



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

Nov./Dec. 2011 – Vol. 18, No. 10

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

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

The Un-Common Loon

is the title of a program our own Mary McCarthy will present for SIAS on **Friday, Dec. 2nd at 7:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale.** (Use the back entrance where adjacent parking is available.)

Mary states that the Common Loons is anything but common in most of the United States. Minnesota and Alaska have many loons, but they are threatened or endangered in Michigan, Wisconsin, Montana, and northern New England.

The late Dr. Ed Miller of Governors State University studied the loons of this area for thirty years. He established a way to tag male loons by their “yodel” vocalizations. The identification of males allowed him to discover that male loons in the Michigan area are defending territories that consist of up to five small lakes. It had been thought that the territory of a loon pair consisted of all or part of a single large lake.

Mary conducted a two-year time budget study of two multi-lake territorial loon pairs exploring the functions of such behavior as well as how they accomplished defense of lakes that were separated by up to half a mile. The study revealed that loons possess some behaviors that had not been reported for this species. As has been found for many bird species, their behavior is more sophisticated and complex than previously believed. Their behavioral repertoire is wider and more variable than expected and has allowed them to breed successfully in habitat that traditionally would be considered unusable. This work has implications for management and conservation of this species, which has retreated northward in historical times.

Mary works locally for the Illinois crime lab as a trainer but holds an MS in Environmental Biology from Governors State University where she worked on loon studies for about 10 years while also doing surveys of breeding loons for the Ottawa National Forest.

October Program Highlights

Cache of Treasures – One of SIAS's most distinguished naturalists, John Schwegman, presented an informing and enjoyable program at the October meeting.

The Cache River watershed is a truly unique region of the U.S.A. Since it is at the crux of four different physiographic regions with varied topography and micro-climatic potentials it has some of the greatest biodiversity in North America. The greatest concentration of rare, threatened, and endangered Illinois species of both plants and animals occurs in the Cache. The eastern hardwood forests, the tall grass prairies just to the north, the dryer and older Ozark uplift to the west, and the wet bottomland forests typical of the Mississippi embayment come together in the Cache watershed. Common and rare, relict and edge of range species all contribute to the richness and diversity of Cache residents.

John had images of many of these in his presentation. Bird-voiced tree frogs, aningas, and swamp rabbits (cane cutters are a favorite of mine) up from the south. Azaleas, dragonflies, and mole salamanders from the east. Relict ferns and trees from the north, protected on the cool north facing slopes of headwaters ravines. Racerunner lizards and xeric adapted plants like prickly pear live on the and in the bluff top glades.

Special interests for SIAS birders were the multi-hued wood warblers that spend half the year and nest quite successfully within the Cache region. The golden prothonotary, the sky blue cerulean, as well as others are perfect representatives of diversity that deserves strong preservation

These colorful images and the clear explanation that John gave as to why the Cache basin is such a cradle of biological diversity made for a vivid presentation.

Joe Merkelbach, President



'Tis the season of giving! *Free Again* <<http://www.freeagaininc.org/>> receives no federal or state funding and depends entirely on donations from concerned individuals for its support. Monetary contributions are utilized to purchase medical supplies and feed; perform laboratory, diagnostic and surgical procedures; and to help maintain the facilities. The following daily use items are always appreciated as well:

- Esbilac / KMR (baby pet formula)
 - puppy food & dog food, both dry & canned
 - cat food, both dry and canned
 - mouse, rat, gerbil & hamster feed
 - guinea pig & rabbit pellets & bird seed
 - large (30-50 gallon) trash bags
 - laundry detergent, bleach, & disinfectants
 - sponges, scrub brushes & rubber gloves
 - pruners & sharp kitchen scissors
 - paper towels & cedar or pine pet litter
- High Hopes List:
- laptop computer
 - power washer
 - video camera
 - hemocytometer

4031 Big Muddy Rd.
Carterville, IL 62918
618 988-1067

Other Goods and Building Supplies:

Heating pads, artificial turf scraps, pet carriers, toys—old football balls, etc.
hardware cloth, welded wire, chain link fencing, duct & masking tape, lumber & nails

Future SIAS Programs:

Jan. 27th

-Annual Meeting with Potluck & Silent Auction, Program: UofI Entomologist Dr. May Berenbaum on her studies of Bees and Colony Collapse Syndrome.

