



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

April 2011 – Vol. 18. No. 4

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

All About Mushrooms

On Friday, April 22nd, Joe McFarland will be discussing the important role of fungi in nature and talking a bit about the role of birds and fungi in our forest-an overlooked aspect of forest ecology. Many people don't realize how essential fungi are for forest health. Also, as it's morel season, Joe will chat a bit about this delicious spring edible, the most sought-after of all edible mushrooms in Illinois. The public is invited to bring mushrooms for identification.

Joe McFarland is an outdoor writer for *Outdoor Illinois* magazine and is on staff with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources. He is co-author of *Edible Wild Mushrooms of Illinois and Surrounding States*. When it comes to mushrooms, Joe is your #1 source.

The program will be held at Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale. Park and enter at the rear of the building.

Treasurer's Report, by Laraine Wright

SIAS continues to do well financially, with current balances (as of April 15) of \$2,018 in checking and shares at the SIU Credit Union and \$5,820 in two C.D.s. Our membership dues continue to pay for our annual expenses for the newsletter, affiliations, picnic and annual meeting, and a few minor fixed expenses. What we raise through donations, the silent auction, and seed sales (which we may not be able to offer in the future) are used to contribute to environmental projects.

Since January 2010, we have contributed \$600 to the Illinois Audubon Society for affiliation and the Land Acquisition Fund; \$500 to the Illinois Ornithological Society for a research grant; \$500 to Friends of the Cache River for wetland restoration; \$250 to the Illinois Environmental Council for affiliation dues; \$190 to Free Again for wildlife rehabilitation; \$100 to the IL Native Plant Society toward a speaker's fee; and \$35 to the Carbondale Public Library for a subscription to *Audubon* magazine.

We thank everyone who continues to support SIAS through membership dues and your presence at our meetings and social events, as well as the following people who we recorded for extra cash and gift-in-kind donations: Vickie Devenport, Mary Dresser, Virginia Gelman, Sylvia Greenfield, Nelda Hinckley, Genevieve Houghton, Judith Kessler, Greg Kupiec, Lois Lembke, Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, Mary McCarthy, and Laraine Wright.

Future SIAS Programs:

May 22 – Annual Picnic

June & July – No meetings/programs over the summer

August 26 – Trevor Hinckley, *Wildlife of Chilean Patagonia*

March Program Highlights

Images of Texas - The attendees of the March meeting were treated to pictures from various parts of Texas taken by Jan Sundberg. The bird, and other wildlife, pictures were taken mostly at the Santa Clara Ranch in Starr county of deep southern Texas.

The first set that Jan showed however was a trip to Big Bend National Park in far west Texas with a couple of views of a stopover in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The images of Big Bend showed a rugged hilly terrain with lots of xeric vegetation; Prickly pears cacti and agaves. Since the visit and pictures were from early in the year, there were no cactus or agave flowers. The variations in lighting from sunrise through bright noon to rosy sunset were very interesting in the scenic images.

Jan did have one post excursion surprise in Big Bend. She started on a walking trip up a trail in the dark to arrive at the top and obtain pictures of the sun rising over the arroyos and hills. On the return trip down, with enough light available to read the trail signs, she discovered she had been on a trail posted with warnings about encountering bears and cougars. Fortunately Jan wasn't presented with the opportunity for closeups of either species during the walk.

At the Santa Clara Ranch the bird and wildlife images were taken near a pool with sunken blinds along on side. The animals and birds in the area are dependent on water from the pool and are drawn to the location to drink throughout the day. One of the really arresting images was of a buck with a large set of antlers sheathed in velvet drinking from the pool.

The photographers put out some halved oranges to tempt green jays and other birds down to best camera focus locations. On one of the half-day sessions in the blind the cut oranges were left behind and Jan improvised with some orange sections brought along for snacks. She skewered the orange sections onto a stick and attracted birds with the modified treats.

There were some very dramatic and detailed photos of a Swainson's hawk. It was known to be in the vicinity but only visited the pool once while Jan's group was in position. The images of the roadrunner, painted bunting, green jay, and pyrrhuloxia (contrasted with the very similar northern cardinal with its black vandyke facial feathers) were very striking.

Thanks to Jan for sharing her insights in to wildlife photography with SIAS.

-Joe Merkelbach, President

Upcoming Outings & Events

April 22 > Earth Day! - <http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2011>

For over 40 years, Earth Day has inspired and mobilized individuals and organizations worldwide to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

April 30 > Cache River Nature Fest - *Rain or Shine!*

A day of nature fun from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cache River Wetlands Center.

