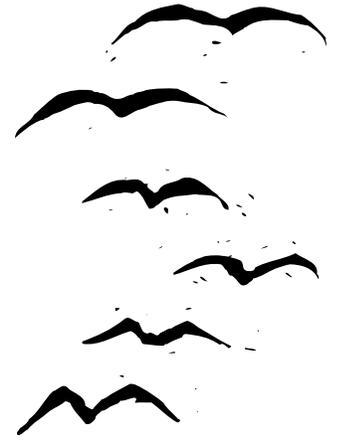


Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

# Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of the  
Illinois Audubon Society



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## February 18th Program: Bev Shofstall and Free Again!

*Karen Frailey*

Shawnee Audubon is in for a real treat on Monday February 18th at 7 pm at the Carbondale Township Hall (217 E. Main St.) when Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation visits and brings some of their feathered and wild friends along.

For those of you who haven't met Bev and Free Again, let me tell you a little about them. Free Again, Inc. began in 1988 while Bev Shofstall was working as a veterinary technician at Central Hospital for Animals in Herrin. The facility has since grown and now takes in over 400 animals annually. Free Again receives no Federal or State funding and depends entirely on donations from concerned individuals for its support.

Some animals, primarily non-releasable birds of prey, are kept for educational programs in order for Free Again to educate children and

adults around the region. Bev and her staff do a great job of reaching out to the public and educating folks on the importance of our precious native wildlife.

Bev has given several programs to our group over the years, and folks have never failed to be entranced and enthralled by the critters she brings along. She tells me she'll have a red-tailed hawk with her, as well as several owls and of course, a vulture! Come see what else Bev might have up her sleeve, or on her fist! Maybe she'll even bring a kestrel along, to compliment the topic of our last months meeting.

It's been at least 5 years since she's visited us, so please come out and help Shawnee Audubon welcome Free Again and Bev Shofstall.

In order to help out this worthy non-profit organization, Shawnee Audubon is requesting that folks bring a donation, either financial or from the list found on page 4. If you would like to find out more about Free Again, Inc., please check their website at <http://www.freeagaininc.org/>

## BlueBird Workshop at Cedar Lake Saturday Feb 16

The City of Carbondale and Shawnee Audubon Society have joined forces to provide an informative and hands-on seminar about the Eastern bluebird at Cedar Lake. This program will be similar to the bluebird workshop Shawnee Audubon offered a year ago.

Shawnee Audubon's John Wallace will provide an interesting and interactive approach to learning conservation with the Illinois Bluebird Project. Along with learning about these beautiful "Gems of Blue," guests will build their own bluebird nestbox to take home. Sponsored by the City of Carbondale and Shawnee Audubon Society, the program will be held at the Cedar Lake Supervisor's Headquarters and Shop on Saturday, February 16, from 1 - 3 pm.

All information, supplies, instructions, handouts, nails and fun will be provided. Space is limited and participation is restricted to the first 25 registrants, so please register in advance. A \$5 donation to Shawnee Audubon is suggested to help offset costs of nestbox materials. *(continued on page 3)*

# Upcoming Events

## February

- 16 Bluebird Box Workshop at Cedar Lake 1-3 pm** Cedar Lake Supervisor's Office & Shop. Build a Bluebird house! \$5 donation. Limited to 25 participants. Call John (618/457-6367) or Ted (618-549-8441) to register.
- 18 SAS Membership Meeting: Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation: Live Birds of Prey!!** 7pm, Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Join Bev Shofstall as she wows us with her hawks, vultures owls and other birds she has taken in from the wild and rehabilitated. Call Karen(618-457-6367) for more info.

## March

- 7-8 IAS Annual Prairie Chicken Field Trip** Prairie chicken trip to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area. See prairie chickens up close and personal! Contact Vern Kleen (217/787-3515) kleen@insightbb.com
- 8 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at (618/683-2222) for more info.
- 16 SAS Birding Fieldtrip** to Mermet Lake 8am. Phone Ann Douglas for more info (618/564-2070)
- 17 SAS Membership Meeting: History of Cedar Lake** 7pm. This beautiful lake was built in the 1970's. Come see a visual history of the building of Cedar Lake. Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Call Karen(618-457-6367) for more info.

