



## Threatened and Endangered Species of Southwest Illinois

- is the topic that will be discussed by Debbie Scott Newman at the next SIAS gathering on Friday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale. (Use the back entrance.)

Debbie Scott Newman is a Natural Areas Preservation Specialist for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, in 8 counties of southwester IL. She will offer a brief overview of what Threatened and Endangered Species means in IL including a selection of plants and animals on the IL Threatened and Endangered Species list from southwestern IL, case studies of how/why they are on the list, and the habitats they live in.

Debbie states that she loves working to preserve biodiversity in the southern part of the state and advocating for those maligned but misunderstood "underdog" species on the Threatened and Endangered Species list such as rattlesnakes, bats, amphipods, and scorpions.

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### Future SIAS Programs:

**Oct. 22** – Tom Clay, *IAS Land Acquisition Program*

**Dec. 3 (Nov./Dec.)** – Kim Wrenn-King, *Mexican Wolves*

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## August Program Highlights

### An Overview of Parks Down Under

Professor John Burde, retired instructor in the parks administration section of the SIUC school of forestry, presented a program on the parks of Australia at the August meeting. His recent efforts as a visiting instructor at the University of South Australia in Adelaide have allowed him plenty of opportunity to visit locations throughout the country and understand how Australia operates its parklands.

There are actually only very few Australian truly National Parks; that designation is reserved for those sites of special spiritual significance that are owned and administered by the aboriginal peoples for the benefit of all. Several other parks, with major scenic or historic values but not spiritually important to aboriginal peoples, are called national but actually administered by state governments. Even though Australia is a land mass nearly equal in size to the continental US; the population is much smaller than ours and very concentrated in large cities. The national parks are generally smaller than those in the western US and do not have all of the amenities of Yellowstone or Grand Canyon. Hiking and trekking are Australian national pastimes and the parks are attuned to those pursuits; camping with amenities is generally located on adjacent private lands.

Two sites that have aboriginal importance are Kakadu, in the tropical north, and Uluru in the center of the great outback.

Kakadu is on and near the northern coast in craggy limestone landscapes with a cover of tropical vegetation. It contains many sites with important examples of aboriginal rock art from before European contact. The amazing biodiversity of Kakadu is one important reason for preserving this park with birds, kangaroos, and crocodiles, both small freshwater and large and dangerous salties.

Uluru is the world famous red monolith that was formerly called Ayers Rock. Although the aboriginal administrators discourage climbing, they do maintain one chain route to the top with the knowledge that the allure of the climb draws visitors and requires some concern for safety. The surface of the rock is not smooth like granite, but presents upended weathered layers of water deposited sandstone, so climbing is not an easy proposition. One of Dr. Burde's most arresting photographs was a group of ant looking climbers laboring up Uluru.

The very scenic southern coast, with dramatic cliffs and beautiful beaches, was another highlight of the presentation. The twelve apostles, rocks sheared off from a section of the cliffs and standing on the beach as monoliths (some of the twelve have now fallen) are an iconic image of one of these parks. Dr. Burde and his family were fortunate to live part of their time very near one of these parks just outside Adelaide.

The Nullarbor plain, a coined name indicating the complete absence of trees, is another part of Australia represented by state administered national parks. Sere and vacant it really showed the absence of people in most of the landmass of the country.

This was a most enjoyable and informative program about parks and scenic beauty that gave us insights into a far away place.

*-Joe Merkelbach, President*

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## Donate Unwanted Treasures To Free Again Yard Sale!

Free Again is requesting your unwanted items for their annual yard sale fundraiser to be held Saturday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great opportunity to rehome items that you are no longer using but are too good to throw away. For details on when and where to drop off items, phone Bev Shofstall at 618.988.1067. No items to donate? Consider donating your time to assist with the yard sale!

