

# Southern Illinois Audubon Society



P.O. Box 222

Carbondale, Illinois 62903-0222 Established in 1970

## NEWSLETTER

Nov./Dec. 2010 - Vol. 17 No. 8

### **Mexican Wolves** - will be featured in a program by

Kim Wrenn-King, USFWS Park Ranger, on Friday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to be held at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale. (Use the back entrance where parking is available.)

Missing from the landscape for more than 30 years, the howl of the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), can once again be heard in the mountains of the southwestern United States. That howl can also be heard in Carbondale on Friday, when USFWS Park Ranger, Kim King-Wrenn will speak about el lobo. Come and learn what biologists know about this most endangered North American wolf. Hear the history of how it came to be extinct in the wild and what is being done now to aid in its recovery. Kim spent 6 years working with the Mexican wolf recovery program at the Sevilleta NWR (pronounced "sev-ee-etta") in New Mexico, bringing the wolves' story to thousands of school children. Kim is now at Crab Orchard NWR where she continues to enjoy the challenges of balancing the needs of wildlife with the interests of humans.

### **Future SIAS Programs:**

**Jan. 22** – Annual Meeting with potluck, elections, and silent auction.

*Program: Dr. David Brewer, A year (2010) in the life of imaging.*

**Feb. 25** – Dr. George Waring, *Marine Mammals*

**Mar. 25** – Janet Sunberg, *Texas Birding Trail*

### **Fall Bird Seed Sale Deadline Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>!!**

This year's Fall Bird Seed Sale will be held from **9 a.m. to 12/noon** on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010 at Leady's Feed Store, 10747 Highway 127, Murphysboro, just southwest at the intersection of Highway 127 and Highway 13, east of Murphysboro, 618.687.3161.

**Orders must be received by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can phone in your order to Laraine Wright at 618.457.8769.** Pick up your order at Leady's on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you want to order seed but cannot pick it up on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, contact Laraine Wright to make other arrangements. Pre-order from the list and there will be no tax on your purchase. Some amounts of some mixes will be available at these prices on the day of sale but tax will be assessed on those purchases. As in the past, part of profits benefit Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation.

We regret that our great friends at D&M Feed will not be able to assist us at this year and express our most sincere gratitude for D&M's wonderful support and cooperation with past sales.

### **October Program Highlights**

The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) is lucky to have some one as engaging as Tom Clay as their Executive Director. His enthusiasm and obviously strong belief in IAS's mission and goals was quite evident throughout his program.

Tom explained IAS's important role in acquiring and preserving habitat throughout Illinois, how IAS fills an important intermediary roll

between State and Federal government agencies and private land owners with regard to land acquisitions by using dedicated funds to purchase parcels that have specific corridor or connective value or that contains remnant habitat vital to threatened or endangered species. These acquisitions are resold to the government agencies as state and federal funding becomes available. IAS makes no profit from these transactions.

The Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) recently took ownership of a 303-acres parcel of ecologically valuable land northwest of the Cache River State Natural Area. This land had been acquired by IAS and held until IDNR funding was available. IAS recently pre-acquired (to be sold to the US Fish & Wildlife Service) an Indiana bat hibernacula (cave) in Pope County and are poised to pre-acquire (to be sold to the IL Dept. of Natural Resources) a Pulaski County site hosting state-endangered dusky salamanders. By year's end, IAS also hopes to pre-acquire (to be sold to the IL Dept. of Natural Resources) a 200-acre Marion County parcel adjacent to 12-mile Prairie within the PRSNA site complex.

Tom briefly described each of the sanctuaries IAS owns, what it takes to make a parcel of land worthy of becoming a sanctuary, and various ways members can donate to support the sanctuaries. SIAS made a donation of \$500 toward IAS's land acquisition fund at the end of Tom's program. SIAS thanks Tom for trekking all the way from Springfield to Carbondale and hopes he will visit again soon.