## April

- 12 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more info.
- 18-20 IAS Spring Gathering in Decatur** Fieldtrips, outings and evening programs. Check *Cardinal News* for detailed info.
- 25-27 Birding Fest of Southernmost Illinois:** Birding Blitz birding competition, fieldtrips, birding programs, photo contests, raffles, canoe & bike trips, educational opportunities and fun for children and adults. Check the website at [www.birdingblitz.org](http://www.birdingblitz.org) for details.

## May

- 4 SAS Birding Fieldtrip** to Cave Valley (Jackson County) 8am. Phone Ann Douglas for more info (618/564-2070)
- 10 Statewide Spring Bird Count** Shawnee Audubon counts Pope County. Contact Ann Douglas for more info (618/564-2070) or for an assignment.
- 10 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more info.
- 16-18 IAS Southern Illinois & Shawnee National Forest Fieldtrip** Contact Vern Kleen (217/787-3515) kleen@insightbb.com for more info.

## June

- 6-8 IAS Northwestern Illinois Fieldtrip** Mississippi Palisades State Park, Lost Mound NWR, Lowden-Miller State Forest. Contact Vern Kleen (217/787-3515) kleen@insightbb.com for more info.
- 14 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack



**Shawnee Audubon Society has a two-fold purpose.**  
**The first is to actively promote the conservation and protection of Southern Illinois' native plants and animals, and their habitats.**  
**The second is to act as stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.**

## Whoos Here?

2008 Great Backyard Bird Count Feb 15 - 18

Andrea Douglas

Did you think you had to be a hard core birdwatcher to take part in the 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count on February 15 - 18? Think again. Most people already know the common birds that come to their feeders and the scientists at Cornell Lab of Ornithology want to know who they are. After all, they can't be everywhere counting birds.

All it takes is a minimum of fifteen minutes of watching which birds are around. Count the most birds seen of each species at one time and submit the information over the internet. Note the surroundings and weather. You pick the times and the place.

Results can answer questions regarding how the cold and snow influence bird populations or where the irruptive species are or if any particular species is in decline. Our observations can help scientists in their studies.

In 2007, over 81,000 checklists were submitted with 613 species observed totaling 11,082,387 birds. What a snapshot of that weekend!

This can be done from the comfort of your home without ever leaving the warm environs, or make this a family outing to your favorite park. Inspire the children to observe the natural world. For that matter take time out for yourself and connect with that beautiful world out there!

Check out [www.audubon.org/gbbc](http://www.audubon.org/gbbc) for information. Take the video and audio quiz for practice. There are also some kids activities such as coloring pages to download, a word seek puzzle and some bird puzzles that can be done on the computer. Over 30 prizes will be given away to those that enter the photo contest and in a general drawing for all participants.

Make this Great Backyard Bird Count a great weekend to enjoy our winter birds.

Upcoming SAS Field Trips:

Mark Your Calendar!

March 16 - Mermet Lake - Meet at the parking lot at the Bluebird Trail just before the lake at 8 a.m. Migrating waterfowl is the focus. A spotting scope will be available but bring binoculars. Trip concludes around noon.

May 4 - Cave Valley - Meet in Pomona at 8 a.m. Anyone wanting to carpool from the east side of southern Illinois, call me at 618-564-2079. Warblers will be this day's focus and practice for the spring bird count. Field trip ends around noon.



May 10 - Spring Bird Count - Shawnee Audubon counts Pope County. Hard core participants do all day but those wanting to bird for just a few hours will be assigned a particular area. Call for assigned area and maps at 618-564-2079. Inexperienced birders will be paired with more experienced folks.

## War Bluff Brief

Terri Treacy

Things are quiet, but active here at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary. The bird feeders are a dizzying flurry of activity, deer are combing the fields and forest for a bite to eat and the beaver are dramatically changing the landscape of three of the seven ponds.

