

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society



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17th Annual Insect Awareness & Appreciation Day

**August 27th
3:00 PM
War Bluff Valley Sanctuary**

Shawnee Chapter

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It's almost here again! The **17th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day** is coming up real soon--so be sure to save the date!

On August 27th, 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.

Insect 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.

As usual, fieldtrips will be followed by a scrumptious potluck supper, a Really Cool Raffle and musical entertainment by the Gospels of Goof, RognboB!

It is guaranteed fun for all ages!

Details coming soon on:

The website at <http://shawneeadubon.org>

Facebook at Shawnee Audubon Chapter

Electronic Newsletter -- contact terri@shawneeadubon.org to sign up



A HUMMINGBIRD
IN THE HAND
IS WORTH

2

HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVALS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH AT
TRAIL OF TEARS STATE FOREST
9 AM TO 1 PM

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Master bird bander, Vernon Kleen, will capture and band hummingbirds all morning.

ADOPT-A-HUMMINGBIRD

Make a \$5 donation to the Illinois Audubon Society's land acquisition fund (earmarked for the protection of wildlife habitat) and you will receive an attractive, signed certificate, and have the privilege of releasing your adopted bird. You will be notified if your bird is every recaptured.

PRESENTATIONS

Humming Attractions: How to Attract Hummingbirds to Your Garden -- 10:00 AM

Birdbanderseye View: An upclose look at the many facets of our flying gems -- 11:30 AM

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Face Painting, Migration Game, Puzzles, and more.

HUMMINGBIRD MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Feeders, tee shirts, totes and more.

Access to Trail of Tears State Forest is from Illinois Route 127 (on the east) and Route 3 (from the west).
For more information or to volunteer contact terri@shawneeaudubon.org or 618-683-2222.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH AT
WAR BLUFF VALLEY SANCTUARY
8 AM TO 12 PM

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Master bird bander, Cathie Hutcheson, will capture and band hummingbirds all morning.

HUMMINGBIRD MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Feeders, tee shirts, totes and more.

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

Things to Bring!

- A camp chair & flashlight.
- Your camping gear if you plan to stay overnight.
- Something to throw on the grill and a potluck dish to share Saturday evening.
- Your own eating utensils.
- Your swim stuff.
- Your own boat.



Your Choice
 Come for the afternoon and early meal or stay all night.

For details and RSVP contact Terri at 618-683-2222



Upcoming Events at a Glance

July

- 9 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** See back page for details.
- 16 **Shawnee Chapter Campout . Little Grassy Lake Campground . Begins at Noon .** See above for details.

August

- 7 **Hummingbird Festival . Trail of Tears State Forest .** See page 2 for details.
- 13 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** See back page for details.
- 13 **Hummingbird Banding . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary .** See page 2 for details.
- 27 **17th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary .** Begins at 3:00 pm . See page 1 for details.

September

- 10 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** See back page for details.
- 17 **Illinois Audubon Society Fall Meeting . Rock Springs Nature Center, Decatur .** Save the Date - Details coming soon in your *Cardinal News*
- ? **Fall Birding . To Be Announced**

October

- 8 **Stewardship Day . War Bluff Valley Sanctuary.** See back page for details.
- ? **Hopefully another Owl Prowl and Basket Weaving in the fall**

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

FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

by Anne Parmley, Birding Chair

CAVE VALLEY BIRDING--APRIL 2011



Yellow-throated warblers. Louis Agassiz Fuertes (1874 - 1927, artist)

Ruth Kelley, Ann Douglas and I attempted to bird at one of the best places for warbler watching in southern Illinois. After an hour of rain, we turned around. But, during that time, we counted a total of 12 warbler species including the cerulean, Tennessee, yellow, magnolia, yellow-rumped, Kentucky, yellow-throated, and prothonotary, American redstart, northern parula, common yellowthroat and yellow-breasted chat. Other birds seen or heard included wood duck; mourning dove; chimney swift; red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers; white-eyed, yellow-throated, warbling and red-eyed vireos; American crow; purple martin; Carolina chickadee; blue-gray gnatcatcher; eastern bluebird; wood thrush; European starling; eastern towhee; white-throated sparrow; northern cardinal; red-winged blackbird; and American goldfinch. Located about 2 miles north of the general store in Pomona, the old forest road near the Cave Valley Creek is a Mecca for warblers

during spring migration. Last year's count was seventeen different species.

Although we had parted company with Ruth, Ann and I did not quit birding. Additional birds seen during our drive: wild turkey, great blue and little blue herons, great egret, turkey vulture, American eagle, belted kingfisher, great-crested flycatcher, eastern kingbird, tree swallow, American robin, brown thrasher, prairie warbler, chipping sparrow, eastern meadowlark, common grackle, brown-headed cowbird, and house sparrow.

By the time we reached the Mermet Lake area (after a quick coffee break in Anna), the rain was reduced to a drizzle. We decided that a drive around the lake would be a nice addition to our trip. Additional birds observed were Canada goose, blue-winged teal, common loon, pied-billed grebe, double-crested cormorant, American coot, solitary sandpiper, downy woodpecker, eastern phoebe, fish crow, barn swallow, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, palm warbler, field sparrow, and indigo bunting.

This made a total of 68 species - many were seen in more than one location. Not bad for a rainy spring day!

