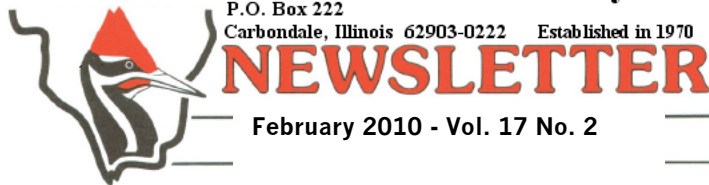


# Southern Illinois Audubon Society



**East Africa Wildlife** is the title of a presentation to be given by professional photographer Tom Ulrich on Friday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 p.m. Tom will start off with a few words on the current political climate in East Africa then will show images of the scenery and wildlife encountered there, including what Tom calls the "Big 6" (animals).

A freelance photographer since 1975, Tom Ulrich is highly acclaimed around the world for his nature photography skills. Tom has been the recipient of many prestigious awards. In 2005, he received the North American Nature Photography Association's Fellow Award. Many of his 600,000+ transparencies have been used by numerous magazines and other publications, including *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, *Outdoor Oklahoma*, *Sierra*, *American Hunter*, *Ranger Rick*, *Alaska*, *National Geographic*, *Montana Outdoors*, *Life* and many others. Tom is also responsible for publishing seven nature books, Mammals of the Canadian Rockies, Birds of the Canadian Rockies, Mammals of the Northern Rockies, Birds of the Northern Rockies, Once Upon a Frame, Photo Pantanal, and Mt. Reynolds: The Story. Tom leads tours to remote parts of the world, such as Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, and East Africa as well as to the greatest aviary spectacle known to man-Pantanal, Brazil.

**LOCATION NOTE: This special program will be held at the Fellowship Hall at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church, 214W. Main St., Carbondale.**

## Future SIAS Programs:

**March 26th** – "It's a small, small world after all." David Brewer on Macro Photography,

**April 24th** – Nature Fest Weekend!

**May** – Annual Picnic

**June & July** – No meeting or newsletter.

## January Meeting Highlights

The Methodist Church Fellowship Hall was filled with the sounds of waterfowl on Friday, January 22, as Chris Barrigar quizzed Audubon members on duck call identification. Chris, an outdoor enthusiast from southeastern Missouri, gave an audio/visual presentation on the ducks and geese found in our area throughout the year. Members were asked to chime-in when they recognized a species.

Chris' presentation highlighted the field marks associated with nearly all the various diving and dabbling waterfowl species that visit our area. Most pictures were of drakes (males) but Chris did include images of hens of some of the species. After the program, Chris stated that the images presented were acquired by the method of "digiscoping", in which PowerShot A95 and PowerShot A710 point and shoot digital cameras were held to the eyepiece of his Fujinon ED 80 spotting scope (with zoom 20X-60X eyepiece). Digiscoping has become a popular method of photography amongst the birding community. Chris did a great job and SIAS thanks him!!

The night's activities started with the annual potluck, with an amazing array of dishes and deserts available. Hospitality Chair

Liz Loomis cooked the main courses, provided by SIAS, for which we thank her. Dozens and dozens of items were donated for the silent auction, including several antique books, artwork, and bird figurines. Items that did not receive bids were given as door prizes at the end of the evening. Everyone's generosity was and is greatly appreciated!

An election of officers was held. Officers were re-elected as presented (Finance Chair - Greg Kupiec, Conservation/Education - Cathie Hutcheson) but the Outings Chair position continues to remain open. Anyone interested in the position, please contact a board member. Anyone with an outing idea, and willingness to lead said outing, please provide details to a board member. Laraine Wright has volunteered to lead a few outings this spring. *-Rhonda R.*

## SIAS Seed Sale Update

Despite a low number of preorders, seed sale day at D&M Feeds was a busy one. Many walk-in customers had heard or read the sale announcements and came to purchase seed. D&M's employees worked feverishly filling orders and toting seed bags for customers. Fifty percent of the sale's proceeds will be donated to Free Again. Exact profit totals will follow in next month's newsletter.

D&M continues to be a gracious supporter of SIAS, providing high-quality seed at reasonable prices. D&M makes it possible for SIAS to continue our seed sale fundraiser tradition. SIAS is most grateful for the opportunity D&M provides and encourages members to patronize D&M for their seed and feed needs throughout the year.

## OUTINGS & EVENTS *(and there are a bunch!)*

### Feb. 28 > Music in the Cache

Music is everywhere you look, or listen in the Cache. Frogs and birds sing throughout the swamps and forests. Winds and rain sweep through the trees and wetlands. Come listen to nature's melodies on a hike then create compositions through guided activities. Meet at the Cache River Wetlands Center at 1 p.m. For more details, phone the Center at 618.657.2064.