Ann Douglas has been busy making wooden directional signs for the trails, which we have installed over the last several Stewardship Days. Volunteers have also begun walking the boundaries of the entire sanctuary and installing, where necessary, additional Illinois Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary boundary signs.

Last month we removed almost a quarter mile of interior barbed wire fencing. The next couple of Stewardship Days will no doubt see more boundary marking, trail signing and fence removal, but we will also be getting the Bluebird Trail nest boxes in shape for the spring nesting season.

Stewards meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month - plan now to join us - we have projects for all ages and skill sets. If you have special skills or interests, like rock work, erosion control or carpentry, we have unique projects for you! War Bluff Valley Sanctuary can always use financial support to help us pay for everything from bird seed to gas & equipment - so please consider supporting your Sanctuary by joining the *Friends of War Bluff Sanctuary*. Contributions are fully tax deductible. You may send your contributions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary, RR1, Box 216A, Golconda, IL 62938. Call Terri at 618-683-2222 for more information about visiting, volunteering for Stewardship Day, or the *Friends*.



## Cedar Lake Bluebird Workshop

(continued from page 1)

City residents and all Southern Illinoisans are welcome to come and observe, participate in building a bluebird house and learn about this colorful, charismatic little bird.

The Cedar Lake Supervisor's Headquarters and Shop is located near the boat ramp and parking lot at the end of Cedar Creek Road. To register, or for more information, call Cedar Lake Supervisor, Ted Mieling at 549-8441 or John from Shawnee Audubon at 457-6367.

Remember, participation is limited to the first 25, so Call Now!! This workshop filled incredibly quickly last year - so save your place and register today!!

# Free Again, Inc

## Wildlife Rehabilitation in Southern Illinois

On their website, Free Again states their purpose as:

- to rehabilitate orphaned and injured wildlife for return to their natural environment
- to study the behavior and diseases of wildlife
- to educate the public on the importance of all wildlife in our environment.



Free Again has a 'wish list' on their website, listing items they are always needing. Shawnee Audubon is encouraging everyone in the community to consider bringing an item to the meeting on the 18th, or to send or drop off a donation at Free Again's headquarters.

### Items Used Daily

- Dog Food & Cat Food (both dry and canned)
- Paper Towels, Large Trash Bags (30 – 50 gal)
- Puppy Food, Bird Seed
- Mouse & Rat Food, Gerbil & Hamster Food
- Guinea Pig & Rabbit Pellets
- Laundry Detergent
- Bleach, Disinfectants, Sponges & Scrub Brushes
- Cedar or Pine Litter
- Welding Gloves, Rubber Gloves
- Sharp Kitchen Scissors, Pruners
- Esbilac / KMR

### Hard Goods & Building Supplies

- Duct & Masking Tape
- Hardware Cloth, Fencing Materials
- Welded Wire & Chain Link Fencing
- Heating Pads, Pet Carriers
- Artificial Turf Scraps
- Toys (old footballs, balls, etc...)
- Lumber & Nails



### Large Items

- Laptop computer, Video Camera
- Power Washer, Hemocytometer

Of course financial contributions in the form of CASH are always appreciated!!

Free Again, Inc. is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit corporation and receives no Federal or State funding and depends entirely

on donations of time, materials and money from concerned individuals for support.

Financial contributions are utilized to purchase medical supplies and feed; perform laboratory, diagnostic and surgical procedures; and to help maintain the facilities.

### Volunteer!

If you live within 30 miles of Free Again (Carterville area), you can help as a volunteer! The "baby season" runs from April 1 thru Oct. 30 and always has multiple activities that require help. The website mentions a variety of tasks with which you could participate, including:

- Feed and care for baby raccoons, opossums, deer, squirrels, foxes, rabbits, coyotes
- Help restrain injured or ill animals
- Clean cages and the facility environment
- Feed rats and mice and clean their cages
- Feed raptors: owls, hawks, kestrels, eagles
- Fill swimming pools for eagles, ducks, geese and raccoons

### Release Sites

Free Again is always looking for release sites for the animals they have rehabilitated. Some of you may remember that several years ago Bev released a bobcat and a great horned owl at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary as part of our Annual Meeting events.

