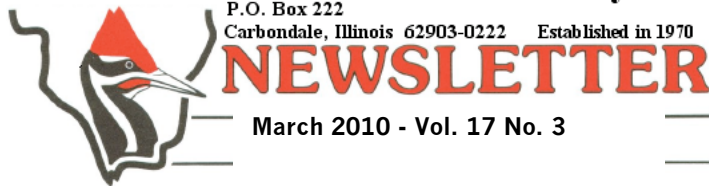


Southern Illinois Audubon Society



P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, Illinois 62903-0222 Established in 1970

NEWSLETTER

March 2010 - Vol. 17 No. 3

"It's a small, small world after all."

Will be presented on Friday, March 26th, starting at 7:30 P.M. SIAS will be returning to the Carbondale Township Hall for this program.

"It's a small, small world after all." It's not referring to the ride at Disneyland, but to the theme of a program about the small subjects that abound in the natural world. For our March program, nature photographer David Brewer will present a program focusing on the world of macro photography. Macro photography is one of the five generally accepted genres of nature photography and it emphasizes the imaging of small subjects in life-size or larger. This presentation will include a discussion of specialized equipment and techniques used in macro photography, and a slide show featuring many of our favorite subjects found in our gardens. With spring just around the corner and the arrival of seed catalogs in the mail tantalizing the urge for gardening, spend an evening enjoying images of the small world found in our gardens.

SIAS meetings are held at the Carbondale Township Hall,

217 E. Main St., Carbondale (unless otherwise stated).

Use the back entrance. Parking is available off East Monroe Street.

Future SIAS Programs:

April 24th – Nature Fest--see listing of activities in this newsletter!

May 23rd – Annual Picnic

June & July – No meeting or newsletter.

February Meeting Highlights

Tom Ulrich provided another amazing program for SIAS on 02/26. Tom described the details that come with planning travel in East Africa, made difficult by the areas unsettled political climate. From that point, Tom presented his images including photos of both the people and the wildlife of Kenya and Tanzania. Included in his images were many different bird species as well as the "Big Six" favorite animals: African elephants, Cape buffalos, lions, black and white rhinos, leopards, and cheetahs. Just listing the subject matter does not do Tom's presentation justice because it's not just the quality of his images that make his programs so entertaining, it's the way he captures his subject matter and it's his persona. Tom not only shares his photographs but he shares his experience of acquiring the photos in a way that everyone can understand and enjoy.

SIAS would like to extend our thanks to Tom, to all the folks who came to view his program, and to the members who provided treats.

Do Do Do Renew Your Dues!

Please check your mailing label to see whether your dues are up-to-date. An "09" after your name means its time to renew your membership. If you have paid your dues but it is not reflected on your label, please contact Laraine Wright or Rhonda Rothrock. A membership/renewal form is printed at the end of the newsletter.

And thanks every so much for your continued support!!

Electronic SIAS

Many members have stated that they would like their newsletter via email. I've been sending out email versions of the newsletter for a couple years now but continue to send hard copies to all as well. As soon as I figure out how to insure everyone gets their newsletter via the medium of choice without missing someone or messing up membership renewals, I'll send out a notice. Folks who prefer to get hard copies via the USPS will continue to do so! Folks satisfied with getting electronic versions will cease getting a hard copy. Please bear with me during my mental and technical conversion. -Rhonda R.

Form a Birding Blitz Team & Join in the Fun!

Late April is the top time for birding in southernmost Illinois. Winter migrants are lingering while spring and summer species are arriving in full force. There are plenty of species to be located in the eleven southernmost counties of Illinois. In this eleven county area you'll find lots of places to go birding including three wildlife refuges, six big lakes, over a dozen state parks, and a 280,000-acre national forest, all between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers (the Mississippi Flyway.)

Spending a spring day birding in southernmost Illinois in the midst of migration with some of your friends is always great time spent. Forming a team and competing in the Birding Blitz adds an additional fun twist to birding with friends. Not only will you spend a great day out with your birding buddies but you'll also be birding for a cause... habitat restoration and preservation in the Cache River Wetlands.