12th Annual Central American Adventure, January 4-11, 2012

The Birds and Natural History of Costa Rica

Nelda Hinckley will again lead this adventure. For complete details or to reserve your spot on this great trip, please phone Nelda at 618.549.5588 or email her at neldahinckley@jalc.edu.

(This adventure qualifies as 3 hours of Biology 240 credit at John A. Logan.)

Vern's Nature Tours 2012

Vern Kleen has schedule two nature tours for 2012:

1st: 12-Day Costa Rican Expedition, Feb. 18-29

2nd: 12-day Ecuador Birding Tour, Mar. 10-21

For all details or to make reservations, contact Vern at 217-787-3515 or email vkleen@comcast.net

Jan. 7, 2012 - Mid-Winter Eagle Survey

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

Eagle Survey(s) will be held on Saturday, 01/07/12. (Rain date: Sunday 01/10/12.) SIAS coordinates two routes, one each in Union and Alexander Counties. Meet under the Murdale True Value sign, W. Main St., 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 or email Rhonda@woodthrusheola@hotmail.com

Volunteers needed to run transects through the woods measuring bush honeysuckle. Contact Christopher Evans, Coordinator, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area at 618-998-5920 or his cell at 618-364-7261 or via his email RiverToRiver@gmail.com

The 112th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Season Dec. 14 -> Jan. 5

The annual Christmas Bird Counts, makes an enormous contribution to conservation. National Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and other organizations and agencies use data collected in this, the longest-running wildlife census, to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action. View a map with all Illinois count circles drawn in at <http://home.xnet.com/~ugeiser/Birds/BirdCounts.html>

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://birds.audubon.org/get-involved-christmas-bird-count>. These fees go toward the costs of producing the annual summary of the CBC.

Local count names and dates follow:

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

Big Oak Tree St. Pk. (MO) - Dec. 15, 2011 - Meet on Count Day at 6:00 a.m. at the restaurant at Boomland, located on the southeast corner of the interchange at the Charleston exit off I-57 for briefing and assignments. Contact Dr. Bill Eddleman, compiler, at weddleman@semo.com.

War Bluff Valley - Dec. 17, 2011 - For details contact Andrea Douglas, compiler at 618.564.2079/anderatd@yahoo.com.

Mingo NWR (MO) - Dec. 17, 2011 - For details, contact Dr. Bill Eddleman, compiler, at weddleman@semo.com.

Rend Lake - Dec. 17, 2011 - Advanced registration required. Contact Keith McMullen, compiler, at 618.632.1057/warbler7@sbcglobal.net.

Crab Orchard NWR - Dec. 18, 2011 - Meet for assignments at the Refuge Visitors Center, 8588 Route 148, at 6 a.m. Advanced registration required. Contact Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, compiler, at 618.687.9868.

Cypress Creek NWR - Dec 19, 2011 - Meet for assignments at Shawnee Community College in Ullin at 6a.m. Coffee will be ready! For more details, phone Cypress Creek NWR [618.634.2231](tel:618.634.2231).

Middle Mississippi River NWR - Dec. 22, 2011 - Contact John Hartleb, compiler, at 618. or Rhonda Rothrock at [618.684.6605](tel:618.684.6605) or woodthrusheola@hotmail.com for more info.

Marion County - Dec, 23, 2011 - Meet in the parking lot of the Raccoon School, just west of I-57 at the Centralia exit at 6a.m. Contact Joe Merkelbach, compiler, at 618.532.3112/lapin4623@aol.com.

Arklands/Pyramid St. Pk. - Dec. 27, 2011 - 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.

Horseshoe Lake (Alexander Co.) - Dec. 28, 2011 - Advanced registration required. Meet in the triangular parking lot at Olive Branch (at the intersection of Rt. 3 & Miller City Rd.) at 6:30 a.m. *See lodging options below.* ** Contact Vern Kleen, compiler, at 217.787.3515/vkleen@comcast.net.

Union County - Dec. 29, 2010 - Advance registration required. Meet at the intersection of IL Rt. 3 and IL Rt.124 (in Ware) at 6:30a.m. Contact Vern Kleen, compiler, at 217.787.3515/vkleen@comcast.net.