If you would be willing to allow Bev to release a critter at your place, she would love to hear from you! Contact Free Again by phone at 618/988-1067 or by email at: freeagaininc@norbend.net

Their mailing address is: 4031 Big Muddy Road, Carterville, IL 62918

## Mid-Winter Bird Seed Sale Success!

Hats Off! To everybody who helped out with the seed sale, whether you purchased seed, feeders or t-shirts or helped with the distribution. Special thanks to the Big Muddy Independent Media Center, Hank Mulder, Terri Treacy, John Wallace and Karen Frailey. We still have a little extra seed & several thistle, peanut and suet feeders on hand – so call Karen (618/457-6367) if you need anything. Items will also be available at the February meeting. These sales are how we are able to help out with the local and regional conservation community! Keep an eye on the next newsletter, as with encouragement, we may just offer a late spring seed sale.



# IAS Purchases Land Along Cache River

In late December, Illinois Audubon Society finalized the purchase of a large expanse of forested land in Johnson County, just south of State Highway 146 and situated along Highway 37. Known as the Faulkner Tract, this land had been owned by the late Marion and Henrietta Faulkner.

Illinois Audubon used IAS Land Acquisition Funds, as well as monies from a previous grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

The Faulkner tract is a 300-acre acquisition of high quality forested habitat in the Cache River watershed. It includes some upland woods and numerous wetlands, from several transitional flood plain communities to part of an impressive tupelo gum (*Nyssa aquatica*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) swamp, including the Cache River itself.



Bald Cypress Tree at Faulkner Tract  
photo by John Wallace



Cache River running through Faulkner Tract  
photo by John Wallace

According to Shawnee Audubon President (and IAS Board Member) John Wallace, "The fact that IAS has now invested in protecting habitat in the Cache River Wetlands, wetlands of international importance, by itself is wonderful

news. Coupled with the knowledge that the parcel is now protected from development a visit to the swamp is no less than thrilling. The chorus of birds and frogs combined with varied colors, textures and forms from the duckweed carpet and the twiggy button bush, the contorted tupelo and knobby cypress trees give the place a primeval feel that one can only experi-

ence in a southern swamp." John walked the property in late spring 2007 and was struck by the beauty of the forested swamp.

When you adopt a hummingbird, attend one of the many IAS sponsored fieldtrips led by Vern Kleen, save stamps and send them in, or buy one of our Habitat Hero bracelets, those funds all go into the IAS Land Acquisition Fund. It's pretty cool to see how these all can add up to real habitat protection.



Arrowhead (*Sagittaria* sp)  
photo by John Wallace

## Invasive Species In Southern Illinois (Pt 2)

*(continued from last issue)*

If you recall, last month Invasive Species Coordinator Chris Evans wrote an article on the threat of invasive species to Southern Illinois' wild habitats. Chris gave us a list of the top 10 problem species in our area. With Chris' help, we'll profile several of those species this month, and continue in the months to come. Number 1 on the list was Garlic Mustard, so here goes:

### Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Garlic mustard is an aggressive invader of wooded areas throughout the eastern and middle United States. It is very common in Northern and Central Illinois and is rapidly spreading throughout Southern Illinois. some of the other common names include: hedge garlic, sauce-alone, jack-by-the-hedge, poor man's mustard, jack-in-the-bush, garlic root, garlicwort, and mustard root. Garlic mustard is easily distinguished from all other woodland mustard plants by its characteristic odor of garlic and the 2-4 foot tall flower stalks covered with numerous small, four-petaled, white flowers in May. The alternate, coarsely toothed, broadly triangular stem leaves with a distinct petiole are also characteristic. *(continued on page 6)*

# Garlic Mustard

(continued from page 5)

## Life History

The garlic odor gradually dissipates by autumn, and garlic mustard rosettes may then be mistaken for violets (*Viola* spp.) or immature white avens (*Geum canadense*). Garlic mustard can be distinguished from these species by examining the roots.

