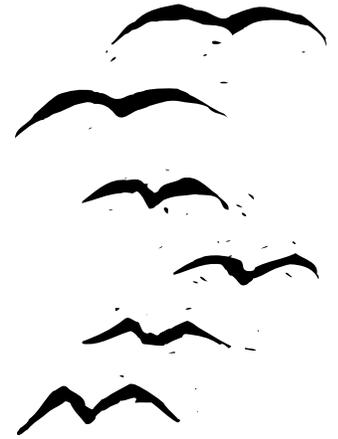


Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

# Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society



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## Kestrels, and the Man Who Knows Them January 21st

Shawnee Audubon is pleased to welcome Tom May as our January presenter. Monday evening January 21st, at 7 pm in the Carbondale Township Hall, Tom will offer a program on our smallest falcon, the fascinating American kestrel. After the 2002 breeding season, when hawk, owl and corvid (blue jay family) populations took a huge hit from the West Nile Virus, Tom wanted to see if he could monitor the comeback or demise of an affected population. Tom decided the kestrel was the easiest to try to monitor because they are cavity nesters and would use man-made nest boxes. He placed 8 nest boxes in 2003, and had only 1 used by kestrels (fledging 5 young). Much has changed since that first year!!

Beginning with the intent to just keep some records and work with them, Tom has now progressed to the point where it's a 6 month journey each year, from cleaning out the nest boxes and putting new ones out in January, to monitoring throughout the nesting season, and ending with banding each year's young. Tom obtained a bird banding permit in order to monitor his kestrels even further. Tom even has a state-of-the-art remote camera in one of his boxes. How many boxes do you think he monitors now? What secrets has he found out about kestrels? Join us on Monday January 21st (7 pm) at the Carbondale Township Hall for answers to these and other questions about these often overlooked members of the falcon family.

## Mid-Winter Bird Seed Sale: Order Now!

Orders due by Monday January 21st  
Pickup Saturday January 26th

*Karen Frailey*



Are you out of birdseed yet? I am. The birds are out there pecking at my windows each morning, wanting me to fill those feeders! Luckily, Shawnee Audubon's Mid-Winter Seed Sale is in full swing!! Look for the order form in this newsletter. You may either phone or email your order to me, and I'll make sure you get your seed. Checks can be sent in the mail, or dropped off when seed is picked up. Sunflower seed & Siemer's Supreme mix is a bit more expensive this winter. It seems that each time I call for a price quote, the wholesale price has gone up, and we have to adjust our prices accordingly. Most of the blame for this goes to the number of acres planted in corn last year, due to the increase in corn prices for production of ethanol for fuel. The thistle seed actually went down a bit, and we were able to adjust our prices downward.

I'm also looking for someone to help unload the truck when the seed is delivered on Wednesday morning, January 23rd. Call Karen at 457-6367 if you would like to help.

Thanks for ordering!!



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# Upcoming Events

## January 2008

- 21 SAS Membership Meeting Tom May on working with Kestrels, 7 pm.** Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Check the flier and article for more details. Call Karen at 618/457-6367 for more information.
- 21 Bird Seed Orders Due! Come to meeting and order seed too!** or phone your order to Karen at 618/457-6367 or email featherfoill@yahoo.com
- 23 Bird Seed Arrives in Carbondale** Looking for folks to help unload truck (usually between 10 and noon) Call Karen at 618/457-6367 if you're interested.
- 26 SAS Mid-Winter Bird Seed Sale - Carbondale Pickup at Big Muddy Independent Media Center, 214 N. Washington St., 10 am- 12 pm.**
- 26-27 Annual IAS Bald Eagle WatchWeekend** Starved Rock State Park, Utica Illinois. Check IAS website for schedule of events - [www.illinois.audubon.org](http://www.illinois.audubon.org)

## February

- 9 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 SAS Membership Meeting** 7 pm. TBA. Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St.

