

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society



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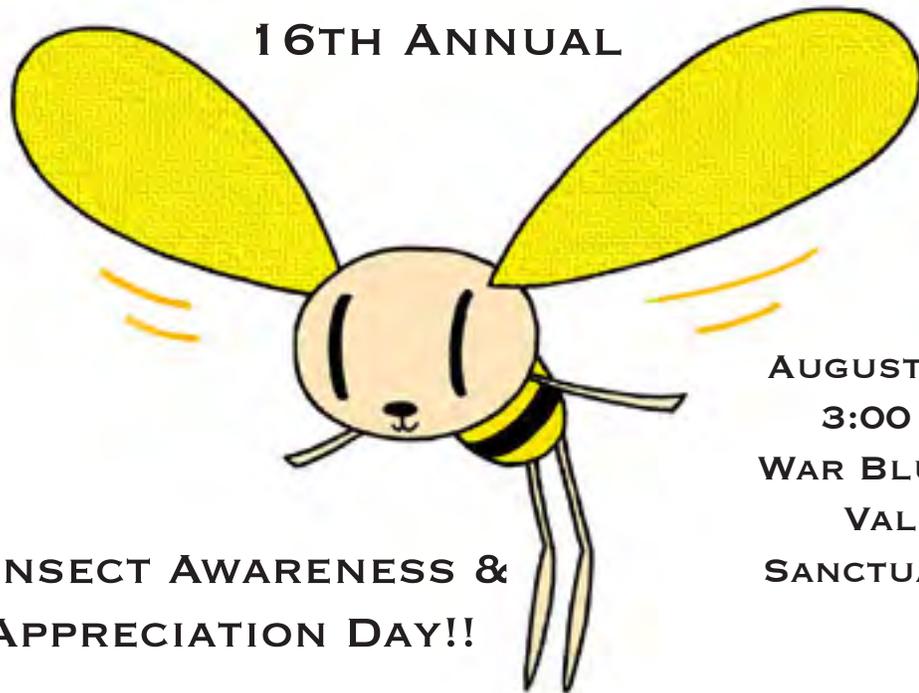
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INSECT AWARENESS & APPRECIATION DAY!!

AUGUST 28
3:00 PM
WAR BLUFF
VALLEY
SANCTUARY

Have you heard the latest buzz? The **16th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day** is just around the corner and it's shaping up to be the best one yet! Mark your calendars now and be sure to join us for an afternoon and evening chock full of insect adventures and activities.

On August 28th, beginning at 3:00 PM at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary in Pope County, insect specialists and enthusiasts will gather to share in their vast knowledge and passion about insects.

Their adventures will take you through fields, forests, ponds and gardens. From the microscopic creatures that dwell in the soil beneath our feet to the commanding dragonflies and butterflies that grace our gardens you'll learn fascinating facts, find beautiful creatures and discover how important insects are to the natural processes we often take for granted. It is guaranteed fun for all ages.

See the attached flyer for all the details, including directions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.

POPE COUNTY SPRING BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The Shawnee Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society has been doing the Pope County Spring Bird Count for over ten years. First compiled by Dan Spivey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources District Forester, the Shawnee Chapter has taken over the duty since 2005. Held on May 8 of this year, eleven people either took to the fields or did a feeder watch. We met our record of 126 different species.

An all day event, counting from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., we put in 45 party-hours traveling 194 miles, which didn't cover everything. More volunteers are always helpful.

This year, Pat and Ron Brown came from the Grand Canyon, Arizona to help with the count. They are founding members of Shawnee Audubon and it was good to have them back.

The Pope County circle is in short supply of large bodies of water, so waterfowl usually consists of only Canada geese, resident wood ducks, mallards and great blue herons. This spring the Ohio River was high and creeks overran their banks to the point that in the Brownfield bottoms, some of the roads were flooded over. Double-crested cormorants were present and a few shorebirds such as greater and lesser yellowlegs and one pectoral sandpiper got counted.