Choose a category that best suits you from a list of five: Open A / Big Day - for those "hardcore" birders; Open B / Dawn to Dusk - for those who prefer not to go from 12:01a.m. until they drop (last year no teams registered in this category so it would have been an easy win if one team had); County Big Day - spend the whole day birding in your favorite southernmost IL county; Muscle-powered - for those who prefer a day of non-motorized birding; and last but not least the Senior category - all team members must be 55 years young or better. Make up a unique name for your team, such as, "Rockin' Robins," "the Roadrunners," or "the No Petrels (Petrels)."

To participate, each team member must pay a registration fee. And, each team must raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges. All pledge donations go to the Friends of the Cache River Wetlands for habitat restoration and preservation in the Cache.

Set for April 24th, this is the 9th year of the Birding Blitz but there is still lots of room for new teams to shake things up in all categories. And a new collegiate contest has been added. Student teams register and compete in their category of choice but student teams will also be competing against each other with the winning collegiate team bringing home a small trophy for their college/university/Jr. college. To kick-start this new contest, this year's student registration fee will be only \$5 per team member!

An awards brunch will be held at the Cache River Wetlands Center the following morning, April 25th. The awards brunch is open to the public as a way for future competitors and non-birders alike to experience the comradery that exists between competitors and non-competitors as well as meet other birders, learn where all the birding hotspots are, and possible pick up some new tips on birding.

For more details including registration, visit the Birding Blitz website at <http://www.birdingblitz.org>. Click on the Birding Blitz link where you can view details about the categories, download the rules, pledge, and registration forms, and check out last year's totals.

The Birding Blitz is part of the Cache River Nature Fest and coordinated by the Southern Illinois Audubon Society.

Cache River Nature Fest - April 24th!

The Cache River Wetlands Center Opens at 8a.m.!

On Site Exhibits, Demonstrations, and Programs:

Kids Corner / 8a.m. - 5p.m.

Where young visitors enjoy learning about animals that make their home within the Cache River Wetlands. Encourage your children to "Get WILD" through creating their own bandanas and kites using wildlife track stamps or show off their love for nature with a bird tattoo (temporary) or face painting of a critter, flower or tree!

Cold-blooded Creatures of the Cache / 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Learn about the snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders found in the Cache River Wetlands from Tony Gerard, Biology Instructor at Shawnee College. Participants will have an opportunity to see a variety of these species up close.

American Kestrel, Birds of Prey Show / 1p.m. & 3p.m.

Wildlife Rehabilitator, Beverly Shofstall, will share some fascinating facts about owls, hawks, and other bird species' natural history and give spectators the opportunity to see them up close and personal.

Hummingbird Banding / 8a.m. - 11a.m.

Federally licensed bird bander Cathie Hutcheson will be banding birds on site. Participants view the methods used in capturing birds and also learn how the data collected from this research is used in conservation efforts.

Ecological Fitness Trail / 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Test your knowledge about the Cache River Wetlands and learn some interesting facts through this interactive program. The Ecological Fitness Trail includes a series of ten stations that provide fun facts about the variety of plants and animals that live in the Cache River Wetlands.

Bald Eagle Exhibit

The American bald eagle has made a great come back in the Cache River Wetlands. Nature photographer and bird expert Dave Brewer will be on hand to share his experiences with and knowledge of eagles. This exhibit features detailed images that show this birds' physical characteristics and behavior.

Kidz Birding

This youth activity will bring out the bird lover in every child. Children will explore the world of birds through this interactive program. Kids will learn how to identify some common birds from this area while searching for them on an outside hike around the Wetlands Center. This program is geared towards kids, but all ages are welcome.

Hydrology of the Cache

Have you ever wondered how the rivers were formed and why they twist, turn, and meander? Check out the cool "River" table and learn how and why rivers flow.