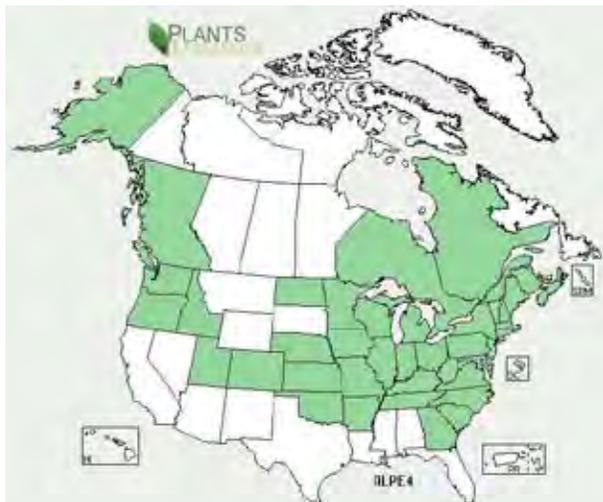
Garlic mustard has a white slender taproot, with a characteristic crook or "s" shape at the top of the root, just below the base of the stem. Garlic mustard should be accurately identified before attempting any control measures. If identification of the species is in doubt, the plant's identity should be confirmed by a knowledgeable individual and/or by consulting appropriate books.

Garlic mustard is a biennial herb. Seeds germinate in early spring, young plants overwinter as basal rosettes, and adults bloom from May-June the following year. The numerous small white flowers, 0.25 inches across, are borne in a terminal raceme at the apex of the stem, and also at some leaf axils. Each flower is composed of 4 white petals that narrow abruptly at the base.

Plants usually produce 1 flowering stem, but may have as many as 10 stems from a single root. Black seeds are produced in 1-4.7 inch long, narrow, linear capsules called siliques. Seeds disperse when the siliques burst at maturity in August. Each plant dies after producing seed. Seeds have a 20 month dormancy period and do not germinate until the second spring after ripening. Garlic mustard reproduces readily from the numerous seeds produced.

Garlic Mustard produces a characteristic fragrance of garlic from all parts of the plant. Adult plants grow 2-48 inches high.

First-year plants are basal rosettes with green heart-shaped leaves (1-6 inches tall) that differ somewhat in shape from the sharply-toothed, triangular, alternate, petioled leaves on the stems. The second-year plants produce a 1-4 foot tall flowering stalk with the small, white flowers.



Garlic Mustard Distribution Map

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ALPE4>

## Distribution

Garlic mustard is native to Europe, and also occurs in northern Africa, Sri Lanka, and India. In North America, garlic mustard is now distributed from Quebec and Ontario, south to North Carolina and Kentucky, and west to Kansas and North Dakota. It is very common in Northern and Central Illinois and is rapidly spreading throughout Southern Illinois.

## Habitat

This species occurs most frequently in upland and floodplain forests, savannas, and along roadsides. It invades shaded areas, especially disturbed sites, and open woodland. It is capable of growing in dense shade and forming dense stands. It occasionally occurs in areas receiving full sun.

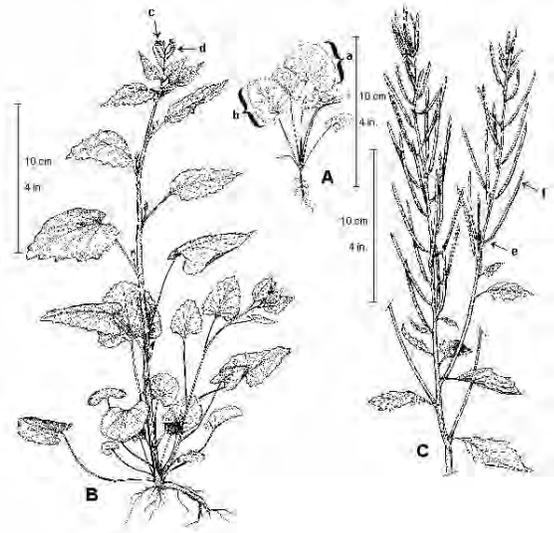
These dense stands not only shade out native under-story flora but also produce allelopathic compounds that inhibit seed germination of other species. Garlic mustard was introduced in the 1800s for medicinal and culinary purposes.

