowledgement to Gregory Kupiec for his many years of serving as the Southern Illinois Audubon Society's (SIAS) Finance Chair, along with hosting many picnics and meetings. Over the years, Gregory has coordinated one of our best fundraisers, the bird seed sales. He arranged the location, secured prices and helped haul the many bags to where they needed to go. Thank you, Gregory, for your hard work and endless hours.

The SIAS Board has decided to eliminate this position and utilize the silent auctions as an avenue for fundraising. The Board of SIAS wishes to thank everyone for their continued membership renewal and additional donations for our sustainability.

-Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, President

January Meeting & Program Highlights

We had a wonderful turn out for our annual meeting with potluck and program on January 26th. Excellent food, interesting auction items, and an outstanding program on red-headed woodpeckers by Mark Vukovich.

Honestly, I don't like having to take notes on our programs because there's always so much interesting information making it hard to know what to note. And, excuse my selfishness, it distracts from my enjoyment of our programs. So, this time I took phone snapshots of Mark's data slides and will share that.

Red-headed woodpeckers are a species of conservation concern. As stated in the program description, Mark was part of a long-term study, conducted while he worked for the Southern Research Station in S. Carolina, spanned 7 years (2002–2009.) The work included effects of transmitters on behavior, adult survival, forest treatment, and responses by woodpeckers, fall migration, and nestling diets. Included in Mark's program were preliminary survey results for red-headed woodpeckers on the Shawnee National Forest.

Factors affecting breeding season survival of red-headed woodpeckers in S. Carolina included an 80% mortality from hawks (predation). It was important to leave more understory and mid-story cover patches in pines with low basal area. They observed that there were 7 taxa of plants and 18 taxa of animals feed to young, determined by time of year and month. Although red-headed woodpeckers aren't thought to feed on the ground, foods they observed being feed, including field crickets indicated a lot of ground foraging. Also, females brought more crickets and other animal protein sources to feed their young, while males brought more berries. Males would feed until young fledged, even if the female succumbed to tragedy. The study also found that while they summered and nested in the uplands, they disbursed to the more lowland stream areas in the fall and winter.

On our Shawnee National Forest (SNF), red-headed woodpeckers are a management indicator species, they affect the forest management plan. The SNF contains approximately 45,000 acres of planted pines. Mark conducted point count surveys pre and post timber harvests, comparing results in managed and unmanaged pines. He surveyed 50 points in unmanaged pines and 41 points in managed pines. Studies in other states showed an immediate response, increased presence after pine-oak woodland restoration. This was reflected in Mark's surveys. He found that the numbers of the species were increasing as related to the management practices taking place on the SNF.

Mark provided lots more information than can be provided here. His love and enthusiasm for his work is contagious. SIAS is grateful to him for sharing his work. While his work with red-headed woodpeckers will continue, he found a new species using the SNF to study, red crossbills! Mark has already promised to give us a program on his work with them. In Mark's honor, the red crossbill will be the feature species for the 2024 Birding Blitz! *-Rhonda R.*

Too Much Pooo Pooo -May 2022. - As more Americans get to know the great outdoors, poop on public lands is becoming a problem. In Montana, Glacier National Park has seen record number of travelers, which leads to more human waste on trails.

"Go before you go." That's the advice Glacier National Park's Bradley Blickhan has for hikers heading up a trail. Translation? Go to the bathroom before you go on your adventure. "We have a staff of wilderness rangers, and part of their job is to take care of these structures," Blickhan said. "But we're finding it used to be a structure got visited once a week, every two weeks, and cleaning wasn't that bad. And (now), we go back the next day, and it's destroyed."

Earlier in May, Outside Magazine published "[Outdoor Poop Etiquette Is Changing \(You're Probably Not Going to Like It\)](#)." It talked about the mounting pressure more people — more poopers — are putting on public lands, and the growing problem of human waste in the woods. If a latrine is especially ripe, people might squat behind it, and hikers might do their business just off a trail instead. But Outside Magazine notes part of the problem is human waste doesn't easily break down in a "cat hole," which Montana researchers found as early as 1982, and outdoor enthusiasts are seeing more unburied waste and even toilet paper littered on popular trails.

Glacier has seen a record number of travelers in recent years, with total annual visits topping 3 million, and more people are visiting state parks and other public lands as well. In 2020, Montana State Parks saw its highest ever number of visitors, at 3.4 million, nearly reached again in 2021.