Native Fish Exhibit & Fish I.D. Game Wheel

Test your knowledge of fish that are found in the Cache River Wetlands and learn about some these unique aquatic species. Live fish and other native aquatic species will be displayed for visitors to get an up close view of some of the exciting underwater world inhabitants found in the Cache River.

Field Trips, Hikes, and Tours:

Heron Pond Nature Hike / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Join staff for a hike to see, hear and learn about the rich diversity of flora and fauna found in this special site within the Cache River Wetlands. This easy to moderate hike will depart from the Cache River Wetlands Center to Heron Pond trailhead where the hike will begin. *Please register the day of the event at the Cache River Wetlands Center.*

Wildflower Hike at Limekiln Springs Preserve / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.
Join botanists John and Martha Schwegman for a guided wildflower hike along the Cache River through a bottomland forest to discover the beauty of spring wildflowers. Long pants and hiking boots are suggested, as the terrain may be muddy and un-level at times and remember your camera! *Please register the day of the event at the Wetlands Center.*

Cache River Wetlands Canoe Tour / offered throughout the day
Join us for a guided tour through Buttonland Swamp - a National Natural Landmark. The Illinois state champion bald cypress tree grows here, as well as tupelo and other species, some that have been aged between 500 and 1,000 years old. There is limited space on each tour. **Pre-register after 3/22/10 by calling 618.634.2231.** If space is available participants may register the day of the event.

Happy Herping Hike / at 11a.m.

You'll have the chance to see several reptile species up close and personal! *Please register the day of the event at the Wetlands Center.*

Wildcat Bluff East Overlook / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Join us on "top of the world" overlooking the Cache River and the surrounding floodplain forest on a hike through Wildcat Bluff and Little Black Slough Nature Preserve. This easy to moderate hike will provide a great opportunity to learn about the variety of habitat and wildlife found within the Cache River Watershed. *Please register the day of the event at the Wetlands Center.*

Birding for All - Grassy Slough Preserve / at 9a.m. and 1p.m.

Join resource staff for a visit to Grassy Slough Preserve. The site, owned by The Nature Conservancy, includes 3,000 acres and was once mostly forested wetland. The tour will include a visit to 500 acres of restored wetlands, which attract a myriad of birds including migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, bald eagles, herons, and egrets. *Please register the day of the event at the Wetlands Center.*

Tupelo Trail Hike / at 9a.m. and 1p.m. -- Details to be Announced.

Evening Social and Live Music:

Popular bluegrass band 'Old Santa Fe' will perform at the **Friends of the Cache River Evening Social** event; an evening of food, music, dancing, and fun at the Gambit located in Vienna Illinois. **This event begins at 5p.m.** and is one that you won't want to miss. There is no cover charge for the event; charge for food and beverages only.

Speaking of Nature Fest, Volunteers Needed!

The Cache River Nature Fest is in need of volunteers to assist with various planned activities. Individuals can volunteer for the full day or just part of the day. If you're available to help out, please phone Cypress Creek NW Refuge at 618.634.2231 as soon as possible!!

OUTINGS & EVENTS *with spring comes much ado & much to do!*

March 27 > SIAS Hike at Wildcat Bluff

Dr. K. A. "Andy" West will lead a hike for SIAS at Wildcat Bluff. Andy is a longtime friend of SIAS, former site superintendent at Trail of Tears State Forest, now CEO of Ozark KOALA Ecosystems Services.

Meet at 8 a.m. under the True Value sign at Murdale Shopping Center, W. Main St., Carbondale, for carpooling. Then all will meet Andy at the intersection of IL Rt. 27 and Rt. 146, West Vienna, at 9 a.m. and drive to the site from there. Bring water and refreshments for a luncheon on the ridge at Wildcat Bluff.

April 1 > Movie Night at the Cache

Thursday will be movie night at the Cache River Wetlands Center, no foolin! A nature film will be screened and a short discussion about the movie will be held after the screening. The movie will start at 7p.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.

