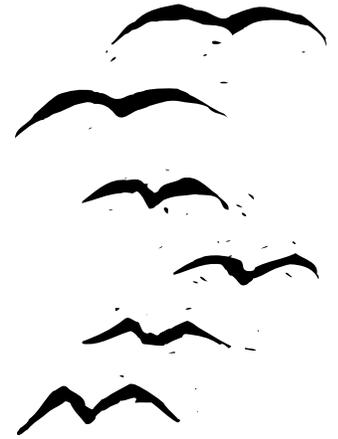


Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

# Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society



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### SHAWNEE AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### OFFICERS/BOARD MEMBERS

##### PRESIDENT

John Wallace  
forestally@yahoo.com

##### VICE-PRESIDENT

Kevin Nagele

##### SECRETARY

Henry Mulder  
618/893-4993

##### TREASURER

Debbie Hogg  
hogg1@shawneelink.net

##### CONSERVATION

Jean Graber

##### BIRDING

Andrea Douglas  
anderatd@yahoo.com

##### PROGRAM/EDUCATION

Karen Frailey  
618/457-6367  
featherfoill@yahoo.com

##### SANCTUARY

Terri Treacy  
618/683-2222

##### IAS BOARD REP

Terri Treacy  
territreacy@ll.net

#### Newsletter Editor:

Karen Frailey  
618/457-6367  
featherfoill@yahoo.com

## Annual Meeting to be held at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

### Saturday June 21st

Join Shawnee Audubon on Saturday June 21st at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary in beautiful Pope County for our Annual Meeting and a relaxing Solstice Celebration. We'll have a potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by elections and a very brief business meeting. Enjoying the sights and sounds of the longest day of the year with like-minded folks will be on the agenda for the remainder of the evening. Come out early and explore the sanctuary on this last official day of spring. There are birds to watch, frogs to hear, wildflowers to find and trails to explore.

Bring your musical instrument, beverage of choice, tent and sleeping bag, and plan on camping the night. It should be a beautiful weekend! Call Terri Treacy at 618/683-2222 for information on the sanctuary, or Karen Frailey 618/457-6367 for meeting information.

## Annual Elections

Shawnee Audubon members will elect board members for the upcoming year at the June 21st Annual Meeting. One change is on the slate – with Ruth Hoak and Kari Walczak offering to jointly hold the Program/Education Chair, and Karen Frailey moving to the long vacant Membership Chair. All other current officers and board members have graciously consented to run for their positions again. Below is the slate of officers to be voted on by all members at Shawnee Audubon's Annual Meeting June 21st at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.

President: John Wallace

Vice-President: Kevin Nagele

Secretary: Hank Mulder

Treasurer: Debbie Hogg

Birding Chair: Andrea Douglas

Conservation Chair: Jean Graber

IAS Board Representative: Terri Treacy

Program/Education Chairs: Ruth Hoak/ Carrie Walczak

Sanctuary Chair: Terri Treacy

Membership Chair: Karen Frailey



Shawnee Audubon Board of Directors meeting at Hogg Hollow Winery: (left to right) Hank Mulder, Karen Frailey, John Wallace, Ann Douglas, Debbie Hogg, Terri Treacy and Kevin Nagele. Not pictured: Jean Graber

# Upcoming Events

## June

**21 Shawnee Audubon Annual Meeting and Solstice Celebration** 6:00 p.m War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Potluck dinner, elections, brief meeting, solstice socializing, camping.... Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

## July

**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 information.

## August

**2-3 8th Annual Hummingbird Festival!** 9:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. Trail of Tears State Forest. Learn all about hummingbirds! Watch the SAS website [www.shawneeadubon.org](http://www.shawneeadubon.org) or call Karen at 618/457-6367 for more details.

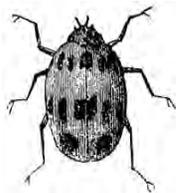
**12 Stewardship Day** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Bring work gloves and a sack lunch. We start about 9:30 a.m. See last page for details and directions. Call Terri at 618/683-2222 for more information.

**23 14th Annual Insect Awareness & Appreciation Day!** War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. RognboB will be returning as our evening entertainment! Many of our favorite fieldtrips and workshops will be offered, as well as some new topics. Watch for details in the next newsletter and on the Shawnee Audubon website.