Forest birds were another story. Both summer and scarlet tanagers were on several team counts and six of the seven vireos were counted--Bell's vireo was the only one missed. All the woodpeckers except the yellow-bellied sapsucker were seen. Twenty-six of the thirty-four warblers made the count including the Nashville, magnolia, black-throated blue, black-throated green, yellow throated, pine, blackpoll, worm-eating, prothonotary, and Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes.

Other noteworthy birds were the bald eagle seen flying over the flooded bottoms, the Mississippi kite at Dixon Springs, a cattle egret hanging with some great egrets, and a loggerhead shrike, which hasn't been on our count for several years. The most numerous birds were cliff swallows at 250, followed by barn swallows at 194, and starlings at 189.

As compiler, I invite anyone interested in birds to join us in our counts. You don't have to be an expert and being placed with a more experienced person will only increase your skills. An all day commitment is not necessary either. There are so many areas not getting the coverage needed that a few hours can help. There are also driving routes for those with limited physical capability. Plan now to join us for the War Bluff Valley Christmas Bird Count on December 23. Contact me at 618-564-2079 or anderatd@yahoo.com.



A loggerhead shrike was seen for the first time in several years on the WBVS Christmas Bird Count.

ELECTION 2010 RESULTS

Officers:

Andrea Douglas, President
Georgia Norman, Vice-President
Henry "Hank" Mulder, Secretary
Debbie Hogg, Treasurer

Directors:

John Wallace, Conservation Chair
Anne Parmley, Birding Chair
Kevin Nagele, Sanctuary Chair
Terri Treacy, Program and Education
Terri Treacy, IAS Representative

FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

INDIAN KITCHEN STATE NATURAL AREA



Pine warbler.

Our trek into the Indian Kitchen Area of the Lusk Creek Wilderness was rewarded by a magnificent view of a broad-winged hawk soaring above us and a close-up of a scarlet tanager singing its heart out.

Five of us were greeted at the trailhead by the sounds of pine warblers and ovenbirds. At each pine grove along the trail, once again the pine warblers gave their trills. Songs of the northern parula, a worm-eating warbler and a Louisiana waterthrush joined the others. Along the trail we also saw a hairy woodpecker, his cousin the red-bellied, several American crows, and blue jays. A mix of rough-winged and cliff swallows played and swooped at the Indian Kitchen itself.

Our observations were not limited to birds. Wildflowers included the wood betony, red trillium, wood sorrel, wood violet, agave, Christmas fern, many, many spring beauties, and a lone shooting star in bud. We even saw an early zebra swallowtail butterfly zipping through the forest.

In all, twenty-eight bird species were seen or heard. It was a beautiful spring outing.

CAVE VALLEY BIRDING

The Cave Valley trail near Pomona is my favorite birding trip of the year. Not only is it an easy trail with beautiful surroundings it is loaded with warblers. This year we counted 17 species of warblers, typical during migration season. Other birds were abundant also. We were greeted at the trailhead by the haunting sounds of the wood thrush. The thrushes continued to resound all along the trail. As we left the area, we were treated to a view of two Mississippi kites; sentinels guarding the valley.

Here is a complete list of birds seen or heard: wood duck; wild turkey; great blue heron; turkey vulture; Mississippi kite; red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks; mourning dove; ruby-throated hummingbird; belted kingfisher; red-bellied and pileated woodpeckers; eastern wood pewee; Acadian and great-crested flycatchers; eastern phoebe; eastern kingbird; white-eyed, yellow-throated, warbling, and red-eyed vireos; blue jay; American crow; barn swallow; Carolina chickadee; tufted titmouse; Carolina wren; blue-gray gnatcatcher; eastern bluebird; wood thrush; gray catbird; northern mockingbird; European starling; cedar waxwing; blue-winged, Tennessee, chestnut-sided, magnolia, black-throated green, yellow-throated, cerulean, black-and-white, prothonotary, worm-eating, Kentucky, and Wilson's warblers; northern parula; American redstart; ovenbird; Louisiana waterthrush; common yellowthroat; summer and scarlet tanagers; eastern towhee; chipping sparrow; northern cardinal; indigo bunting; dickcissel; red-winged blackbird; eastern meadowlark; common grackle; brown-headed cowbird; and American goldfinch.