### **Board & Nominating Committee Members Needed!**

Officer positions up for re-election in 2011 are president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and membership chair. Several current board members will be availing themselves for 2 more years. Additional positions in need of filling are hospitality chair and outings chair. If you are interested in filling a post on the Board, please do not hesitate to contact a current Board member.

Also, SIAS is requesting three volunteers to serve on the annual Officer/Board Nominating Committee. The volunteers, with the aid of one Board member, will confirm a slate of officers for the January 2011 Elections held at the Annual SIAS meeting at the end of January. If you are willing and able to serve on the committee, please contact the Board.

### **Upcoming Events & Outings**

#### **Nov. 30 > Pursuing the Birds of China**

Dr. George Waring, SIUC Professor Emeritus of Zoology, will present "Pursuing the Birds of China" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 30, in the Lesar Law School Auditorium on the Campus of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The lecture will describe and show mainland China's natural habitats along with the beautiful and unusual birds occurring there. This presentation is free and open to the public and sponsored by the SIUC Emeritus and Annuitants Association. Parking for the Lesar Law Auditorium is located just southwest of the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Chautauqua Rd., just prior to Douglas Drive on the SIU Campus.

#### **Dec. 14- Jan. 5 > Christmas Bird Count Season (CBC)**

Thousands of citizen scientists brave the snow, wind, and/or rain, every year to take part in the Christmas Bird Count, making an enormous contribution to conservation. Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and other organizations use data collected in this, the longest-running wildlife census, to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide

conservation action. This year's count will help scientists understand the impact of the Gulf oil spill on vulnerable species. There is a \$5 fee per participant per count but folks can participate as feeder watchers at no charge! Folks participating in more than 4 counts need only pay for 4 if they register online at the Audubon CBC website: <http://www.audubon.org/> (The fee for participating goes toward the costs of producing the annual publication, *American Birds*, Summary of the Christmas Bird Count.)

#### **Local count names and dates follow:**

**Dec. (DATE UNKNOWN)—Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co.)** Advance registration required. Contact Dan Kassebaum, compiler, at 618.233.5451 / [kdan@htc.net](mailto:kdan@htc.net). Count meets for assignments at the McDonald's near the Lake at 6 a.m.

**Dec. 16—Big Oak Tree St. Pk., (Missouri)** Meet on Count Day at 6:00 a.m. at the restaurant at Boomland, which is located on the southeast corner of the interchange at the Charleston exit off I-57. After briefing and assignments, teams will begin counting. Contact Dr. Bill Eddleman, compiler, at [weddleman@semo.com](mailto:weddleman@semo.com).

**Dec. 18—Rend Lake.** Advanced registration required. Contact Keith McMullen, compiler, at 618.632.1057 / [warbler7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:warbler7@sbcglobal.net).

**Dec. 18—War Bluff Valley (Pope Co.)** For info call Andrea Douglas, compiler at 618.564.2079 / [anderatd@yahoo.com](mailto:anderatd@yahoo.com).

**Dec. 19—Crab Orchard NWR (Williamson Co.)** Meet for assignments at the Refuge Visitors Center, 8588 Route 148, at 6 a.m. Call Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, compiler, at 618.687.9868.

**Dec. 20—Cypress Creek NWR.** Meet for assignments at Shawnee Community College in Ullin at 6 a.m. Coffee will be ready! For more info call Cypress Creek NWR 618.634.2231.

**Dec. 23—Middle Mississippi River NWR.** NEW COUNT CIRCLE! Centered near the Middle Miss. NWR Office in Rockwood, XXX Road, east of IL Rt. 3 (Randolph Co.) Circle will include parts of both Illinois (Randolph and Jackson Counties) and Missouri. John Hartleb, compiler. Details still being worked out. Contact Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 or [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com) for more info.

**Dec. (DATE UNKNOWN)—Centralia/Marion County.** Meet in the parking lot of the Raccoon School, just west of I-57 at the Centralia exit at 6 a.m. Contact Joe Merkelbach, compiler, at 618.532.3112 / [lapin4623@aol.com](mailto:lapin4623@aol.com).