### **Volunteers Needed!!**

For the Humingbird Festival and the Annual Insect Day! Help with children's activities, hummingbird banding, face painting, crowd management, raffle prizes, designing & sewing hummingbird costume (!?), sales, etc... Check the SAS website ([www.shawneeadubon.org](http://www.shawneeadubon.org)) or phone Karen at 618/457-6367 for additional information or to volunteer! We always have lots of fun!!



## September

**13 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 information.

## October

**11 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 information.



**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's Here?

Andrea Douglas

## Spring Field Trip Round-Up:

**Mermet Lake** Going way back in time to our first birding field trip of the year at Mermet Lake in March, we had a pretty good morning, seeing 53 species. Red-breasted mergansers, pie-billed grebes,

double-crested cormorants and a common goldeneye were on the main lake. Loads of shovelers, blue-winged teal, ring-necked ducks and mallards were interspersed with a few gadwall, American widgeons and wood ducks on the outlying wet areas.

Tree swallows skimmed the water as a bald eagle surveyed the lake while the kingfisher chattered across the way.

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Tree swallows skimmed the water as a bald eagle surveyed the lake while the kingfisher chattered across the way.

Fish crows were back. An assortment of the usual species gave us our final species number.

**Cave Valley** Warming up for the spring bird count, Cave Valley was our next field trip in the beginning of May and what a warbler warm-up it was!

Not only did we identify the birds by song, we had some real good looks at cerulean, magnolia, yellow-throated warblers and the redstarts.

I'm not much of a techno fan, but Terri Treacy's I-Pod came in handy confirming our bird songs. She had downloaded the individual tracks and if we had a question, she'd just bring the song up. That is worth the expense to me especially for the warbler songs of which I'm unsure, such as the bay-breasted and some others.

Parulas, Kentuckys, blue-wingeds and chats were everywhere. The worm-eating warbler was in its expected place as the prothonotary was at Silvy Pond Natural Area. For an extra treat, mama wood duck had taken her seven ducklings for a spin around the pond.

Of course other species were seen too; scarlet tanagers, catbirds, gnatcatchers, rose-breasted grosbeaks and the blue grosbeaks to name a few. It had been a great morning to be outdoors with the plus of preparing for the following week's Spring Bird Count.

Ann Douglas, Anne Parmley and Terri Treacy birdwatching at Cave Valley



# Pope County Spring Bird Count

Andrea Douglas

Eight people split into four teams and one feeder watcher, from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., walking or driving, counting different species of birds and their numbers in Pope County on Saturday May 10. Each

team had a different territory, reaching 126 species, the highest count Shawnee Audubon has had since I started compiling. Everyone commented that the birds were just out there, except for Jean Graber, our feeder watcher, who was lacking some of her usual birds.

Twenty-nine out of 35 warbler species found in Illinois were seen, including a Wilson's, Cerulean, Nashville, chestnut-sided, magnolia and Blackburnian. All the vireos were covered, even getting Bell's, blue-headed and Philadelphia. The thrush category was flush; getting the less common veery, gray-cheeked and Swainson's.

Our available habitat doesn't allow for many ducks or shorebirds but a few yellowlegs were spotted by Mark Donham and Kristi Hanson in a wet field and wood ducks were found in various ponds. All 28 of the great egrets counted were in the same place in a flooded field off Route 145. Anne Parmley and I saw a snowy egret on the other side of the road, standing in some brush over a pond.

Bobolinks are always a nice bird to find and Karen Frailey and John Wallace saw a good-sized group of them on the way to the new IAS Lusk Creek Sanctuary.

Terri Treacy got our only owl, a barred, and the whip-poor-wills at the sanctuary. She also was fortunate to see a red-shouldered hawk's nest with three babies.

Although it sounds like a lot of work, everyone agreed that to spend a day doing something that they enjoy is a special treat. Consider joining us on the next counts, which we do twice a year; Christmas and spring.

My thanks to all that participated in this year's count. The results are sent to the Illinois Natural History Survey with all the other state county counts. Trends of our nesting and migratory birds can be studied using these findings.



Karen Frailey listening for birds along Lusk Creek

## War Bluff Brief

Terri Treacy

Spring migrants, baby birds, monarch butterfly larva, and gray tree frogs croaking define this moment at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary. Yesterday was a little different, tomorrow will be a little different yet—every day brings new changes, new natural wonders.