Glacier National Park: 1 million acres, 10 crew members. Glacier counts more than 100 toilet "structures" in the wilderness and backcountry, probably too many given the resources available to take care of them, Blickhan said. In the park of 1 million acres, just 10 workers have regular jobs that include cleaning the latrines, he said, and **national parks are perpetually underfunded for maintenance**. "There's really no dedicated funding to take care of them," said Blickhan, who has been with Glacier some 30 years.

These days, more people with less experience in the outdoors are using the bathrooms too, and that can exacerbate problems. The only things that are supposed to go into a pit toilet in the woods are human waste and toilet paper, for instance, but Blickhan said some hikers toss trash inside, and that means grizzly bears visit. "The bears dig up a lot of them, so there's some work there," he said. The National Park Service counts roughly \$12 billion in deferred maintenance for roads, buildings, and utility systems across the country, but Blickhan said those are the items that get attention, not the latrines.

Outside story noted a recent study of the San Juan River, which runs through several Western states, showed that in some places, E. coli associated with human waste was nearly 12 times higher than U.S. EPA standards. More fecal matter means more related bacteria, and another study cited by Outside found "fecal indicator bacteria" in sand, and another report said beachgoers who played in sand were more likely to get sick. Already, people are supposed to pack out human waste when camping along "wild and scenic rivers," the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Flathead, Blickhan said. He said the Park Service and U.S. Forest Service have the same regulation. Excerpts from <http://tinyurl.com/d4kmrcwk>

What's Happening in Southernmost IL...

...woodcocks have started displaying at sunset!

Monthly Birding with SIAS at Evergreen Park

Saturday, March 9th, 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 info call Kirsten Trimble at 618.521.4166

Spring Trash Blasts on the Shawnee National Forest

First Friday of each month, March-June, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

The USDA Shawnee National Forest Service, Friends of the Shawnee, and the IL Extension will be partnering to host our annual spring Trash Blasts! They will happen on the first Friday of every month from March until June from 1 pm to 3 pm at various locations in the Shawnee National Forest. **NOTE:** with the Total Eclipse happening so close to the beginning of April we will be moving April's Trash Blast to the Friday after the eclipse.

During Trash Blasts we will break into small teams of volunteers to collect litter from selected sites. We find items as large as mattresses to tiny micro trash. No matter what we find we try to remove it to help restore the area to its natural state. To be prepared, volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, bring their leather work gloves, wear long pants and closed-toed shoes. If you do not have leather gloves we can help provide them for you. Trash buckets and trash grabbers will be provided for volunteers to use during the trash blast. This event is limited to 30 participants.

Dates and locations: March 1st at Dutchman Lake (Johnson County), April 12th at Tower Rock (Hardin County), May 3rd at Bean Ridge (Alexander County), June 7 at Ripple Hollow (Union County)

If you would like to learn more about this program contact

Anne Townsend at cupquake@illinois.edu.

Register at <https://go.illinois.edu/TrashBlastsSpring2024>

Kaskaskia Eagle Fest, Modoc, IL

Sunday, March 3rd, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Kaskaskia River Recreation Area, 4800 Lock and Dam Rd, Modoc, IL

A good spot to see bald eagles is the Kaskaskia River Recreation Area near Modoc in Randolph County. Eagles are attracted to the area because of the lock and dam that is located at the confluence of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. The location has become the site of an annual Eagle Trek event that is primarily sponsored by the Heartlands Conservancy and hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Activities at the event are free and highlighted by programs by the World Bird Sanctuary. These informative presentations feature a rehabilitated live bald eagle allowing attendees the chance to get up close and personal with America's national symbol. For info, call 618.284.7160.

SIU Journey to the Eclipse talk Series

First Friday of each month, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

March 1st & April 5th

At Guyon Auditorium, Morris Library, Southern IL University.

Talks are sponsored by the SIU School of Physics and Applied Physics and the STEM Education Research Center (SERC). For more details or to join vis Zoom, visit <https://eclipse.siu.edu/talk-series/>

Botanical Names Demystified

Sunday, March 3rd, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn to call plants by their botanical names, the limitations of using the common names of plants, the importance of the scientific names of plants, why botanical names are useful and important, and tips and tricks for pronunciation of scientific names. This program, given by Illinois Botanist, Christopher David Benda and will be held at the Giant City State Park Visitor's Center, 235 Giant City Rd, Makanda Phone 618-457-4836 to register.