** *Alexander and Union participants are authorization to use the Wicker Club at Horseshoe Lake for Tuesday and Wednesday night accommodations. Beds are available, but folks must bring their own blankets, pillows, etc. Team assignments and maps, checklists, etc., will be disseminated at the Wicker Club the night before each count. Persons unable to meet at the Wicker Club will get their assignments at "onsite" meeting locations.*

Mermet Lake - Dec. 30, 2011 - Advance registration required. For assignments contact Rhonda Rothrock, assistant compiler, at [618.684.6605](tel:618.684.6605) / woodthrusheola@hotmail.com

Jackson County - Jan. 1, 2012 - Advance registration required. For assignments contact Rhonda Rothrock, compiler, at [618.684.6605](tel:618.684.6605) / woodthrusheola@hotmail.com. Compilation and soup at the Kvernes' home in Carbondale. Jackson County CBC feeder watchers wanted!! Email your feeder bird list to Rhonda at the end of count day or send it via the U.S.P.S. as soon as possible. Phone or email Rhonda if you have any questions.

From FoodandWaterWatch.org - Illinois is being opened up to fracking. There's no statewide legislation against fracking right now, so let's tell our legislators: we need to ban fracking in Illinois. Fracking, or "hydraulic fracturing," is an intensive method of extracting natural gas from the ground that involves injecting tons of water and chemicals into underground rock formations at high pressure. Though the natural gas industry claims this process is safe and environmentally friendly, it has led to contamination of drinking water in many communities — some unlucky citizens have tap water so contaminated with methane that they can light their tap water on fire. Let's keep fracking out of Illinois!

Natural gas companies are already starting fracking in Illinois. It's up to us to tell these corporations that we value our clean air and water rather than their short-term profits. Food & Water Watch wants to ban fracking in communities across Illinois. Join them in taking a stand against fracking, visit the following website and sign the petition to ban fracking: http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8785

From audubonaction.org/ on 11/10/11 - In a win for the environment and the battle to control global warming, the Obama Administration decided to delay a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. The State Department confirmed that a decision on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline will be postponed so that it can "undertake an in-depth assessment of potential alternative routes in Nebraska." In a statement, the department said it is "reasonable to expect" that the extended review process "could be completed as early as the first quarter of 2013." The delay, however, could be a fatal blow to this project that would have facilitated the development of the world's dirtiest oil from Canada's tar sands and threatened drinking water and the environment along 1,700 miles of the pipeline's route through farms, over ranches, and across towns from the Canadian border to coastal Louisiana. This is a significant victory for the thousands of people across the country who spoke out against this damaging project and for all of us working to curtail climate change and to protect the environment for future generations. *Please thank President Obama now for delaying the Keystone XL pipeline and urge him to reject it once and for all at the following link.* http://soe.salsalabs.com/o/1/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=247&autologin=true&track=2011_1118_Keystone_XL_Thank_You_Alert_TAFAuto

Traffic noise affects forest bird species in a protected tropical forest - ,



Abstract: The construction of roads near protected forest areas alters ecosystem function by creating habitat fragmentation and through several direct and indirect negative effects such as increased pollution, animal mortality through collisions, disturbance caused by excessive noise and wind turbulence. Noise in particular may have strong negative effects on animal groups such as frogs and birds that rely on sound for communication as it can negatively interfere with vocalizations used for territorial defense or courtship. Thus, birds are expected to be less abundant close to the road where noise levels are high.

In this study, we examined the effects of road traffic noise levels on forest bird species in a protected tropical forest in Costa Rica. Data collection was conducted in a forest segment of the Carara National Park adjacent to the Coastal Highway. We carried out 120 ten-minute bird surveys and measured road noise levels 192 times from the 19th to the 23rd of April and from the 21st to the 28th of November, 2008. To maximize bird detection for the species richness estimates we operated six 12m standard mist nets simultaneously with the surveys. The overall mist-netting effort was 240net/h. In addition, we estimated traffic volumes by tallying the number of vehicles passing by the edge of the park using 24 one-hour counts throughout the study. We found that the relative abundance of birds and bird species richness decreased significantly with the increasing traffic noise in the dry and wet season. Noise decreased significantly and in a logarithmic way with distance from the road in both seasons. However, noise levels at any given distance were significantly higher in the dry compared to the wet season.