## March

- 7 - 8 IAS Annual Prairie Chicken Field Trip** to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area. See Prairie Chickens up close and personal! Contact Vern Kleen 217/787-3515 or email [kleen@quixnet.net](mailto:kleen@quixnet.net)
- 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.
- 10 - 22 13-Day Costa Rican Birding Expedition** Contact Vern Kleen 217/787-3515 [kleen@quixnet.net](mailto:kleen@quixnet.net)
- 17 SAS Membership Meeting** 7 pm. History of Cedar Lake. 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.

## 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 Annual Spring Meeting, Decatur - watch your *Cardinal News* for more info.**
- 25-27 Birding Fest of Southernmost Illinois:** Birding Blitz birding competition, fieldtrips, birding programs, photo contests, raffles, educational opportunities and fun for children and adults. Check the website at [www.birdingblitz.org](http://www.birdingblitz.org) for details.

## May

- 10 Spring Bird Count** in each county in Illinois. Ann Douglas is the Pope County compiler. Watch for more details in future newsletters.
- 10 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. Start about 9:30 a.m. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more info.

a b c d g a i a b c f e f g j m a b n o q a

**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.

# Who-o-o's Here?

## War Bluff Valley Christmas Bird Count

Andrea Douglas

Four teams of two took to the fields and four feeder watchers counted and tallied birds for the 108th Christmas Bird Count, totaling 64 different species. December 22 was an overcast day with temperatures in the fifties, it was breezy, the light was poor in the morning, and birds just wouldn't come out in the afternoon; but that didn't mean we were lacking in fun.

My team saw three adult bald eagles at once at Lake Glendale. We also saw a canvasback on the far side of the lake which made a first on our list. A ruddy duck also showed up for the first time in the Brownsville area.

Some species just barely made the list - squeaking by with a single sighting such as the hairy woodpecker, a brown creeper, a sharp-shinned hawk, a yellow-bellied sapsucker, and a brown thrasher.

The top species counted were of course the grackles, followed by Canada goose, juncos, starlings, red-winged blackbirds and cardinals. Other than our new species, there were no high counts for any particular bird in our circle.

Some of my favorite birds to see are the red-headed woodpeckers, kingfishers, cedar waxwings, and tree sparrows. It truly amazes me that winter can still have so many species hanging around and with the trees lacking leaves, they are easier to find. Winter birding can be fun. Try it, you'll like it.



## The American Kestrel, Our Littliest Falcon

According to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the American kestrel may be the most colorful raptor in the world, as well as the most common falcon in North America. Kestrels are found throughout most of North, Central, and South America from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego.

Kestrels occupy a wide variety of open to semi-open habitats, including farmland and urban areas— basically any area that contains an adequate prey base, perch sites and nesting sites.

There are 4 recognized kestrel subspecies within North America, with the Southeastern American kestrel classified as threatened by the state of Florida, having declined by over 80 percent in north-central Florida during recent decades.

The kestrel's scientific name, *Falco sparverius*, comes from the Latin word *falco*, meaning hook-shaped (*falcate*) and may refer to the beak or claws, and *espervier*, the Latinized French word for a sparrow hawk and probably refers to its size and prey. The American Kestrel has been called a Sparrow Hawk, Killy Hawk (for the sound they make), or Windhover (for their ability to hover).

The American Kestrel has a body length of 9 - 12 inches, a wingspan of 20 - 24 inches, and weighs between 3 1/2 - 5 1/2 ounces. There is a color difference between the sexes. The male kestrel has blue-grey wings and a lightly spotted chest and belly. The larger female has rufous wings barred with black and streaking on the chest. Both sexes have rufous back and tail and two distinctive mustache marks on the face. Kestrels have long pointed wings and a long tail. Kestrels feed mainly on crickets, grasshoppers, mice, voles, lizards, and snakes. The little falcons search for prey from an overlooking perch or by hovering in the air. When prey is spotted, the kestrel will plunge down to catch it. Kestrels are cavity nesters, using natural hollows in trees, cacti, dirt banks and cliffs, or man-made boxes, building ledges, and other cavities in buildings. Females lay 4 - 6 eggs. The eggs are incubated about 28 days and the young birds fledge about 28 days after hatch. Kestrels are able to reproduce as early as 1 year of age.