**Dec. 27—Arklands/Pyramid State Park.** Meet on site at the intersection of Pyatts Blacktop and Panda Bear Rd. at 6 a.m. Contact Joe Merkelbach, compiler, at 618.532.3112 / [lapin4623@aol.com](mailto:lapin4623@aol.com).

**Dec. 28—Horseshoe Lake (Alexander Co.)** Advance registration required. Meet in the triangular parking lot at Olive Branch (south of the intersection of Rt. 3 & Miller City road) at 6:30 a.m. See lodging options below.\*\* Contact Vern Kleen, compiler, at 217.787.3515 / [vkleen@comcast.net](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net).

**Dec. 29—Union County.** Advance registration required. Meet at the intersection of IL Rt. 3 and IL Rt. 124 (in Ware) at 6:30 a.m. Contact Vern Kleen, compiler, at 217.787.3515 / [vkleen@comcast.net](mailto:vkleen@comcast.net). \*\*Vern Kleen states that Alexander and Union CBC participants are authorization to use the Wicker Club at Horseshoe Lake for Monday and Tuesday night accommodations. Beds are available, but participants must bring their own sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. And as in the past territory and team assignments will be made and maps, checklists, etc., will be disseminated at the Wicker Club the night before each count. Veteran participants will have priority selection of the birding areas (since they are most familiar with them). Persons unable to meet at the Wicker Club should plan to meet for team assignments at each count's "on site" location.

**Dec. 31—Mermet Lake.** Advance registration required. For assignments contact Rhonda Rothrock, assistant compiler, at 618.684.6605 / [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com)

**Jan. 1—Jackson County.** Advance registration required. For assignments contact Rhonda Rothrock, compiler, at 618.684.6605 / [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com). Compilation and soup at the Kvernes' residence in Carbondale.

*Jackson County CBC feeder watchers wanted!! Contact Rhonda for details.*

#### **Jan. 8 > Mid-winter Bald Eagle Surveys**

The purpose of the Midwinter Bald Eagle survey is to monitor the status of bald eagle wintering populations in the contiguous U.S. by estimating national and regional count trends.

The SIAS Eagle Survey(s) will be held on Saturday, 01/08. (Rain date: Sunday 01/09.) The survey is broken into two routes, one each in Union and Alexander Counties. **Note new meeting location:** Meet in the parking lot of Great Shapes Fitness Center, next to Arnolds Market, on South Illinois Ave. (old IL Rt. 13), Carbondale, at 8 a.m. for carpooling. This survey can take all day, depending on the route you choose, but is mostly from the car so it is not strenuous. Bring a lunch and beverage. For more info contact Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605.

#### **Feb. 18 > Bringing Nature Home: A Case for Native Gardening**

This will be a special, jointly sponsored program by Dr. Douglas Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home: A Case for Native Gardening*. Dr. Tallamy teaches at the University of Delaware, in Newark. He is a professor and the chair of the Entomology and Wildlife Ecology department there, where he has been studying insects and their role in the environment for over 20 years. Among his research areas are the impact of alien plants on native ecosystems, the interactions between plants and insects, and the conservation of biodiversity. To learn more about Dr. Tallamy and his ideas for native plant gardening, visit his website at <http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/>.

The Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter is coordinating Dr. Tallamy's visit. Many local organizations, including SIAS is helping sponsor the program.

#### **June 2011 > 23<sup>rd</sup> Trinidad & Tobago Tropical Adventure**

Learn about Tropical Ecology in this beautiful two-island nation in the Caribbean. Details to follow. Contact Nelda Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or 618.457.7676 ext 8323 for more information.



## **Seeing Birds:**

Operation Migration is again in progress. As of this writing, the 2010 class of whooping cranes were in Wayne County, Illinois, awaiting their next fly day. They were held up in Piatt County, Illinois for nine days, awaiting proper fly weather then had two good fly days.