### March 5 & April 1 > Movie Nights at the Cache

The first Thursday of each month will be movie night at the Cache River Wetlands Center. Various nature films will be screened and a short discussion about the movie will be held after the screening. Movies will start at 7 p.m. and the evening's activities will run until 9 p.m. For more information on featured films call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

### March 6 > Geology of the Cache

Geology can reveal secret wonders about the natural history of a place. Meet at the Cache River Wetlands Center at 10 a.m. for a fascinating presentation to learn about the dynamic forces that created the Cache River basin then join in on an optional hiking tour along the Wildcat Bluff Trail. For more info, phone the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

### March 11 > Cache Coffee Hour (6-8 p.m.)

Join the Cache River Wetlands Joint Venture Partnership for a cup of coffee and an evening chat. Bring your questions or concerns about events, restoration efforts, or related resource issues. For more details and location phone Cypress Creek NWR at 618.634.2231.

### **March 12-13 > IAS Central IL Prairie Chicken Trip**

Join in on a visit to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area to see and hear prairie chickens on their booming ground. Travel to nearby areas, including Illinois Audubon Society's (IAS) Robert Ridgway Sanctuary, in search of more prairie/grassland species and make a trip to the "closed" portion of Newton Lake Fish & Wildlife Area for waterfowl and other wetland species. For registration details, visit IAS' website <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org/MAINLINKS/EVENTS/> or phone Vern Kleen at 217.787.3515, email: [vkleen@comcast.net](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net).

### **March 13 > Native Plant Seminar**

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Cape Girardeau County Master Gardeners will host their 4th annual native plant seminar at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Using native grasses, wildflowers, trees and shrubs adds variety and color to your landscape, attracts wildlife and reduces the cost of energy-consuming lawns. All seminars are free but some require pre-registration. To learn more or to register, phone 573.290.5218. Register by March 1st.

Native plant nurseries will be on hand selling plants and seed.

### **March 20 > All About Hummers**

Get ready for the spring migration of hummingbirds by preparing your yard or garden for their arrival. Come to the Cache River Wetlands Center at 1 p.m. to learn what you can do to enhance your chances of having these fascinating birds as neighbors. For more info, phone the Center at 618.657.2064.

### **April 21 > Giant City Park Spring Migrants**

Learn about and (we hope) see early spring migrants in this easy mid-week outing at Giant City Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Visitors Center with outing leader Laraine Wright and plan on trail walking at several sites in the park. Target birds will include broad-winged hawk, Louisiana waterthrush, Mississippi kite, and prairie warbler. If you cannot come to the park that early, call Laraine at 618.457.8769 to be included at a later time in the morning. Rain cancels.

### **April 24 > Cache River Nature Fest**

Come experience the wonder that, 30 years ago, motivated many people within the Cache River Wetlands to protect this region for all to enjoy into the future. The Nature Fest will offer guided canoe tours, bike trips, and hikes throughout the Cache Wetlands. All activities will take place at or start from the Cache River Wetland Center. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Program information and registration is located at the Cache River Wetlands Center. All Programs are free. Pre-registration is required for canoe tours. Visitors may register for other tours and hikes at the Wetlands Center on the day of the event. For more information or to pre-register, contact Cypress Creek NWR at 618.634.2231 or visit <http://www.cacherivernaturefest.com>

### **April 28 > Cave Valley Spring Migrants**

This easy mid-week walk in the heart of one of the best warbler spots in Southern Illinois will begin at 8 a.m. at Murdale True Value Shopping Center's sign for directions and carpooling to Pomona. If you know the location of Cave Valley trail, meet group there at 8:30 a.m. We will spend a couple of hours looking for warblers, tanagers, orioles, and other birds that are heard and often actually seen (yes!) in Cave Valley. This will also be a good outing for those who enjoy spring wildflowers. Call outing leader Laraine Wright at 618.457.8769 for more info. Rain cancels.

### **April 30-May 2 > IAS Spring Gathering & Celebration**

This Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) event will be held on the banks of the Mississippi River in Nauvoo and hosted by the Western Prairie Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society. Field Trips to include a boat ride on the Mississippi River, hiking at Cedar Glen Nature Preserve, and Big River State Park, plus more.

Complete details including registration materials and costs can be found at IAS's website: <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org/MAINLINKS/EVENTS/springgathering.html>

## **Seeing Birds**



In November waterfowl surveyors with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin's Dept. of Natural Resources counted an amazing 8,620 bufflehead (ducks) on Pool 9 of the Mississippi River south of La Crosse, WI, very likely a world record for this species.

A northern birder was in the right place at the right time recently and was able to snap several photographs of a young golden eagle as it attempted to take down a deer. The deer managed to escape by using some fancy quick maneuvering. As the unsuccessful eagle flew off, it was mobbed by two rough-legged hawks, which are large birds, but the birder remarked that they seemed small next to the eagle.