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 & the Birding Blitz

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 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>

April 30-May 2 > Audubon of Missouri Mtg. in Cape Girardeau

Dr. Bill Eddleman and the Swamp Candle Birders are excited to announce the Spring Meeting of the Audubon Society of Missouri will be held in Cape Girardeau, MO. The agenda includes field trips to hot spots in southeastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois. This event is being tied to the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus' Migratory Bird Day Celebration and includes a mist-netting and bird-banding demonstration by Dr. Eddleman at the Conservation Campus.

Everyone is invited to attend providing they register by April 20. Complete details, including registration forms, can be found at <http://www.mobirds.org>.

May 1 > Migratory Bird Day Celebration at the Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center

Details to follow in April newsletter.

May 1 & 8 > Photographing Birds (a 2-Part Program)

Find out how to take better pictures of birds with during this 2-part program for intermediate and advanced photographers, presented by nature photographer David Brewer.

Participants will learn about the imaging process, techniques, equipment, printing, and getting to know your subject. Bring cameras and manuals to the first session for tips on how to proper use. For more info, phone the Cache River Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

May 21-23 > IOS Annual Spring Birding Weekend

The Illinois Ornithological Society will be holding their annual Spring Birding Weekend in the Kankakee/Bradley Area of northern Illinois. Registration required. For details, visit: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>

May 29- June 5 > Tropical Adventure To Trinidad & Tobago

There's still time to be a part of this enchanting adventure! What a great opportunity to lean about the tropical ecology in this beautiful two-island nation in the Caribbean! From snorkeling in coral reefs and bird watching in a mangrove swamp to giant leatherback turtle ecology and searching for orchids and bromeliads, this trip is the opportunity of a lifetime. The \$1295 cost (with ten participants) includes meals, lodging, and field trips lead by local naturalist guides.

For complete details, contact Nelda Hinckley, Professor of Biology, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Rd., Carterville, IL 62988 or phone Nelda at 618.549.5588 or 618.457.7676 ext. 8323.

IDNR Has Plans for Lovets Pond And Least Tern Nesting

A natural area called Lovets Pond, long coveted by the IDNR, is now completely in its ownership and will be soon designated a nature preserve. According to Scott Ballard, IDNR Region 5 biologist, the last half of the pond has been purchased from its former owner in Germany. The Nature Conservancy was able to buy the first half several years ago through public auction.

Lovets Pond is one of the few remaining wetland remnants of the Mississippi River before it changed channels. Subsequent addition of river levees cut the pond off completely. Although the public cannot visit the area, trees are visible from Illinois 3 northeast of Raddle in the middle of miles of Jackson County cornfields.

Unfortunately, attempts have been made by a property owner or two to try to drain the pond, which IDNR has discovered and blocked. Because of heavy siltation over the years due to close-in farming, the pond needs to be dredged in places to create 8-foot pools and to add islands. Some summers the pond now dries up completely. The IDNR would also like to get a 200-foot conservation easement around the pond (right now the state has only a 20-foot border) and to purchase land between the pond and the highway in order to plant trees and create a nature corridor with the river bluffs to the north.

So far property owners are refusing to sell and the IDNR has yet to identify a source of the estimated \$1.5 million it would take to complete these projects. But, for now, the basic pond is protected, a happy celebration!

Scott also had a bit of recent news regarding endangered least terns: a great idea to anchor a barge filled with sand somewhere in our area along the Mississippi River that the terns could use for nesting. This idea proved successful last summer in the Riverlands area by the Alton dam.

River and bottomlands flooding in 2008 tempted least terns to try nesting on levee roads in Jackson County. Although public roads were blocked by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, more than 90 least terns eggs disappeared overnight on several occasions, thanks to human and raccoon predators.