Compiled from information found on the following websites:

[http://www.peregrinefund.org/Explore\\_Raptors/falcons/amkestrl.html](http://www.peregrinefund.org/Explore_Raptors/falcons/amkestrl.html)

[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/American\\_Kestrel\\_dtl.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/American_Kestrel_dtl.html)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/animals/bird/fasp/all.html>

<http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/birds/kestrel/index.htm>

# Invasive Species in Southern Illinois

*Christopher Evans, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area*

Southern Illinois' forests, fields, and waters are home to an incredible diversity of plant and animals.

These natural resources also provide us with invaluable services and recreational opportunities.

Invasive plants pose a serious threat to these the natural resources and wildlife of Southern Illinois. Everything, from hardwood forests and dry barrens to wetlands and lakes are vulnerable to invasion. These invasive species can quickly dominate a landscape, reduce biodiversity, and impact ecosystem functions.

Often the words 'exotic' and 'invasive' are used interchangeably. However, these two words do have different meanings and should not be confused. An 'exotic' plant is simply a plant that is not native to the region. Corn, soybeans, and daffodils are all exotic to Southern Illinois but are not considered invasive. In fact, only a small portion, around 1-2%, of exotic plants are actually invasive. The term 'invasive' refers to the potential the plant has to cause damage in some way. A plant is deemed invasive if it has the potential to negatively affect the ecosystem, economy, or public health.

Most people are well aware of well-established invasives, like kudzu or autumn olive, but may not be familiar with some of the new invasive species spreading into Illinois, such as garlic mustard or Amur honeysuckle.

New infestations can start through invasive plant seeds or plant fragments being spread by wind, water, erosion, birds, or mammals. Unfortunately these are not the only ways that invasive plants move around, we often introduce them into new areas, either accidentally or even by intentionally planting them. Hikers, hunters, birdwatchers, and other outdoor enthusiasts can spread invasive plants, such as garlic mustard or Japanese stiltgrass, by accidentally moving the seeds around on their shoes or pant cuffs. Similarly, boaters can spread aquatic invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, through plant fragments getting stuck on their propeller, boat hull, or trailer.

In response to this growing threat, land management agencies, organizations, and universities in Southern Illinois came together to form the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA). The CWMA officially began in 2006, with a coordinator hired in May of 2007. The CWMA's purpose is to coordinate activities and programs for managing and preventing invasive plants in Southern Illinois, leading to implementation of more efficient and successful management activities. If you are interested in finding out more about the CWMA and invasive plants in Southern Illinois, contact Chris Evans, CWMA coordinator, at 618-998-5920 or RivertoRiver@gmail.com.

## List of the top 10 high-priority invasive species in Southern Illinois:

1. Garlic Mustard
2. Oriental Bittersweet
3. Amur Honeysuckle
4. Japanese stiltgrass
5. Curly pondweed
6. Multiflora rose
7. Autumn olive
8. Phragmites (common reed)
9. Eurasian watermilfoil
10. Chinese yam



Invasive species removal at Giant City State Park  
photo provided by Chris Evans

Profiles of these invasive species will run in subsequent SAS newsletters.

# Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of The Illinois Audubon Society



Presents

## ***KESTRELS***

***AND***

## ***THE MAN WHO KNOWS THEM***

Monday January 21st

7:00 pm

Carbondale Township Hall  
217 E. Main St.

Join Shawnee Audubon as we learn about these smallest of Falcons. Tom May has been putting up nestboxes and documenting and banding Kestrels for the past 5 years.

Tom has accumulated a wealth of knowledge about these common little Falcons and will be sharing his experiences and findings.

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

**Free & Open to the Public**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

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

SAVE THIS PAGE AS A REMINDER



My birdseed order will be ready on \_\_\_\_\_  
at \_\_\_\_\_

As in the past several years, we are holding our sale in two locations. We will have seed pickup in **Carbondale** on **Saturday January 26th between 10 am and 12 pm** at the Big Muddy Independent Media Center on North Washington Street between Oak and Jackson Streets. Watch for the sign. If you need to arrange a special pickup time or location, no problem - just call Karen at 618/457-6367 to make arrangements.