Piney Creek Ravine Petroglyphs Hike

Sunday, March 10th

This is a Shawnee Group Sierra Club outing.

Meet at the Murphysboro Hardees parking lot before 10:00 a.m. We will then drive together to the site. The hike goes to the Piney Creek Ravine where we will see ancient Indian petroglyphs and rocky bluffs. Bring water, a hiking staff and wear appropriate shoes. You must contact Steve Eberhart, the hiking leader, at 618-967.8690 in order to attend the hike.

Maple Syrup Festival

March 23rd & 24th

Touch of Nature Environmental Ctr, 1206 Touch of Nature Rd, Makanda

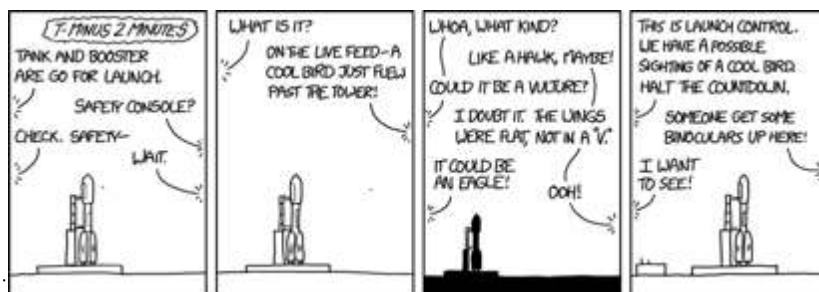
Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast at Touch of Nature.

A family-fun event, 9am to 3pm. Learn the process of making maple syrup from the woods to the kitchen. Maple syrup demonstrations, interpretive hikes, blacksmith, hide tanning, silk embroidery, furniture making, and local artisans and vendors. A home-cooked pancake breakfast served with harvested maple syrup both days.

For full details, phone 618.453.1121 or ton.siu.edu

Shawnee Group Sierra Club Service Outings

Help Save High Quality Natural Areas. Shawnee Group is committed to helping rid high-quality natural areas of non-native invasive plants (NNIS) that are threatening to crowd out our native plant communities at SNF La-Rue Pine Hills Research Natural Area and at Fern Rocks Nature Preserve in Giant City State Park. To volunteer, contact Barb at 618.549.9684.



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 _____

**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.

Without our dedicated members, I would have nothing to drum about!



Birding Walks

WITH MASTER NATURALIST LILY GLAESER

IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH



SIU
CARBONDALE



8:30 a.m.
to
10:00 a.m.

February 22
Green Earth
Chautauqua Bottoms

February 25
Crab Orchard NWR
Visitor Center

March 3
Giant City SP
Indian Creek Trail

March 7
Green Earth
Brush Hill Nature
Preserve



All are welcome. Binoculars are available.

Register at:
go.illinois.edu/BirdWithLily

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Tourism, the Good and the Bad <http://tinyurl.com/4hj62pbr>

Among the largest and fastest growing sectors in the world, tourism contributes 10% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 7% of global exports, and accounts for one in every 10 jobs worldwide. Its capacity to attract significant investment, generate jobs, increase exports and adopt new and emerging technologies makes it an important pillar for economic growth and development, particularly for least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS).

However, this growth is not without its impacts. United Nations Environment research has indicated that the tourism sector's consumption of key resources – energy, water, land and materials (such as fossil fuels, minerals, metals and biomass) – is growing commensurately with its generation of solid waste, sewage, loss of biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions. In a 'business-as-usual' scenario, tourism would generate through 2050 an increase of 154% in energy consumption, 131% in greenhouse gas emissions, 152% in water consumption and 251% in solid waste disposal. This is why sustainability must now define tourism development in the 21st century.

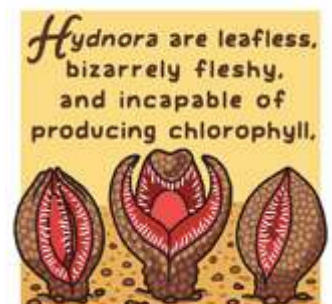
March 21
Green Earth
Oakland Preserve

March 24
SIU Campus Lake



Southern Illinois Audubon Society
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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society and the
Illinois Environmental Council*



(BELATED)