- Laraine Wright

Just out, the new "Birds of the Middle Mississippi River Corridor" bird checklist! Prepared for the Middle Mississippi River Partnership by SIAS. Copies will be available at future SIAS meetings. An accompanying "Birding the Bottomlands Map & Guide to the Mississippi River Bottomland Birding Sites" is in the works and soon to be released.

Seeing Birds

There are many aspects to bird watching. Some ingenious individuals have discovered that during migration, flights of birds can be tracked using Doppler radar. Doppler radar picks up the moisture in the bodies of migrating birds when they are flying in groups or flocks. Several internet links to sources monitoring migration via radar are now accessible, visit: <http://www.detect-inc.com/avian.html>

Hummingbird migration is also being tracked on the internet but in a less technical way. Hummingbird Net tracks the progress of migrating hummingbird with the help of backyard birders and folks like Amber Hanson, the Hummer Nut as she calls herself. Individuals can easily post their hummingbird sighting, by date. These sightings provide a yearly database of arrival times as well as supplying "real time" migration status. As Amber says, "it's fun to bookmark the site and watch the progression of the migration daily. Will also give you some indication of when to put your own feeders out!" So, whether you want to get some insight on migration or record a hummer you've just spotted in your yard, click on the Hummer Nut website map at: <http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>

Louisiana waterthrush are due to arrive any day. Chimney swifts are on the move as reported at <http://www.chimneyswifts.org>. Purple martins are working their way north as well. Personally, I can't wait to hear my first whippoorwill of the season. *-Rhonda R.*

In February, Frank Bennett reported two flocks of sandhill cranes flying north over his yard in Massac County; one flock on 02/20 and one on 02/21, over 70 birds.

On 02/21 Joe Merkelbach visited the Santa Fe Bottoms of the Kaskaskia River, just south of IL 161 in Clinton county. Joe saw thousands of snow geese, hundreds of greater white-fronted geese, and about 6 or 7 loitering bald eagles. But most exciting were some 39 swans he identified as trumpeters.

Chris Evans reported that on 02/23 he saw and heard two woodcocks displaying at his place in southern Williamson County.

While driving home from work on 02/26, Frank Bennett spotted a smallish hawk that turned out to be a broad-winged hawk...an early spring record for him.

On 02/28, Rhonda Rothrock stepped outside at 9:30 p.m. and noticed that a woodcock was peenting. She listened to it make 25+ peents. In the past when she's observed woodcocks, they usually take to the air for their display after about 12 peents but this one did not. The bird might have stayed up to take in the moon, which was full but was less than fully bright because it was hidden behind a slight haze.

On a 03/02 return visit to the Santa Fe Bottoms of the Kaskaskia River, Joe Merkelbach counted more than 100 trumpeter swans, many with yellow bands. Jack Nawrot, biologist with the SIUC Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab stated that they were birds that had over-wintered at the Hurst Consol Burning Star reclaimed mine.

Cathie Hutcheson noted that her seasonal resident eastern phoebe returned on 03/10, singing from its usual spot in a catalpa tree. She hasn't heard or seen a second phoebe that seasonally hangs out by her tractor garage.

Speaking of phoebes, Rhonda Rothrock was nearly the victim of a fly-by phoebe as two phoebes, amidst some sort of quarrel, came close to flying into her stomach as she rounded the corner from a out building at home. She had just enough time to scream in shock and prepare for impact as the two birds speeding toward her split their flight pattern at the last minute, flying past her on opposite sides.

Rare, All-black King Penguin Filmed

National Geographic Traveler contributing editor Andrew Evans recently spotted and filmed an all-black king penguin--a very rare mutant--on the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia. Video was recorded by Evans on his "bus2Antarctica expedition."