## Effects Upon Natural Areas

Garlic mustard aggressively has invaded numerous forested natural areas and is capable of dominating the ground layer in many areas. It is a severe threat to many natural areas where it occurs because of its ability to grow to the exclusion of other herbaceous species.

## Control Recommendations

Fall or early spring burning is an effective control treatment in oak woods. Repeated burns over several years may be necessary to achieve adequate control and to eliminate plants produced from the seed bank. Prescribed fires should be of sufficient intensity to burn the affected site thoroughly.



# Garlic Mustard

(continued on from page 6)

Low intensity fires that leave unburned areas will not control garlic mustard effectively. Any isolated plants that are not burned should be removed by hand prior to flower production. Research indicates that cutting flowering stems at ground level results in 99% mortality. Plants cut near ground level when in full flower usually do not resprout. Viable seed may be produced after stems are cut: cut stems should be removed from the site. The Nature Conservancy has successfully controlled or eliminated this plant from several sites by a combination of spring burning, hand-pulling, and cutting flowering stems with a scythe. When garlic mustard occurs in nearly pure populations with few other plants, scything is advantageous in that large areas can be covered quickly and the soil is not disturbed. For maintenance control vigilant monitoring and hand removal of first- and second-year plants prior to flower production can be effective. A regular burning regime in oak woods can control garlic mustard.

In the United States, the threat from garlic mustard comes from its lack of natural enemies. Even the white-tailed deer seem to prefer native plants to garlic mustard. Because it persists through the first winter as a green rosette, it can overrun and eliminate many native plants. Consequently, it would deprive us of the vibrant display of native spring wild flowers.

Garlic Mustard has been found at War Bluff in the Shawnee National Forest (just north and west of War Bluff Wildlife Sanctuary) for several years, and has recently been seen at War Bluff Sanctuary itself.

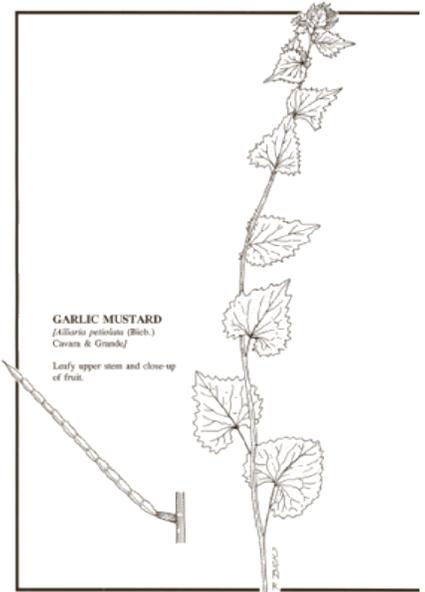
Article compiled from information supplied by Chris Evans and from the following websites:

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/gmustard.html>

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/garlicmustard.shtml>

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/garlic\\_mustardbw.gif](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/garlic_mustardbw.gif)

<http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/exotic/vegman/eleven.htm>



Garlic Mustard Image from Missouri DNR website

## IAS Spring Gathering

**April 18-20**

*Karen Frailey*



Hey Everybody – Illinois Audubon Society is holding their spring meeting in Decatur. Now if you haven't been to one of these 'meetings', thinking it really was a boring ol' 'meeting', think again.

IAS spring gatherings are jam-packed with 2 days of daytime fieldtrips and entertaining educational evening programs. Decatur Audubon has arranged 15 different field trips, that's right,

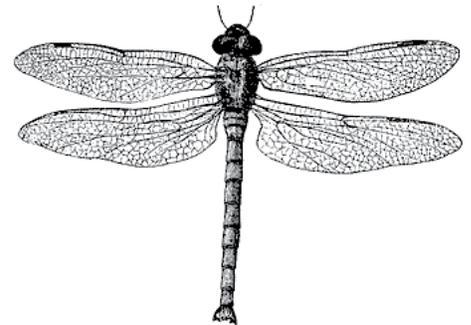
15! I know, I too thought, "how much can there be to do in Decatur?"