Their next stop is in Union County KENTUCKY (nearly due east of Shawneetown, IL). There is an observation spot in that Union County KENTUCKY area, for when they take off to Marshall County KENTUCKY, at the intersection Hwy. 130 and 270, east of the town of Hemphshaw, KY. On the Migration Flyover watch list they state:

*As a rule, departures happen within 10 minutes of sunrise so you will want to be in place at the viewing site by that time. Remember that our ability to fly on any given day is entirely weather dependent, and we rarely know more than a few minutes in advance of take-off whether or not we will be flying that day. Operation Migration crew will be on hand at Flyover Viewing Locations to answer your questions. They will be equipped with aviation radios so you can hear pilot transmissions and will have OM Gear for purchase.*

View the map of their progress and learn how to sponsor a stopover spot at [http://operationmigration.org/migration\\_map.html](http://operationmigration.org/migration_map.html)

## Imaging in South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley

by David W. Brewer, Ph.D.

In early August, 2010, five members of LEAA (Little Egypt Arts Association) and the Southern Illinois Photographic Society (SIPS) traveled to the Lower Rio Grande Valley in South Texas to image birds and wildlife at the Santa Clara Ranch, a privately-owned ranch dedicated to the preservation of the flora and fauna of the South Texas brush country. The trip was organized by Linda Martin. Jan Sundberg, Jo Dodd, Kris Killman, and I joined her for this excursion, along with Kent Taylor from Plano, Texas. We had reservations at the Ranch for August 6–August 10, with the use of a new bunkhouse on the premises, and four photo blinds, each placed adjacent to specially constructed waterholes and oriented so as to make efficient use of either morning or evening light. The ranch owner, Dr. Beto Gutierrez, has recently signed a conservation easement, insuring that the property will remain dedicated as a wildlife sanctuary for perpetuity. One may find out more information about Santa Clara Ranch at <http://www.santaclararanch.com>.

Linda, Jan, and Jo flew down to McAllen, Texas met up with Kent, and rented a vehicle to drive the remaining distance to the ranch. Kris and I drove, allowing us to haul equipment of the other people and free up luggage space on the airlines. In addition, Kris wished to do some architecture imaging, so we rearranged our travel itinerary to allow for a day and a half in San Antonio, where we imaged the old missions along the San Antonio Mission Trail. These missions, including the Alamo, date from 1718-1735, and are exquisite examples of Spanish colonial architecture. The four missions other than the Alamo are still active parishes today. More information about the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park may be found at <http://www.nps.gov/saan>.

The accommodations at Santa Clara Ranch are first-rate. The bunkhouse was completed this year and consists of four bedrooms to accommodate eight visitors, two full bathrooms, a lounge area with extra power outlets to accommodate computers, battery chargers, etc., a full kitchen and laundry facilities. The bunkhouse features central air-conditioning, something of a necessity for the South Texas climate. We stopped enroute to stock up on groceries as we prepared our own meals. We decided early on to make the noon meal the big meal of the day, sandwiched in between extensive hours in the blinds during the mornings and afternoons/evenings, taking advantage of the good light and the periods of time in which birds and other wildlife would be active. For those who need same, guide service can be arranged, with individuals who are both knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of the South Texas Brush Country, as well as outstanding photographers, being available.

The four blinds, as I previously mentioned are situated adjacent to specially constructed waterholes, since all wildlife in this part of Texas revolves around the availability of water. Each waterhole is made of concrete, sunk into the ground to disguise its man-made construction, but constructed such that it cannot be destroyed by wildlife. Each is plumbed with a pump to ensure that it will not go dry and can be instantly filled to optimal levels. Because the plumbing ensures that the waterholes never go dry, wildlife knows the location of the available water and is used to coming to these locations for same. The blinds are located immediately adjacent to the waterholes, one per water hole, situated to make maximum use of either morning or evening light. As such, there are two “morning blinds” and two “evening blinds.” Dr. Gutierrez is presently contemplating the installation of additional blinds. The blinds themselves are sunk into the ground, such that one may image at ground level. Space is provided for four–five photographers/birders and their gear. Camouflage curtains mask movement within the blind, and one arranges the curtain to permit

effective imaging and/or observation. Folding chairs are provided for seating, with cushions available for addition “creature comfort.”