While many king penguins and other penguins can have feather-coloring mutations, usually, the variations are partial. Dr. Allan Baker, an ornithologist and head of the Department of Natural History at the Royal Ontario Museum, called the discovery of the 'all-black' king penguin "astonishing." He jokingly said,

"it's a one in a zillion kind of mutation," and scientifically calls it 'very rare.' He explains that typically, melanistic birds will have white spots where melanin pigmentation has failed to color the feathers. But it's extremely rare for melanin deposits to be over the entire breast of a bird. Photographer Evans says he almost didn't get the video footage recorded. As he got his camera positioned, the penguin started walking away. To see video of this rare bird, visit <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/03/100316-antarctica-black-penguin-video/>



Monitoring Owls and Nightjars (MOON) in Illinois

The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) is gearing up to begin another year of Monitoring Owls and Nightjars (MOON) in Illinois. They are hoping to recruit volunteers to help with this Owl and Nightjar monitoring program. The program began in 2008 and this will be the third year. The INHS folks know that, anecdotally, nightjars and some owl species are declining, but because detection data for these species only comes from seasonal, other than species-specific bird counts such as CBCs and SBCs, the INHS is unable to denote any trends due to the nocturnal monitoring gap these surveys leave.

This year the INHS has many randomly selected routes throughout Illinois that they are looking to fill. The routes are 9 miles long and run along forested habitat. The current monitoring time periods for this year are March 24-April 6, April 22-May 5, and May 21-June 4. Routes generally take around 2.5-3 hours to complete and need only be completed one time during each of these three time frames. If you are interested or would simply like more information about MOON please contact Tara Beveroth, INHS Avian Field Specialist, at 217.265.7303 or take a look at the MOON website at: <http://www.inhs.illinois.edu/research/MOON/>

Black Flies May Be Harming Whooping Crane Reproduction

Scientists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believe that black flies may be endangering one of the two flocks of whooping cranes. The flock that winters in Wisconsin and migrates south to winter in Florida has had no trouble mating and laying eggs. But 12 breeding pairs in the flock abandoned their nests this past year before the eggs could hatch. Scientists believe that large numbers of black flies are so disturbing to the nesting birds that they simply leave their nests to avoid being annoyed. Researchers at Clemson University are working on a plan to dramatically reduce the fly population near where the birds build their nests.

What's In A Name? -By David Kvernes

Of the five falcons likely to be seen in the lower 48 states--peregrine, merlin, gyrfalcon, prairie falcon, and American kestrel--only the kestrel could be considered common in southern Illinois. Of the other four only two, the peregrine and the merlin, are seen here and then only in migration. The gyrfalcon's range in the lower 48 is limited to the northern tier of states, where it comes south in winter, and the prairie falcon usually stays on the prairies to our west, hence its name. An unlikely sixth member of this family, the crested caracara, is regularly seen in Texas and Florida, but we don't usually think of it as a falcon since its appearance and habits are so different from the others. Its name is the one given to it by an indigenous South American Indian people, the Tupi.

Since the kestrel is the most common, I'll start with it and move up the family to the larger members. According to Ernest Weekly, the name comes from the "French *crecerelle*, diminutive of *crecelle*.... Originally a noisy bell or leper's clicket" (quoted in Ernest Choate's [Dictionary of American Bird Names](#)). Thus its name is related to its call. The kestrel was until recently called sparrow hawk. The next larger falcon, the merlin, was until 1973 also given another name, pigeon hawk. Its current name is borrowed from the British, who have always called this bird merlin--no connection to King Arthur's magician, so far as I know. The word comes from the Old French *esmerillon*, but I have no dictionary of Old French and can't tell what the word means in that language.

The word peregrine means, in one sense, foreign or alien and, in a more familiar and related sense, wandering or migratory. Since the falcon of that name migrates longer distances than most birds of prey, the name fits, although it is certainly not the only raptor that migrates. For the gyrfalcon's name, the main question is this: What does the *gyr-* mean? On that question the etymologists, the experts on the origin and development of words, can't seem to agree. Some say it relates to circling or gyrating. One thinks of the opening lines of W. B. Yeats' poem *The Second Coming*: "Turning and turning in the widening gyre/The falcon cannot hear the falconer"). A more common notion is that *gyr-* in this name means greedy, from a High German language source. This bird does indeed seem to eat in a greedy manner, but that is true of most raptors. It is the largest of the falcons and a favorite among European falconers.