But check out the registration information in your recent Cardinal News.

From behind-the-scenes tours of the Illinois Raptor Center, Millikin University Science Center and the Scovill Zoo to bird & wildflower hikes of Rock Springs Nature Center, Spitler Woods State Park and several nature preserves, there are trips to interest everybody in your family.

Decatur is about 3 hours north of Carbondale, so with a little planning, we can all arrive in time to make the Friday evening program by wildlife photographer Don Chamberlin. The Saturday night program will be given by Dr. David Horn, Assistant Professor of Biology at Millikin University. Horn is the Director of Research for Wild Bird Centers of America Inc., and will be discussing ways to enhance your backyard birding experience by describing research on attracting birds, and seed and feeder preferences. Horn will also talk about his research on bird- window collisions and offer preventative measures.

John and I are planning on attending, and are in the process of looking for camping opportunities close to the area. If you're interested in attending, give us a call (numbers on front page) and maybe we can coordinate travel and lodging plans.



# Snow or Blue

## The Story Behind the Goose

Compiled by Karen Frailey

I've been hearing geese fly overhead all winter, but it isn't the usual traditional 'honking' of Canada geese. It's the harsh 'whouk' (as described by David Sibley in his *Field Guide to Birds of eastern North America*) of the Snow Goose. It wasn't that long ago that I had never seen or heard a snow goose, so I wanted to find out more about these mysterious visitors to Southern Illinois. Turns out there is a lot to know.

I found that the snow goose comes in two distinct colors and is smaller than the typical Canada goose. Snows and blues are medium-sized geese measuring 25-31 inches from beak to tail, and weighing 4-6.5 pounds. They are different color phases of the same species, and have the same harsh, high-pitched call. Adult snow geese are all white except for black wing tips. Immature snow geese are dusky white with black wing tips. Adult blue geese have a white head and slate gray body color with some white on lower chest and abdomen. The two different-colored snow geese were once thought to be two separate species. Genetic research has since determined that they were indeed the same species with two color phases.

The flocks usually fly in a peculiar undulating fashion. Individuals fly at staggered heights, and rise and descend slightly, giving rise to one of their names, "wavie". Snow geese also fly in imperfect V's, which distinguishes them from Canada geese. There is almost always a leader at the head of the formation, but this position changes frequently among the flock.

Unlike their bigger cousins, snow geese do not leave their roost in formations of family groups, or small flocks. Instead, they roar aloft in what has been described as a mob, followed by another mob, followed by another. Thousands upon thousands of the glistening white birds erupt from the water, each screaming excitedly.

Snow geese breed in the Arctic from Alaska to Greenland, and winter in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, also known as the "Mid-continent" regions of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They spend the winter primarily in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Arkansas and in some northern States in Mexico. The snow and blue geese that make their way up and down the center of North America each year nest mainly along the western shore of Hudson Bay, and on Southampton and Baffin islands. Known to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists as the Mid-Continent Population (MCP), this flock, until recently, flew only in the Central Flyway. Folks in Illinois rarely saw white geese. MCP snow goose distribution expanded into Illinois as the result of an unprecedented population explosion.

Back in the early 1970s, farmers began following no-till farming practices. Where they once plowed their fields immediately after the harvest, now the land is untouched. An unintended consequence of this practice was that tons of

waste grain was now available to foraging geese.

A feast awaited traveling migrants from the northern nesting grounds to the southern wintering areas. With the stress of finding day-to-day sustenance removed from the snow goose's life, the birds flourished. They were healthier, stronger, lived longer and brought off hatches of goslings with great regularity. And, their young also lived the good life and soon were producing more geese to swell the ranks of the MCP.

In 1970, the MCP was estimated at a fairly stable 600,000 birds. In spring of 2002, just 32 years later, that count had skyrocketed to 2,700,000 snow and blue geese, representing nearly a five-fold increase.

While the snow goose population has been growing at a tremendous rate, available habitat has remained constant, and due to the fragile nature of sub-Arctic land, nesting habitat is in great peril.