On 01/29, Amber Hanson had a brown thrasher playing around the bushes in her yard until a northern mockingbird decided to chase it off. *Brown thrashers are considered migratory songbirds but every year more seem to stay and overwinter in southern Illinois.*

Joe Merkelbach had two male eastern towhees lurking on the ground under his feeders in the 4-inch deep snow that arrived the week of 02/16. He had great views of the towhees that were just six feet outside his window.

## **Tracking of Arctic Terns Reveals Longest Animal Migration**

A study of long-distance migration provides insights into the habits and performance of organisms at the limit of their physical abilities. The Arctic tern is the epitome of such behavior; despite its small size (<4.5 oz.), banding recoveries and at-sea surveys suggest that its annual migration from boreal and high Arctic breeding grounds to the Southern Ocean may be the longest seasonal movement of any animal.

Tracking of 11 Arctic terns fitted with miniature (.049 oz.) geolocators revealed that these birds do indeed travel huge distances (more than 49,500 miles annually for some individuals). As well as confirming the location of the main wintering region, a previously unknown oceanic stopover area in the North Atlantic was identified. Birds from at least two breeding populations, from Greenland and Iceland, use it. Although birds from the same colony took one of two alternative southbound migration routes following the African or South American coast, all returned on a broadly similar, sigmoidal trajectory, crossing from east to west in the Atlantic in the region of the equatorial Intertropical Convergence Zone.

Arctic terns clearly target regions of high marine productivity both as stopover and wintering areas, and exploit prevailing global wind systems to reduce flight costs on long-distance commutes. To read the full abstract and find a link to the complete study, including list of scientist involved, visit

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/12/29/0909493107.abstract>

## Studying Bird Flight: From the Ground, Up

At the 2010 Ornithological Conference in San Diego, California, held earlier this month, noted Ornithologist and University of Montana Professor Kenneth P. Dial presented his hypothesis on the evolution of flight in birds. Dr. Dial believes that flight originated from the ground up (terrestrial) rather than from trees-down (arboreal). It is a long-accepted belief that birds originated in the trees, but Dial has collected a compelling array of data to support his view that flight originated from the ground up.

Discoveries have pointed to the fact that some feathered dinosaurs had tiny wings, much too small to be used in flight. Dial has looked at numerous species of fledgling birds—tinamous, megapodes, brush-turkeys, chukars, swifts, pigeons, owls, and more—and has documented this “wing-assisted incline running” in all of them. Young birds use their stubby wings to help them gain traction as they run up the side of a tree or other incline and also to flutter back down to the ground safely. Similarly, small wings on dinosaurs might have assisted them at scrambling up inclines to escape predators. Dial questions whether this could this have been how flight originated, at first as a way for a fledgling to escape predators.

For more on this report and more details of Dr. Dial's study, visit <http://birdsredesign.wordpress.com/> OR <http://dbs.umt.edu/flightlab/>

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## Do I hear Olive-sided Flycatcher? Oh, that's me!

The following Enature website offers free bird and animal cell phone ring tones. Image the look on someone's face when a pack of coyotes start howling from your pocket or a spunky Carolina wren sings from inside your purse! <http://wild.enature.com/ringtones/>

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## Birds Flexing Their Muscles

The muscles of all birds possess several types of fibers, usually a mixture of these fibers. The breast muscles of birds like turkeys and chickens serve a different purpose than their leg and thigh muscles. Their leg and thigh tissue is predominately red muscle fibers. The breast tissue is composed mostly of white muscle fiber.

Turkeys and chickens are ground-dwelling birds that spend all of their waking hours walking, running, and scratching for food. The muscles in their legs are adapted for constant use and do not fatigue easily. The individual red fibers are very fine and contain an abundance of compounds that make them efficient at aerobic respiration. These tissues are also high in both fat and sugar, which act as fuel for aerobic metabolism. Small songbirds, by contrast, can fly efficiently for hours at a time because they have a predominance of red fibers in their flight muscles.

While turkeys can fly, they aren't capable of sustained flight. Their large white breast muscles are adapted for explosive bursts of power -- such as when one of these heavy-bodied birds is surprised by a predator and must escape in a flash of speed (turkeys have been clocked at 55 miles per hour). These muscles are powered by anaerobic metabolism and tend to fatigue quickly.