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is ranked one of the top birding spots in the continental United States. Many species are native to this area, and migrating birds, which choose not to cross the Gulf of Mexico, pass through this area adding to the number of species that may be observed and imaged. It was the opportunity to image these birds, which attracted me to this trip. Although August in South Texas is usually hot (and this year was no exception . . . although it was hotter here in southern Illinois than in Texas when one factors in the humidity), that is a plus for imaging birds and wildlife. The South Texas Brush Country is semi-arid country. Here we were on a 300-acre ranch, where hunting is not allowed, situated around the only waterholes on the property. Any creature desiring water has to come to those waterholes, and come they did. We imaged some twenty species of birds, including some endemic to this area such as Groove-bill Anis, Green Jays, Roadrunners, and Pyrrhuloxias. In addition, we imaged insects, deer, Collared Peccaries, rabbits, tortoises, ground squirrels, snakes, scorpions, and plants. Each of us came away with thousands of images captured during our stay and plenty of good memories.

As for equipment, each of us was using a good digital single lens reflex camera with an assortment of lenses. Each blind is situated 6-8 feet from the nearest edge of the waterhole; the farthest edge being another 10-12 feet away. Perches and feed are arranged to position birds and wildlife in camera range and for posing. Primarily we all used zoom lenses for ease of composing images on subjects varying in size from insects to deer. These lenses included 100-400mm, 120-300mm, 70-200mm, 150-500mm, 200-400mm, and 50-500mm, with some teleconverters added as necessary. For macro work with small subjects and flora, some people brought along macro equipment. A good, sturdy tripod is a must, as one will be in the blind for extended periods of time, and the camera equipment needs to be ready for the sudden appearance of whatever wildlife decides to appear. A tripod keeps the equipment poised, ready, and in position, without undue stress on one's arms. Because of the heat, we took along small coolers in the blinds, with lots of liquids to ensure adequate hydration.

One evening we arranged to share our provisions with our hosts, Dr. Gutierrez and his wife. Their hospitality and efforts to ensure that we had a pleasant and successful trip were an integral part of the experience. I cannot say enough good things about them. With most of the land in Texas being under private ownership, and big bucks involved in hunting rights, to see this couple devoting their efforts at Santa Clara Ranch towards conservation is heartening. They have consulted with experts in the areas of ornithology, conservation, botany, etc., to ensure that this ranch is run “as green as possible.” Dr. Gutierrez is an award-winning photographer himself, so he is knowledgeable about what it takes to provide for excellent imaging opportunities.

Our take on this trip is totally positive. We all decided we would do it again in a heartbeat. In fact, we had such a positive experience that we have talked of a reunion trip. The cost was acceptable, considering there is a ranch access fee, guide fee, bunkhouse fee, and travel expenses. However, once on site, one discovers the amount paid is very similar to the daily expenses at a vacation location. Kris and I had the additional pleasure of imaging the San Antonio Mission National Historic Park; the only “penalty” being a long drive and one night's stay in San Antonio. For anyone who is a dedicated birder, or who wishes a unique bird imaging experience, I heartily recommend the Santa Clara Ranch.

David Brewer is an author and professional nature photographer based in DeSoto, Illinois. His images may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.pbbase.com/dwbrewer> & <http://www.dwbrewerimaging.com>.

## News Bytes & Tidbits

### **Northern Bobwhite Populations Still Declining --**

Despite being one of the most popular game species in the East, with a long history of intensive management, Northern Bobwhite (quail) populations are still experiencing long-term, precipitous declines due to the loss of native grasslands. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) states that millions of acres of early successional habitat need to be restored in order for this species to flourish once more. Other bird species impacted by loss of native grasslands include Prairie Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike (*a loss quite noticeable in southernmost Illinois*), Bewick's Wren, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Blue-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Vesper Sparrow, Greater Prairie-Chicken, and Dickcissel. For the complete report, visit:

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/NorthernBobwhite.html>

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### **EPA Withdraws Mountaintop Mining Permit --**

On 10/16/10, the EPA took a historic step towards protecting the people and waterways of Appalachia by recommending the withdrawal of a permit for the largest mountaintop removal coal mine in Appalachia ever authorized, Spruce Mine No. 1. This could be the first veto, in the history of the Clean Water Act, of a project that previously received a permit.