Our results suggest that noise might be an important factor influencing road bird avoidance as measured by species richness and relative abundance. Since the protected forest in question is located in a national park subjected to tourist visitation, these results have conservation as well as management implications. A decrease in bird species richness and bird abundance due to intrusive road noise could negatively affect the use of trails by visitors. Alternatives for noise attenuation in the affected forest area include the enforcement of speed limits and the planting of live barriers.

From the Revista de Biología Tropical 59 (2): 969-980. Epub 2011 June 01. Authors: J. Edgardo Arevalo & Kimberly Newhard - <http://www.ots.ac.cr/tropiweb/attachments/volumes/vol59-2/32-Arevalo-Traffic.pdf>

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-- 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: _____

Southern Illinois Audubon Society Individual member \$15
 Attn.: Membership Additional member in a family \$10
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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 like to receive my newsletter via email. YES or NO
Interested on being on the Board? Contact a Board Member!

Coffee and Climate: What's Brewing with Climate Change?

Climate change is threatening coffee crops in virtually every major coffee producing region of the world. Higher temperatures, long droughts punctuated by intense rainfall, more resilient pests and plant diseases—all associated with climate change—have reduced coffee supplies dramatically in recent years. Because coffee varieties have adapted to specific climate zones, a temperature rise of even half a degree can make a big difference. A long-term increase in the number of extreme and unseasonal rainfall events has contributed to lower crop years that are threatening the livelihood of coffee growers. Between 2002 and 2011, Indian coffee production declined by nearly 30%.

Additionally, warming has expanded the habitat and thus the range and damage of the coffee berry borer, a grazing predator of coffee plants. This pest is placing additional stresses on all coffee crops, as is coffee rust, a devastating fungus that previously did not survive the cool mountain weather. Costa Rica, India, and Ethiopia, three of the top fifteen coffee-producing nations in the world, have all seen a dramatic decline in yields.

The declining supply of popular Arabica coffee beans—grown in East and Central Africa, Latin America, India, and Indonesia—is being felt in the pockets of suburban super-market shoppers and denizens of city sidewalk cafés. Brands like Maxwell House, Yuban, and Folgers have increased the retail prices of many grinds by 25 % or more between 2010 and 2011, in light of tight supply and higher wholesale prices.

If you're one of those people who needs a cup of coffee to get going in the morning, your world may be changing. In fact, it already is. The dwindling supply of coffee is but one example of the many impacts to come due to climate change, and should be a wake-up call for us all. And really, who wants to be around coffee drinkers who can't get their morning fix? The time is now to reduce global warming emissions. There is no single solution to climate change, but there are technologies and approaches available now that can reduce global warming emissions by at least 80 % by mid-century. To see how these methods are best deployed in each region of the world and to see what you can do to help, visit

<http://www.uscusa.org/coffeeandclimate>

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P.O. Box 222

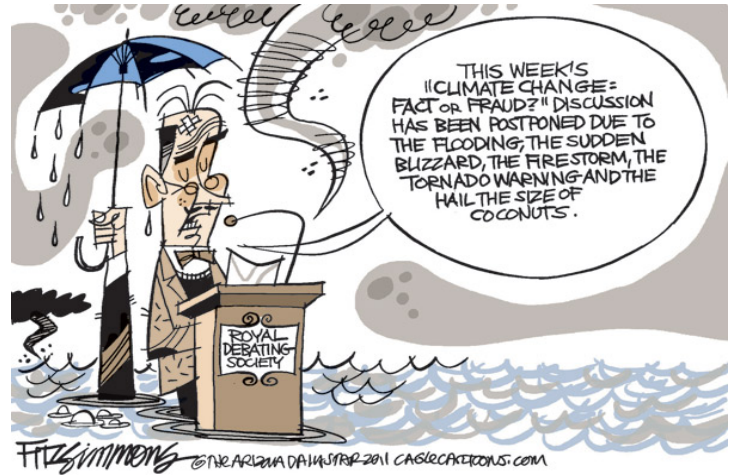
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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
the Illinois Environmental Council,
& the North American Bluebird Society*

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Bring him to any Sias meeting!

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