This is an enjoyable birding adventure that I would recommend for all birders during late April or early to mid-May.



Wood thrush.

Wild Things!!



In April, Shawnee Chapter Member Anne Parmley presented an Introduction-to-Birding program to 50 sixth-graders at Cobden Elementary School. She used elements from Project Wild as well as from the Cornell Ornithology website and many photos from various websites. The children were enthusiastic to learn about the birds and how to identify them from their size, shape, color patterns, habitat, and behavior. They shared their favorite birds and related some of their experiences. Their teachers were given posters, guidebooks, and handouts for their students as well as information about the Illinois Audubon Society and upcoming events. Thank you to Karen Frailey for providing temporary bird-related tattoos and to the Cache River Wetlands Center for their posters of Illinois Birds.



Flying WILD is an exciting program of the Council for Environmental Education that introduces middle-school students to bird conservation through classroom activities and school bird festivals. It also supports educators by providing interdisciplinary, standards-based opportunities to engage students in real-world learning that helps them understand the importance of migratory birds and their conservation.

On July 22, Flying Wild Facilitators and Shawnee Chapter members, Anne Parmley and Terri Treacy joined fellow facilitator, Molie Oliver, at the Cache Wetland Center for a Flying Wild Educators' Workshop. Seven new Flying Wild Educators took flight after participating in the 4-hour training. They are now equipped to utilize the Flying WILD program in their classrooms, which focuses on subjects involving migratory birds.

Educators who are familiar with Project WILD will find similarity in the activities and concepts of Flying WILD. In addition to formal classroom use, Flying WILD has recently been linked to Boy and Girl Scout badges, try-its and achievement activities.

For more information about Flying WILD or to request or register for an educator or non-professional educator training, contact IAS at <http://illinoisaudubon.org>.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

If you are receiving a paper copy of this in the mail, please consider signing up for our electronic version. You'll receive your newsletter sooner, it will be in full color, and you'll help save trees and money! Send your email address to the editor at treacytt@gmail.com.

DUCK STAMPS ARE NOT JUST FOR DUCK HUNTERS GET YOURS NOW!!

Officially known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, this year's stamp went on sale June 25 for the 2010-2011 season. Featured is the American widgeon by Robert Bealle of Waldorf, Maryland. The stamp was chosen from 224 entries by a five-judge panel.

Originally created in 1934, the stamp was the federal license required for hunting migratory waterfowl. With indiscriminate killing of birds in the early 20th century and then the draining of wetlands for agricultural purposes, funding was needed to buy wetlands to reverse the population decline.

Since then the stamps have raised \$750 million dollars to purchase or lease nearly six million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Produced by the Fish & Wildlife Service, the fifteen-dollar fee for the stamp goes into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund raising \$25 million a year.

Hunters have to purchase the duck stamp. Imagine if all the bird watchers and nature lovers in the United States purchased one too. That would add a lot of bucks to the purchase of habitat. It not only helps the waterfowl we love to watch, but also any other wetland species including frogs, plants, insects and reptiles.

A fifteen-dollar bargain, 98% is used to buy habitat. The stamp can also be used as admission to any of the 550 national wildlife refuges in the United States such as Crab Orchard. The stamps can be purchased at some post offices and usually any sporting goods store that sells hunting licenses.

Once the season is over, donate the stamp to Illinois Audubon's Stamp program. For the price of a tee shirt, the Duck Stamp is a good buy and a great cause!

WAR BLUFF BRIEF

This summer the Bluebird Trail produced 19 bluebird young. A phoebe nested above the door to the guest cottage, but access was too difficult to keep track of the nest. Tree swallows successfully nested in the Martin house. The exact number is uncertain, but the day they fledged at least 10 juveniles were seen perched on the electric line near the nest.