- Guided hikes & canoe tours (registration required for canoe tours)
- Swamp ecology exhibits & film screening: Cache River Cultural & Natural History
- Nature Journaling workshop
- Live wildlife demonstrations: Birds of Prey, Fish, Snakes, & Turtles of the Cache
- Hummingbird banding demonstrations
- Nature Activities: Ecological Fitness Trail, Kidz Birding, & the Cache Challenge
- Kidz Corner: critter tattoos, kite creations, wildlife track bandana designs, and more
- Free native trees
- Saturday Evening Social 5-8 p.m. at The Gambit; dinner \$12/person, live music from music 6-8 p.m., 50-50 drawing & silent auction.

For more info or to register for canoe tours, phone 618.657.2064 or 618.634.2231
Or <http://cacherivernaturefest.org>



May 7 > Spring Bird Count

Spring Bird Count takes place on one day a year everywhere. This year that day is May 7th. Illinois spring bird counts are designated county by county, with nearly all counties participating.

Local counts and contacts are: Williamson Co. - Vicki Lang-Mendenhall 618.697.9868; Jackson Co. - Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6606; Union Co. - Vern Kleen at 217.636.8476. For unlisted counties contact Vern Kleen at the number above.

May 21 > 1st Festival of Birding The Bottomlands

The Middle Mississippi River Partnership has teamed up with the Chester Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, Southern Illinois and Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Societies, Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, and the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam to host a Birding the Bottomlands Event. The event will highlight the new Birding the Bottomlands map and brochure. Birders of all ages can experience a chance to view migratory songbirds in their most vibrant colors. Ten locations are highlighted on the Birding the Bottomlands map and the locations will be staffed for visitors to come and watch! Maps available at the April 22 Southern Illinois Audubon Society Meeting.

Featured Locations

First Session 6 - 10 a.m. - U.S. Forest Service's Oakwood Bottoms, Missouri Dept. of Conservation's Seventy Six and Red Rock Landing Conservation Areas, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wilkinson Island Division in Illinois where birders will be on hand to provide their expertise and an active Eagle's nest may be viewed from Wilkinson Island.

Second Session 11 - 2 p.m. - Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site - Come and visit the site of the fort constructed by the French in 1759 and overlooking what used to be Illinois's first capital. To celebrate, a cake cutting ceremony will take place immediately followed by several presentations and Free Again, Inc. will be there with live birds of prey! Internationally renowned storyteller, author, and naturalist, Brian "Fox" Ellis, in the persona of John James Audubon will bring history alive with his performance! He will share the story of Audubon's first trip through Illinois 200 years ago. A food vendor will be provided for lunch. Location is 6 miles north of Chester, IL. Take IL 3 to just south of Ellis Groves and turn west on Fort Kaskaskia Road.

May 21 > Hummingbirds At Giant City State Park

Cathie Hutcheson will present a program on hummingbirds starting at 10 a.m. Reservations required, phone 618.457.4836.

May 22 > SIAS Annual Picnic

SIAS's Annual Picnic will be Sunday, May 22nd, from 12 noon-4 p.m. at Lake Murphysboro State Park, at the East Shelter (same pavilion as past years.) Dining starts at 1 p.m. SIAS will provide the main course cooked on the grill. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and their own beverages and utensils.

Directions to Murphysboro State Park: Take IL Rt. 149 west out of Murphysboro (from the train underpass) for approx. 1/2 mile. Turn north on Murphysboro Lake Road, follow this road north then west where it meets Main Park Road, turn north on Main Park Road. Watch for the SIAS banner. We hope to see you there!

June 4 > Canoe the Cache

Free guided canoe tours will depart throughout the day and meander through the Cache River. Space is limited; reservation sign-up begins May 4th. Phone Cypress Creek NWR at 618.634.2231.

June 11 > Summer Mushroom Hike at Giant City State Park

Joe McFarland and Walter Sundberg will lead a hunt for chanterelles, black trumpets and other summer fungi. Joe is the author of *Edible Wild Mushrooms of Illinois*. Walter is Professor Emeritus from the SIUC Plant Biology Department.

June > 23rd 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.

Winter Sea Ice Hits Chilling New Low

Troubling new data shows that Arctic ice continues to disappear at a record rate – and that spells bad news for species that live there and rely on it for their survival. The National Snow and Ice Data Center recently announced that Arctic sea ice has reached its maximum extent for the winter – and that maximum is the smallest (tied with 2006) since its first-ever recording around the turn of the 20th century. Arctic sea ice in December, January, and February also reached record lows as winter temperatures across much of the region were abnormally warm. The rapid arctic meltdown shows we must curb greenhouse pollution to slow global warming now – for the sake of polar bears, walrus, ice seals and the planet.

From: <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

Have you heard of “Fracking”?

Hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” injects millions of gallons of fracking fluids – a mixture of nearly 600 chemicals, water and sand – into a well to create pressure that cracks open rocks underground, releasing natural gas. What would you do if the water coming out of your tap could be set on fire? Unfortunately, people who live in areas where natural gas companies are “fracking” are dealing with this, among many other serious problems like explosions, quarantined livestock and radioactive wastewater. Help make sure this doesn't happen in your community. Sign the Food and Water Watch petition for a national ban on fracking. <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/take-action/action-alerts/> Scroll down to “Frac Act.”

Follow The Flock With eNature's Spring Migration Tracker

Use eNature's Migration Tracker to follow our spring birds week by week as they head north to their summer breeding grounds. You can find and follow the birds whose summer homes are in your town as well as those “just passing through” as they fly further north.

http://www.enature.com/birding/region_migration.asp?bregionID=4



Make Wind Power Bird-Smart (Bird-Safe)

Some of America's most iconic birds are at risk from poorly planned wind farms. Wind farms kill birds including Golden Eagles, songbirds, and endangered species such as the Whooping Crane through collisions, and also harm the habitat of other birds such as sage grouse. You can change this. Wind power can be an important energy source, but it needs to be done right. Wind power can be bird-smart if developed appropriately, but industry will not do this unless mandated. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently accepting comments on its proposed voluntary wind energy guidelines until May 19. You can send a message as part of an official public comment that asks for the Draft Fish and Wildlife Wind Guidelines to be strengthened and made mandatory. Just use the form on the following website, it's easy! Take action today at:

http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/5400/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6259

Hybrid Car Sales Milestone

Back in 2008, Toyota announced that it had reached 1 million worldwide sales of its Prius hybrid. Then in 2010 it reached 2 million sales around the world, and now (April 2011) Toyota is announcing that it has reached 1 million Prius sales for the U.S. alone and 3 million sales of hybrids (all models included) around the world.

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SIAS Apparel Order Form (with logo as it appears at the top left corner of the newsletter's first page)

SIAS is taking pre-orders for SIAS apparel. If you are interested in purchasing an SIAS logo item, please complete and submitted this order form by May 22, 2011. SIAS needs to get a minimum of 12 pre-orders in each of three categories listed on the form to make an order in that category. Contact Greg Kupiec at 618.684.5168 if you have questions regarding colors.

Shirts sizes: S, M, L, or XL. For shirt sizes of XXL add \$2 each, for shirt sizes of XXXL add \$3 each.

Category 1 – shirts, embroidered version

	size	quantity	subtotal
50/50 Blend Crewneck Sweatshirt (7.75 oz. weight)	_____	_____	-\$19.50 each
50/50 Blend Crewneck Sweatshirt (9.3 oz. weight)	_____	_____	-\$24.00 each
100% Cotton Short-Sleeve Polo Shirt	_____	_____	-\$29.50 each

Category 2 – shirts, silkscreen version

	size	quantity	subtotal
50/50 Blend Crewneck Sweatshirt (7.75 oz. weight)	_____	_____	-\$19.50 each
50/50 Blend Crewneck Sweatshirt (9.3 oz. weight)	_____	_____	-\$24.00 each
50/50 Blend Short-Sleeve T-Shirt (5.6 oz. weight)	_____	_____	-\$14.00 each

Category 3 – cotton twill cap, one size fits all	size	quantity	subtotal
	_____	_____	-\$12.00 each

Your name: _____

total enclosed: _____

Address: _____

Make check payable to: *Southern Illinois Audubon Society*

Mail order to: *SIAS, P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903* or hand it in to Greg Kupiec or Rhonda Rothrock at SIAS meeting or picnic.

-- Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership --

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 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.

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—✂

✂—cut here and return with dues—cut here and return with dues—✂

Always leave 'em laughing...

SIAS Board of Directors

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

Conservation/Education Chair:

Cathie Hutcheson 618.529.2022

Finance: Greg Kupiec 618.684.5168

Hospitality: *Open* Outings: *Open*

Membership: Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6605

Newsletter Editor: Rhonda Rothrock 618.684.6605
email woodthrusheola@hotmail.com

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

Email: siaudubonsociety@gmail.com



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Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
the Illinois Environmental Council,
& the North American Bluebird Society



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

Bring him to any SIA's meeting!

For more info visit: www.illinoisaudubon.org

A BILLION ACTS OF GREEN

バスに乗ろう *planta árboles*
vote green *Посади дерево*

reduce your footprint *ازرع الأشجار* *buy local* *eat less meat* *recycle more*
cambia tus hábitos *Экономь киловатты* *utilisez moins d'eau* *木を植えよう*

EARTH DAY 2011

lower thermostats
come menos carne
plante un arbre *green your community* *غير الأضوية*
もっとリサイクル *walk and bike* *少吃肉* *tell your friends*

Join the World's Biggest Climate Action! Register Your Act of Green at www.earthday.org/act