Pick up at **War Bluff Sanctuary** is by arrangement with Terri Treacy. Contact her at 618/683-2222 or email [ttreacy@ll.net](mailto:ttreacy@ll.net)

### Directions to Big Muddy IMC

Big Muddy Independent Media Center, located at 214 N. Washington St., between Oak and Jackson streets. This is on the west side of the street, in the middle of the block. Watch for the Shawnee Audubon sign!

## Droll Yankee Feeders

Shawnee Audubon is pleased to once again offer our members and friends a selection of some of the finest birdfeeders on the market. These are quality feeders with a lifetime guarantee — even against squirrel damage! We offer all feeders at well below suggested retail price.

Droll Yankee has Dr. Jean Graber's stamp of approval. *For those of you who don't know Jean, she and her late husband Richard are nationally known ornithologists and founding members of SAS.*



Droll Yankee New Generation Thistle Feeder; 15" tall, holds 1 quart of seed.  
\$21



Droll Yankee Tube Feeder; 16" tall, polycarbonate body with metal feeding stations, holds 1 quart seed.  
\$ 24



Droll Yankee Seed Saver Covered Feeder with clear domed top that protects seed from weather (invisible in this image)  
\$ 24



Wrap-around Squirrel Baffle  
Wraps around pole or shepherd's Hook - *it really works!*  
\$ 16.



Audubon Stainless Steel Peanut Feeder: wire-encased with 2 perches, holds 2 cups  
\$ 15

Also available:  
EZ fill suet basket; holds 1 cake  
\$ 2.50

# Shawnee Audubon Society's 2008 Mid-Winter Bird Seed Sale

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY MONDAY JANUARY 21ST!**  
**PICKUP IN CARBONDALE SATURDAY  
JANUARY 26TH**

All funds raised support Shawnee Audubon's year-round conservation and education efforts

## Bird Seed

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
25 lb	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$ 11.50	
50 lb	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$ 19.50	
35 lb	Siemer Supreme Mix	\$ 16.50	
10 lb	Thistle Seed (Nyjer)	\$ 10.50	
50 lb	Thistle Seed (Nyjer)	\$ 45.00	
25 lb	Sunflower Hearts	\$ 24.00	
50 lb	Sunflower Hearts	\$ 45.00	
25 lb	Safflower Seed	\$ 15.00	
50 lb	Safflower Seed	\$ 27.00	
10 lb	Raw Peanut Pieces	\$ 8.00	
50 lb	Raw Peanut Pieces	\$ 28.50	
11.75 oz	Suet Cake	\$ 1.00	

## Bird Feeders and Accessories

Qty.	Item	Price	Total
	Droll Yankee 15" Thistle Feeder	\$ 21.00	
	Droll Yankee 16" Tube Feeder	\$ 24.00	
	Droll Yankee Seed Saver Covered Feeder	\$ 24.00	
	Audubon Stainless Steel 11" Peanut Feeder	\$ 15.00	
	EZ Fill Suet Basket (holds 1 cake)	\$ 2.50	
	Wrap-Around Squirrel Baffle (wraps around pole/shepherd hook)	\$ 16.00	

Order Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to *Shawnee Audubon Society*

Phone or email your order to Karen at 618/457-6367 or featherfoil1@yahoo.com and drop a check in the mail to Karen Frailey, 600 N. Bridge St, Carbondale, IL 62901 or pay when you pick up your seed.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check location & date of pickup - Remember to mark & save your Reminder!

- Carbondale Pickup Jan 26th (10am - 12pm)  
Big Muddy Independent Media Center, 214 N. Washington St, Carbondale  
Or by arrangement w/Karen 618/457-6367

**\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE A REMINDER  
PHONE CALL OR EMAIL**

- War Bluff Pick-up - by arrangement w/Terri Treacy by phone at 618/683-2222 or by email at ttreacy@ll.net

Help raise funds for Conservation - Please Place Your Order!!

Copy this form and share with friends & neighbors!

## 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>



Bird Seed Order Form Inside-  
Order by January 21st!



Kestrel Program  
January 21st  
7 pm

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

Save Stamps for Wildlife!