A year and half after the second devastating ice storm to hit the Sanctuary limbs and trees are still falling across trails and keeping volunteers very busy. Another ongoing project is an equipment storage area that's being developed in a part of the old barn.

The August 14 Stewardship Day will be devoted to getting ready for Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day--come on out and lend a hand! We'll be cleaning Kestrel Hall among other things.

Directions to War Bluff can be found on the last page.

Gray tree frog snoozing on a hosta leaf.



Indian pink.



Snowberry clearwing moth larva.





**2010
HUMMINGBIRD
FESTIVAL**

This year's Hummingbird Festival at Trail of Tears State Forest was a huge success. The weather was perfect for the hundreds of people that came out to see Vernon Kleen band hummingbirds and explain the significance of why we band. Questions about how long they live in the wild, where they go and how well they are faring are being answered with each bird banded and with each recapture.

Both programs, featuring Karen Frailey on Gardening for Hummingbirds and Terri Treacy on Supplemental Feeding, were well attended. Ruth Hoak had a constant line of kids waiting to have a hummingbird painted on their body. The migration game was a fun way to pass the time as well as the hummingbird mazes and word search games. All the merchandise sold helps fund our other projects.

One hundred sixteen adoptions were made for the Illinois Audubon Land Acquisition program. Forty-two birds were banded and four birds were recaptures from 2008 and 2009. Kids and adults were thrilled to release "their" adopted bird. As in the past, males were scarce; only three juvenile males were banded with no adult males. Other IAS festival sites have had plenty of males, but the Trail of Tears State Forest is partial to females. Perhaps some day this phenomena may be explained.

This year, IAS Membership and Development Coordinator, Jo Skoglund joined us for a very successful membership drive. We welcome the new members to IAS and Shawnee Chapter and extend an invitation to each become active in our endeavors.

A great big thank you goes out to all our volunteers who made Hummingbird Fest a success. A special thanks goes out to Trail of Tears staff Sue Nawojski and Neil who kept the feeders full all summer and in turn attracted the hummingbirds that made the festival possible. We also want to give a shout out to Bill Berkheimer and Laura Mueller, volunteers for the Trail of Tears State Forest—many thanks to them for weeding the flower beds and for major cleaning inside and outside the White Barn where we held our programs.

Next year the Hummingbird Festival will be a one-day event on Sunday, August 7 at the Trail of Tears State Forest. IAS holds many festivals throughout the state so check the web site (<http://illinoisaudubon.org>) for dates and places.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Denise Aiello
Kay Canup
Katie Chu
Bob Denly
Sarah Gatewood
Gray & Mary Graham
Theresa Green
Patricia Keil
Bernard Kerhover
Judy Larkin

James Lewis
Joseph & Cheryl Parlow
Chris Peich
Wilma Reese
Mary Reynolds
Laurel Toussaint
Alan & Cynthia Wagner
Bob & Pam Wilson
John Wittenborn

Upcoming Events

August

- 14 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** (See back page for details.)
- 28 **16th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day .** War Bluff Valley Sanctuary . Begins at 3:00 pm . See attached flyer.

September

- 11 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** (See back page for details.)
- 19 **Fall birding at Rend Lake .** For details and meet up location contact Anne at anne.parmley@gmail.com or 618.524.9022.
- 25 **Monarch Tagging . Cache River Wetlands Center .** 9:00 am to Noon . Not a Shawnee Chapter or Illinois Audubon sponsored event.

October

- 09 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** (See back page for details.)
- 11 **Cache River Wetland Center Guided Hikes:**
Heron Pond Trail . 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Wildcat Bluff Trail . 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
The above hikes are not Shawnee Chapter or Illinois Audubon Society sponsored events.
- 24 **Bird the Michael Wolff Memorial Wetlands, Marshall Ridge Access .** For details and meet up location contact Anne at anne.parmley@gmail.com or 618.524.9022.

November

- 13 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** (See back page for details.)

December

- 23 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** (See back page for details.)
- 23 **War Bluff Valley Christmas Bird Count.** Contact Ann Douglas to sign up: 618.564-2079 or anderatd@yahoo.com.