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### **Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Population Again Federally Protected & USFWS (ESA) Candidate Notice of Review --**

On 10/26/10, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule in to reinstate the regulatory protections under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in most of the Northern Rocky Mountains. This administrative procedure is a restatement in regulation in order to comply with the District of Montana court order dated 08/05/10.

To learn more about the Endangered Species Program, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

On 11/10/10, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced its *Candidate Notice of Review*, a yearly appraisal of the current status of plants and animals considered candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). One species has been removed from candidate status, five have been added, and four have a change in priority from the last review conducted in November of 2009. There are now 251 species recognized by the Service as candidates for ESA protection. The notice identifies five new candidate species: the Kentucky arrow darter (KY); Rosemont talussnail (AZ); Kenk's amphipod (DC, MD); Packard's milkvetch (ID); and the Vandenberg monkeyflower (CA). All candidates are assigned a listing priority number based on the magnitude and imminence of the threats they face. The one species removed from the candidate list is a mammal from California — the Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel. The Service removed this species after a review of new genetics and morphological information found that it is more widespread and as a result does not face threats to an extent that ESA protection is needed.

The complete notice and list of proposed and candidate species appears online at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/whatwedo/cnor.html>.

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### **Birds Could Signal Mass Extinction --**

*ScienceDaily* (10/12/10) - The first detailed measurements of current extinction rates for a specific region have shown that birds are the best group to use to track the losses. The study also reveals Britain may be losing species over ten times faster than records suggest, and the

speed of loss is probably increasing: the losses from England alone may exceed one species every two weeks. The study, by Oxford University researchers, shows that many types of obscure organism in Britain are going extinct at the same rate as the birds -- evidence supporting fears of a global mass extinction.

To read the complete article, visit:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/10/101011161639.htm>

A report of the research is being published in an upcoming issue of the journal *Biological Conservation*.

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## Carbon Paw-prints & Changing Lifestyle Habits

In December 2009 I came across an article describing our pets and their impact on the environment. The article was reporting on "eco-pawprint" data calculated by John Barratt of the Stockholm Environmental Institute in Britain. The *New Scientist* magazine had requested the data as a follow up to a then recently published book: *Time to Eat the Dog? The Real Guide to Sustainable Living* by New Zealanders Robert & Brenda Vale. I must admit that although I was quite intrigued by the book's title, I haven't read it and am only referencing the article.

"Owning a dog really is quite an extravagance, mainly because of the carbon footprint on meat," John Barrett stated. The Vales, authors of the book, state that other animals aren't much better for the environment. The data calculated by Barrett doesn't bode well for pets and reflects the same results as those published by the Vales.

In the data, pet food was analyzed. It was calculated that a medium-sized dog eats about 360 lbs. of meat and 208 lbs. of cereal grains a year. When combined with the amount of land required to produce its food, this medium-sized dog has an annual carbon footprint of 2.07 acres, determined to be twice the acreage required to drive a 4X4 vehicle 6,200 miles a year (including the energy used to build it.) The data calculated that the eco-footprint of a cat annually equals slightly less than driving a Volkswagen Golf for one year. I giggled when I read that two hamsters equate to a plasma TV and a goldfish equates to two mobile phones.

The bad news for pets doesn't stop at their carbon-footprint. As many of us know, cats and dogs have a devastating effect on wildlife but they also spread disease through their feces, especially if it makes it into waterways. And, as usual, cats get a worse rap when it comes to this impact. Cat owners living in coastal areas, should not flush kitty poo down the loo. If flushed, the material can end up in waterways where a brain disease it carries, named *Toxoplasma gondii*, can infect sea otters and other animals.