WeLoveBirds.org & Cornell's Watch 'n Learn

The Natural Resources Defense Council and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have created WeLoveBirds.org, an online community where bird-lovers can share stories and information about birds and help protect birds from activities that harm them and their habitat. At the website you can also find nest cams, upload photos and videos, ask other members questions about bird identification, read bird news from around the world, and access a library of bird information.

And Cornell Lab has bird nest camera footage on line. View high definition videos of common and rarely seen birds during their nesting cycle at: <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams/breeding.jsp>

Or put your observation skills to the test by helping Cornell sort and tag their 8 million archived NestCam images. You can learn about animal behavior while helping scientists! For more details, visit: <http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams/home/index>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife News / <http://news.fws.gov>

On 03/01/10, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that the official number of protected migratory bird species climbed to more than 1000. The Services' Acting Director Rowan Gould announced revisions to the list of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Species appearing on this list are governed under migratory bird hunting and permitting regulations concerning most aspects of possession, transportation, sale, purchase, exportation, and importation of protected species. The list, last updated in 1985, incorporates the latest taxonomic and scientific data for migratory birds. The changes include 186 new additions and 11 subtractions, bringing the total number of species protected to 1007.

On 03/10, the U.S. added 48 species unique to the Hawaiian island of Kauai to the list of federally threatened and endangered species. These additions include 45 plants, 2 birds, and 1 insect.

On 03/17, the U.S. proposal to remove the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) from the list of species of wildlife regulated in international trade was rejected by the parties reviewing proposals at the recent 15th meeting of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Opposition to the proposal focused on issues concerning the possible impact to illegal trade of other listed spotted cats due to their similarity of appearance.

And sadly, the following day the U.S. proposal to protect polar bears from international trade was not accepted by CITES but the U.S. will continue to work with other countries on threats to the polar bears, including climate change. A number of nations recognized the threat that the polar bear faces from loss of sea ice due to climate change but disagreed over whether the requirements of the listing criteria were met, asserting that polar bears are not significantly affected by international trade and, therefore, should not be listed.

The 22-member Wind Turbine Guidelines Federal Advisory Committee reached consensus on a set of draft recommendations aimed at minimizing the impacts of land-based wind farms on wildlife and its habitat. The recommendations will be reviewed and taken under advisement as the USFWS develops guidelines for evaluating wind energy development on public and private lands.

April 22, 1010-->Earth Day Revolution

The first Earth Day in 1970 was a revolutionary event and provided focus for the growing concern over the state of the environment. The notion spread quickly to college campuses and communities across the nation. That first Earth Day helped create the political will to pass many of our landmark environmental laws--the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act.

Forty years later, Earth Day seeks to capture that same enthusiasm and sense of urgency that marked the first event. Earth Day 2010 offers a moment to recommit our passion and demand that Congress pass climate legislation to reduce pollution, create jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It is a day to declare ourselves clean energy patriots and start the next revolution in environmental protection for this century. visit: <http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>

New Members: We welcome new members Hope and Bill Eddleman of Cape Girardeau, MO.

If you recently joined SIAS but were not formally welcomed in the newsletter, please forgive us our oversight and know that your membership is greatly appreciated!

2010 Annual Renewal And Membership Form

Annual membership renewal month is January, that coincides 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

Amt. Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Your name: _____

Street Address: _____

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I/we would be interested in being on the Board. (circle one): YES/NO
 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-----✂

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. Give them to Rhonda Rothrock at any SIAS meeting. She forwards them to Vern Kleen, project coordinator. <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org>

Always leave 'em laughing... :-)

There were two skunks, one named In and one named Out. Once, Out went in. Mother skunk said to Out, "Bring In in." So, Out went out, got In, and they went in. Their mother was happy to see them. She asked Out, "How did you find In so fast?" And Out replied, "Instincts."

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

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