The opposite is true of ducks and geese. These birds are long-distance fliers and their large breast muscles consist of dark/red tissue fiber that's high in fat content. Yet the birds with the greatest concentration of red muscle fibers in their flight muscles are not the ones that make the longest migratory flights, it's the birds that utilize the highest number of wing beats during sustained flight. Can you guess? It's Hummingbirds! *-from <http://www.enature.com>*

## Put Your Birding Skills to the Test...

### ...Via Your Computer

While you're waiting for spring, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology could use your help sorting and tagging their 8 million archived NestCam images. Participants have already tagged more than 1 million images. Visit CamClickr at Cornell's website for complete details. <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams/clicker/clicker/index>

Cornell has a plethora of bird related information at their website including an on-line ID guide. <http://www.AllAboutBirds.org>

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## Will Storm Damage Increase the Mosquito Population

As a result of the 2009 late winter ice storm and the Big Blow on May 8<sup>th</sup> of the same year, a great number of large trees were uprooted in southernmost Illinois, south of IL Rt. 13. Where the tree roots pulled from the ground, small pits formed and remain. Depending on the soil type at the location, many of these pits can hold water for an extended period of time, especially if in a full or partially shaded location. These pits might turn out to be mosquito larvae nurseries on a continuing basis. This prospect will depend on several factors including the amount of rain we receive each season and, as stated above, the type of soil in the pit area.

Last summer we had no shortage of mosquitoes. One can speculate that this summer will be no different. *-Rhonda R.*

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## Lead Paint Killing Rare Seabirds on Midway

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and two Hawaiian groups have called on Congress to provide funding to clean up 70 deadly lead paint-contaminated buildings on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The buildings have been responsible for the deaths of as many as 130,000 Laysan Albatross chicks since 1996.

Curious albatross chicks are ingesting the lead-based paint chips, causing a variety of ailments and ultimately, a slow death. It has been stated that the deaths of these chicks has long-term consequences for the Laysan Albatross population there.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) estimates that \$5.6 million is needed to clean up the toxic paint. DOI officials have stated that the current federal budget for the national wildlife refuge system is insufficient to cover the clean-up costs.

For more information on this story and the American Bird Conservancy's efforts to save the albatross and other birds, visit: <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/100202.html>

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## Lawsuit Filed to Save Old-growth Redwoods

The Center for Biological Diversity and two other groups recently sued two California agencies over a destructive logging project on the Northern California coast. The project, proposed by the California Dept. of Forestry and the California Dept. of Fish and Game, proposes to harvest 18 acres of old-growth trees near the Gualala River. These ancient trees, which are up to nine feet in diameter, represent the last area nesting habitat for the marbled murrelet, an endangered coastal species. The vast majority of old-growth redwood forest stands are already gone from California. These 500-year-old redwood trees could regenerate in 500 years, but many species dependent on old growth could become locally extinct by then. Check out the full story at [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2010/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2010/)

# 2010 Annual Renewal And Membership Form

Annual membership renewal month is January, coinciding with board elections held at the annual meeting in January.

*Member address labels reflect current dues status.*

To join or renew your membership, fill in the following form and return it along with your dues to:

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society**  
**Attn.: Membership**  
**P.O. Box 222**  
**Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**  
*Individual voting member \$15*  
*Additional member in a family \$10*  
*Student voting member \$5*

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

✂-----cut here and return with dues-----cut here and return with dues-----✂

I/we would like to receive my newsletter via email. (circle one): YES/NO

✂-----cut here and return with dues-----cut here and return with dues-----✂

## SIAS Board of Directors:

### Officers

President: Joe Merkelbach 618.532.2112

Vice-President: Vicki Lang-Mendenhall  
618.697.9868

Secretary: Mary McCarthy 618.684.8182

Treasurer: Laraine Wright 618.457.8769

Newsletter Editor: Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6605, email woodthrushela@hotmail.com

**SIAS Website: <http://www.siaudubon.org>**

### Committee Chairs

Conservation/Education: Cathie Hutcheson  
618.529.2022

Finance: Greg Kupiec 618.684.5168

Hospitality: Elizabeth Loomis 618.983.5424

Membership: Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6605

Outings: open

\*\*Don't Forget to Save Your Stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund.

Save stamps by cutting them from the envelope, allowing at least a 1/4" border on all sides. Unused and foreign stamps are especially desirable. Give them to Rhonda Rothrock at any SIAS meeting. They are forwarded to Vern Kleen, coordinator of this IAS project. <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org>

## Always leave 'em laughing... :-)

Why did the chicken cross the basketball court?  
*He heard the referee calling fowls.*

## Southern Illinois Audubon Society

**P.O. Box 222**

**Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society*

*And the Illinois Environmental Council*



Ansel Adams Traveling Exhibit At the SIUC University Museum, 01/24 - 03/21  
"Ansel Adams: The Man Who Captured the Earth's Beauty," from the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, North Carolina, featuring 25 of his large scale photographs including his famous "Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, California," © by the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust. Admittance fee \$5.



Printed on recycled paper!

Don't forget to Save Your Stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. ✂

Bring 'em to any SIAS meeting!

For more info visit: [www.illinoisaudubon.org](http://www.illinoisaudubon.org)