*Food for thought.* For folks who cannot do without pets, the Vales suggest taking on dual-purpose animals, such as chickens or rabbits. "Get a hen, which offsets its impact by laying edible eggs, or a rabbit, that provides the ultimate environmental sacrifice by ending up on the dinner table." But pet advocates state that pets do serve a purpose such as companionship and stress.

The Vales aren't specifically targeting pets in their book. "We're trying to point out that some of the issues that we face in terms of a sustainable future are going to be very difficult to think about, and they're not going to be things you don't notice, like changing your light bulbs," Vale said, "they're going to be things that require you to make difficult and sort of stressful decisions." Vale states that it's not essential to give up pets per se, but people who love their dogs too much to part with them should adjust their lifestyles in other ways. The book, which only dedicates 29 of 384 pages to the subject of pets, also examines the ecological footprints of houses, diets and transportation, as well as marriage, divorce, and having kids. *-FrandaR*



**-- Join SIAS! --**

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

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

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

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-----✂

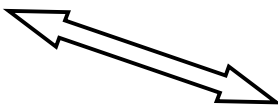
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**Always leave 'em laughing... :-)**



Saving Stamps can help IAS protect habitat for wildlife!



**Southern Illinois Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 222**  
**Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

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



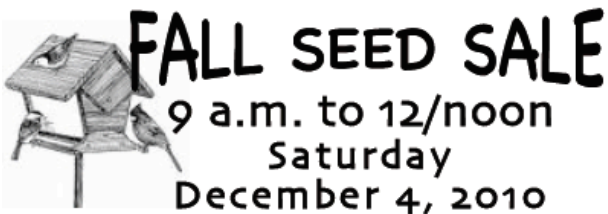
Don't Forget to Save Your Stamps for the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. ✂

bring 'em to any SIAS meeting!

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



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY



# FALL SEED SALE

9 a.m. to 12/noon  
Saturday  
December 4, 2010

**New Supplier & New Location!**

**Leady's Feed Store**  
10747 Highway 127  
Murphysboro  
618.687.3161

**At the intersection of Highway 127  
and Highway 13, East of Murphysboro**

Type of Seed	Quantity	Price Each	Total
Fancy Mix (no corn)	___ 20 lb.	\$ 6.00	\$ _____
Fancy Mix (no corn)	___ 40 lb.	\$ 11.00	\$ _____
Flight Mix (with corn)	___ 20 lb.	\$ 6.00	\$ _____
Flight Mix (with corn)	___ 40 lb.	\$ 10.75	\$ _____
No Waste (similar to Deluxe)	___ 20 lb.	\$ 7.25	\$ _____
No Waste (similar to Deluxe)	___ 40 lb.	\$ 13.75	\$ _____
Black-oil Sunflower Seed	___ 25 lb.	\$ 9.00	\$ _____
Black-oil Sunflower Seed	___ 50 lb.	\$ 17.00	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts	___ 5 gal. jug	\$ 5.50	\$ _____
Sunflower Hearts	___ 50 lb.	\$ 39.00	\$ _____
Safflower	___ 20 lb.	\$ 11.00	\$ _____
Safflower	___ 40 lb.	\$ 21.50	\$ _____
Thistle Seed	___ 10 lb.	\$ 9.00	\$ _____
Thistle Seed	___ 50 lb.	\$ 39.00	\$ _____
Peanut Pickouts	___ 3 lb.	\$ 8.00	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	___ 25 lb.	\$ 7.00	\$ _____
Suet Cakes	___ singles	\$ .75	\$ _____
Suet Cakes, 12 per case	___ case(s)	\$ 9.00	\$ _____

Total of order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Orders must be received by November 22nd. You can phone in your order to Laraine Wright at 618.457.8769.

**Pick your order up at Leady's Feed Store before 12 Noon on Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> because Leady's closes at Noon!**

**Leady's Feed Store is located at 10747 Highway 127, Murphysboro at the intersection of Highway 127 & Highway 13, East of Murphysboro 618.687.3161**