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## Upcoming Events & Outings

### Sept. 25 > For the Love of Monarchs

Come assist folks at the Cache River Wetlands Center net, tag and release monarch butterflies during their migration south to Mexico. Learn about monarchs, which native plants they are attracted to, the vital importance milkweed plays in their survival, and what you can do to help them succeed.

Meet at the Wetlands Center at 9 a.m. Event runs until 12 noon. For more info, phone the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

### Oct. 2 > Free Again Yard Sale Fundraiser

Stop by the Free Again Yard from **9 a.m.-2 p.m.** where treasures will abound. All proceeds go to support and maintenance of Free Again's animal rehabilitation services, to purchase such things as medical supplies and milk replacers. The sale will be held at the Northwest Mutual Ins. Co. parking lot, 1001 E. Main St., Carbondale, (next to the Show Me's restaurant.)

### Oct. 11 > Cache River Wetlands Guided Hikes

Join in on one of two hikes or spend the day hiking both of the most popular Cache River trails. For complete details call 618.657.2064.

**9-11 a.m. hike at Heron Pond** - meet at the Heron Pond Trailhead for a meandering walk along and through this wonderful cypress swamp.

**1-3 p.m. hike at Wildcat Bluff** - meet at the Wildcat Bluff Trailhead for this hike along the base of a sandstone bluff, winding through flood-plain forest to Boss Island, home of a 1853 cabin still standing.

**Oct. 15-17 > IAS Fall Gathering & Annual Meeting**

This will be the weekend that the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) will hold their Fall Gathering and Annual Members Meeting. Activities will be take place at the Ballard Nature Center in Altamont, IL, southwest of Effingham on IL Rt. 40. Activities will include field trips, a member meeting, and informational programs. Check IAS's website for complete details <http://www.illinoisaudubon.org> or contact Jo Skoglund at 217.544.2473, email [jskoglund@illinoisaudubon.org](mailto:jskoglund@illinoisaudubon.org).

**Jan. 4-11, 2011 > Costa Rica, the Birds & Natural History**

This tour will introduce you to the incredible range of habitat present in the small nation of Costa Rica. See Resplendent Quetzals at your first stop. The following day visit the Corcovado Lodge, located in the longest contiguous rainforest in Costa Rica. The trip continues on to Wilson Botanical Gardens and LaAmistad National Park, the largest most remote national park in Costa Rica.

Trip price is \$2,450, not including airfare. For more information or to register, contact Nelda Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or 618.457.7676 ext 8323. Email Nelda at [neldahinckley@jalc.edu](mailto:neldahinckley@jalc.edu)

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 222**

**Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society  
And the Illinois Environmental Council*

**RAFFLE of Wildlife Photographic Prints  
to Benefit  
Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation Center**

Sponsored by Woman's Life Insurance Society and  
The Carterville Rotary Club

Drawing Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2010

**TICKETS:**

**"Premium"** (choice of prints in order of ticket drawn) \$5

**"Potluck"** (no choice of prints awarded) **2 for \$5**

For more information contact

Bev Shofstall  
**618-988-1067**

**For full raffle details, visit:  
<http://www.freeagaininc.org/raffle/>**



**Report Sightings of Banded Birds**

Many oil covered Gulf birds are being successfully treated and released back into the wild. These birds are being fitted with uniquely marked leg bands that provide identifying information to assist Federal scientists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and other organizations in studying these birds after release. Three colors of leg bands are being used: Orange, Pink and Red. Report banded bird sightings to the National Bird Banding Lab via their website at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/default.htm>

Reporting the band number & the bird's location will help biologists understand movements and survival of the birds after their release.

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

Have you heard about the dog that ate an onion?

*-His bark was much worse than his bite.*

Don't forget to save your stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. ☞

Bring 'em to any IAS meeting!

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

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

Printed on recycled paper!



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**-- JOIN SIAS! --**

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

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

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Annual membership renewal month is January and coincides with board elections held at the annual meeting in January.  
*Member address labels reflect current dues status.*

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