Stewardship Days since the February ice storm have focused on clearing broken branches and fallen trees from around buildings and across trails. Thanks to Kevin Nagele, Frank Schniedinger, Seth Taylor, and Frank Rustin the trails are nearly back to normal.

I encourage everyone to get a copy of the latest issue of the *Illinois Steward* magazine. There's an article by Sue Post devoted to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary, and another by Marilyn Campbell that chronicles the life and work of Drs. Richard and Jean Graber—donors of the Sanctuary.

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 like rock work, erosion control, or carpentry, we have special projects for you! We can always also use financial support to 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 contribution to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary, RR 1 Box 216A, Golconda, IL 62938. Call Terri at 618-683-2222 for more information about visiting, volunteering for Stewardship Day, or the Friends.

## Birding Fest of Southernmost Illinois

A big thank you goes to all the Shawnee Audubon members and friends who volunteered to organize and staff the Birding Fest of Southernmost Illinois, which took place way back on the last weekend of April. Kevin Nagele, Georgia Norman, Fred & Ruth Hoak, Terri Treacy, Ann Douglas, Tony Gerard, Carrie Walczak, Lynn Wolff, John Wallace and Karen Frailey gave of their time to help make this annual event a whopping success!

Illinois Audubon Society once again sponsored the t-shirts and sweatshirts, with their cardinal logo appearing on the left sleeve. Shirts are still available at the Wetland Center - Call Molie Oliver at 618/657-2064 to place your order. Apparel from earlier Bird Fests is available at a discount.



## Illinois Natural History Survey 150th Anniversary Celebration (1858-2008)

### Researching Illinois for 150 Years: September 26 & 27th

Friday, September 26, 2008, 9am to 5:30 pm, I-Hotel, corner of St. Mary's Road and First Street, Champaign IL.

Conservation of Natural Resources in the 21st Century-The View from Illinois. This day long symposium will feature 11 speakers plus a final address by Dr. Peter Raven, internationally known conservation biologist with the Missouri Botanical Garden. Symposium topics will cover a range of issues important to the future of biological resources and will include Dr. Scott Robinson on "Restoring Illinois Bird Communities", Dr. Mike Ward on "How the Illinois Bird Community has Changed Over the Last 100 Years", Dr. Kayri Havens on "Rare Plant Conservation in Illinois: Progress and Challenges", and Dr. Brian Anderson on "The Future of Illinois Biodiversity".

Saturday, September 27, 2008, All Day Event

Public presentation by herpetologist and TV personality Mark O'Shea, entitled "Serpents, Sorcery and Snakebite in Papua New Guinea, the Land of the Unexpected", 10am-noon at the I-Hotel.

Illinois Natural History Survey Public Expo from noon to 6 pm will feature numerous interactive booths and exhibits on the natural history of Illinois and the work of Survey scientists. Our featured exhibit will be Mr. Dan Capps and his internationally known insect collection! The expo will take place on the grounds of the Natural History Survey at 1816 South Oak Street, Champaign. All events are free.

If you plan on attending, organizers ask that you register for the Symposium and the Mark O'Shea presentation on the INHS website: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/150/index.html>

Shawnee Audubon Society

A Chapter of The Illinois Audubon Society  
Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Presents



# Annual Meeting & Solstice Celebration!

**Saturday June 21st**

at

**War Bluff Valley Wildlife Sanctuary  
in Beautiful Pope County!**

**Potluck Dinner 6 pm**

**Brief Meeting & Elections 7 pm**

**Then we'll kick back and relax around the campfire.**

**Come early and spend the longest day of the year observing nature  
and exploring Illinois Audubon's largest Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**Bring your sleeping bag and tent and camp the night.**

**Directions to War Bluff Valley Sanctuary:**

**From the 4-way stop in Golconda, take Rt. 146 north.**

**Go approximately 3 miles.**

**Turn left at the first road past the blacktop to Eddyville.**

**The road you turn onto will be marked by a brown binocular Wildlife Viewing sign.**

**Follow road (blacktop, then gravel) for about 2 miles. Turn Right at the Illinois Audubon Sanctuary sign.**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Free & Open to the Public!**

**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>

Save Stamps for Wildlife!

Join us Saturday June 21st  
at War Bluff Sanctuary!  
Shawnee Audubon Annual Meeting,  
Potluck, Elections and  
Solstice Socializing!!



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