Check the web site for additions or changes to our events schedule.
<http://shawneeadubon.org>

SAVE STAMPS FOR WILDLIFE!



INSECT AWARENESS &
APPRECIATION DAY!
AUGUST 28TH

Shawnee Audubon Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 73
Carbondale, IL 62903

Join Us at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

War Bluff Valley Sanctuary is a beautiful place. If you've never been there or if you only get out there once in a while, you ought to see what you're missing. Come for a visit anytime or come to volunteer on **Stewardship Day the second Saturday of every month**---bring work gloves, water and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 am. Call 618.683.2222 for more details or if the weather in inclement.

Directions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

From Golconda, follow Rte. 146 north about 3 miles to Bushwack Road. There is a brown Wildlife Viewing Sign before the road. Turn left and follow Bushwack about 2.2 miles to Sanctuary entrance. Sanctuary phone: 618.683.2222

SHAWNEE AUDUBON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member of Shawnee Audubon Society (SAS) you will receive newsletters and event announcements plus membership in the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS). As a member of IAS you will be part of Illinois' oldest conservation organization and you will receive *Illinois Audubon*, the IAS quarterly magazine and the *Cardinal News*, the IAS newsletter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (INCLUDES ILLINOIS AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$43 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$58 | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Club \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal Club \$1000 |

Pay by check or credit card! Make checks payable to:
Illinois Audubon Society-Shawnee Chapter - OR - fill out your credit card information below.

Circle: Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp Date: (MM)____ (YYYY)____ Signature: _____

Mail to: Illinois Audubon Society, PO Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708-2457

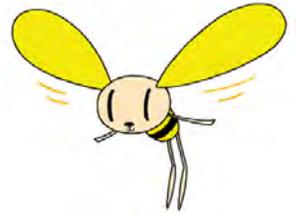
Shawnee Audubon Chapter presents 16 Annual

INSECT AWARENESS & APPRECIATION DAY



Saturday, August 28th at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary
Located in beautiful Pope County

Schedule of Events



3:00 PM REGISTRATION

3:30 - 5:30 PM INSECT ADVENTURES

DAZZLING DRAGONFLIES--John & Martha Schwegman will lead a safari to view dragonflies up close and personal.

SWEET LIL' HONEYBEES--how to raise honeybees with Minnie Ahrendt.

LOVELY LEPIDOPTERA--Experience the wonder of butterflies and moths with Bill Black.

MIGHTY MITES--See with world of microscopic creatures that live in the soil below our feet with Richard Thomas & Nancy Garwood.

POLLINATOR PEEWEES--Observe native wildflowers and the insects that pollinate them with Nadia Navarrete-Tindall.

DENIZENS DOWN UNDER--Looking for aquatic insects in Dragonfly Pond with SIUC Dept. of Zoology grad students.

FACE PAINTING--Let the World Know You Love Insects with Dede Lechner

6:00 PM POT LUCK SUPPER -- Bring a dish to share & beverage of choice

7:00 PM REALLY COOL RAFFLE -- Insect & nature-related stuff

7:30 PM INSECT POTPOURRI -- Insect Poetry, Jokes, Riddles & Songs

8:00 PM TILL ? ROGNBOB THE RETURN OF THE GOSPEL OF GOOF
Rowdy Folk Music with a Southern Illinois twist "Playing' til the ants drag you home!!"

9:30 PM NIGHTTIME ADVENTURES -- Insects in search of bright lights.

Directions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

From Golconda, follow Rte. 146 about 3 miles to Bushwack Road. There is a Wildlife Viewing Sign before the road.
Turn left and follow 2.2 miles to Sanctuary entrance. Sanctuary phone: 618.683.2222.

For more information check the Shawnee Chapter website at shawneeaudubon.org or
contact War Bluff Valley Sanctuary at (618) 683-2222 or treacytt@gmail.com



Free! Family Event. Everyone is Welcome!
(Sorry, No Dogs Please!!)