The land around Hudson Bay is mostly tundra, a few feet of soil covering a layer of permanently frozen earth. The rapid growth of snow goose populations coupled with their feeding strategies has exerted significant pressures on the breeding grounds resulting in widespread habitat degradation. According to the US Fish & Wildlife's own website, the populations must be reduced to halt the degradation and allow the breeding grounds to recover.

With an incredibly short growing season, plants may take years to recover if they are removed or killed. As goose nest density increases, the plant life the birds rely on is becoming scarce, and it can take over 15 years to renew itself.

As this situation grows more serious, biologists fear an epidemic of avian disease will decimate the flock. Waterfowl managers have relied on hunting to reduce the MCP flock, but in spite of liberal bag limits, long seasons and removal of many hunting restrictions, the flock continues to grow.

In response to the crisis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enacted the light-geese conservation season that enlisted the help of millions of waterfowl hunters to reduce the burgeoning population of light geese as they migrated across the United States. So when you look overhead this winter, and see those huge flocks of white and slate blue birds, you know there is a lot more to the story.

Compiled from information and articles found on the following websites:

[http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/snowgse/FinalEIS2007/Light%20goose%20FEIS\\_Q&As.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/snowgse/FinalEIS2007/Light%20goose%20FEIS_Q&As.pdf)

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/snowgse/spdesc.html>

<http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/2002/oi020102.html>

<http://www.illinoisraptorcenter.org/Field%20Guide/geese.html>

[http://www.illinoisgameandfish.com/hunting/ducks-geese-hunting/il\\_aa011603a/](http://www.illinoisgameandfish.com/hunting/ducks-geese-hunting/il_aa011603a/)

<http://www.fws.gov/Midwest/desoto/migration.htm>

[gf.nd.gov/.../spring-light-goos/index.html](http://gf.nd.gov/.../spring-light-goos/index.html)

<http://gf.nd.gov/regulations/spring-light-goos/index.html>

# Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of The Illinois Audubon Society

Presents



## Free Again, Inc.

### Wildlife Rehabilitators

***Live Wild Birds!***

**Monday February 18th**

**7:00 pm**

**Carbondale Township Hall  
217 E. Main St.**



Join Shawnee Audubon as we learn about these magnificent birds of prey from professional local wildlife rehabilitator **Bev Shofstall**.

Bev will be accompanied by a multitude of rescued birds, including Owls, Hawks and a Vulture.

The Township Hall is right across from the Bank of Carbondale  
Parking available in Bank lot or in lot accessed from the alley behind the building  
Look for signs

**Free & Open to the Public!**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

*Please contact Karen at 618/457-6367 or featherfoil1@yahoo.com for more information*

## Join us at War Bluff

War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is a beautiful place and 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. **Stewardship Day is second Saturday of every month.** Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for details.

### Directions to

### War Bluff Sanctuary

From Golconda, follow Rt. 146 about 3 miles.

Take the first left (west) after the Eddyville Blacktop, called Bushwhack Road, which will be marked with a brown binocular Wildlife Viewing sign on the right.

Follow the road for 2.5 miles. The Sanctuary entrance lies just beyond the creek ford.

Sanctuary phone: 618/683-2222

## Shawnee Audubon Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues (includes IAS dues)

Individual (\$31)     Family (\$38)     Student (\$18)

As a member of Shawnee Audubon Society (SAS) you will receive 6 SAS newsletters per year and 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.

Send memberships and renewals to: IAS, P.O. Box 2547, Springfield, IL 62708, and mention that you are joining the Shawnee Chapter.

For newsletter subscriptions only, send \$6 with name and address to: Shawnee Audubon Society, c/o Debb Hogg, Rt. 1, Box 91, Simpson, IL 62985.

visit us at our web site, <http://shawneeaudubon.org>

Bluebird Workshop  
Saturday Feb. 16

Join us Monday February 18th!

Free Again Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Live Wild Birds!!

Save Stamps for Wildlife!



Shawnee Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 73  
Carbondale, IL 62903