HERON POND -- MAY 24, 2011

On a sunny, 70-degree day, Ruth Kelley and I went for a nice walk at Heron Pond. There were not as many birds as most years, perhaps because the flooding had left many of the trees and bushes inundated with mud. The highlights of our walk included a male prothonotary warbler and a pair of Mississippi kites. The prothonotary serenaded us at the end of the boardwalk. He sang facing us in the beginning, then turned so we had a wonderful look at the top of his head. What bright colors!). One of the kites perched in a tree near the bridge over the Cache while its mate flew overhead. We also heard cricket frogs and saw several snakes, one of which was definitely a cottonmouth.

The complete bird list is as follows: eastern wood pewee, northern cardinal, white-eyed vireo, Carolina wren, American crow, Mississippi kite, tufted titmouse, Acadian flycatcher, fish crow, blue-gray gnatcatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, pileated woodpecker, great blue heron, great egret, chimney swift, northern parula, prothonotary warbler, yellow-throated warbler, turkey vulture, and red-eyed vireo.

We then stopped at the base of Cave Creek Glade where we saw indigo buntings and a summer tanager as well as many beautiful wildflowers. For pictures, go to <https://profiles.google.com/110688056594877237682/posts/ZPKso2YwdnL>.



Male prothonotary warbler.

Birds of shrublands include gray catbird, brown thrasher, common yellowthroat, field sparrow, northern cardinal, eastern towhee, American goldfinch, northern bobwhite, willow flycatcher, bell's vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue-winged warbler, prairie warbler, blue grosbeak, loggerheaded shrike, and orchard oriole.

The precipitous decline of many of these species is alarming. Urban development and intensive, industrialized agriculture leaves fewer and fewer places where these specialized species can feed, find shelter and raise a family. Most remaining natural areas are managed either for forest interior, wetland or grassland bird species with no provision for shrubland inhabitants.

“Shrubland” is a transitional or early successional habitat, which requires periodic disturbance – mowing, logging, fire, or flood – to give shrubs and small trees an opportunity to grow. Since shrubland birds can use small patches of habitat, private landowners may be able to play a role in the restoration of shrubland birds.

Planting some small trees and bushes along driveways, forest edges, pond borders, and fence lines can provide food, shelter, protection from predators, and nesting cover. Native plant species are an excellent choice since birds and plants have evolved to coexist, and once established native plants need minimal care.

PLANT A
MAGIC HEDGE
FOR OUR



DISAPPEARING
SHRUBLAND
BIRDS

by Ruth Kelley

Wet areas, steambanks, pond edges:

Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Swamp wild rose, *Rosa palustris*
Indigo bush, *Amorpha fruticosa*
Willows, *Salix* species
Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*
River birch, *Betula nigra*

Shady areas

Wild hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*
Bottlebrush buckeye, *Aesculus parviflora*
Red buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*
Serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*
Coralberry (buckbrush), *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*
Dogwood, *Cornus* species
Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*

Sunny areas

Crabapples, *Malus* species
Hawthorns, *Crataegus* species (loggerhead shrike likes thorny, woody plants)
Wild plum, *Prunus* species
Blackberries, *Rubus* species
Pasture rose, *Rosa carolina*
Prairie rose, *Rosa setigera*
American hazelnut, *Corylus americana*
Elderberries, *Sambucus canadensis*
Fragrant sumac, *Rhus aromatica*

Dry areas

Eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*
Blackjack oak, *Quercus marilandica*
Farkleberry, *Vaccinium arboretum*

References

Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri by Don Kurtz (Missouri Department of Conservation)
Fieldbook of Native Illinois Shrubs by Leo R. Tehon (Illinois Natural History Survey)
Grow Native website: <http://www.grownative.org/plants/main.asp>, <http://www.grownative.org/landscape/>
“Factors Affecting the Nesting Success of Edge and Shrubland Birds” by Scott K. Robinson, Edward J. Heske, and Jeffrey D. Brawn (Illinois Natural History Survey) – study is available online at <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/10086>

Sources

George O. White State Forest Nursery (Missouri)--<http://mdc.mo.gov/7294>
Missouri Wildflower Nursery--www.mowildflowers.net, 573-496-3492
Forest Keeling Nursery (Missouri)--www.forrestkeeling.com, 573-890-5571
Possibility Place (Illinois)—708-534-3988



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The Shawnee Chapter of Illinois Audubon is a kicking-fun group with a common interest in nature and we come in all sizes and backgrounds. As we begin our new fiscal year it's the perfect time for members --new and old -- to join in and energize the rest of us! It's amazing how new blood can spark new ideas and new plans. Volunteers are needed for upcoming events and

activities. Read on to see if there is something coming that ignites your volunteer spirit!

Hummingbird Festival

The Hummingbird Festival at Trail of Tears State Forest on August 7 runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with volunteers arriving by 8 a.m. to get everything set up. Volunteers are needed to tend to our merchandise, to help Vernon Kleen to record his banding data and to help with the Adopt-a-Hummingbird program, others to trap, catch and transport hummingbirds to the banding station and also someone to direct children through the migration game and more children's activities.

It's a half-day of fun interacting with people eager to learn about hummingbirds. One of the most popular activities is releasing an adopted hummingbird. Most of the time we don't have enough hummingbirds to release, so one thing I would like to see is that everyone that adopts a hummingbird at least gets an *origami* hummingbird to take home. Last year we had 118 adoptions--that's a lot of folding--so a person or persons skilled at *origami* would be invaluable!

17th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day

Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day is another event requiring lots of preparation. Tents, tables and signs need to be set up. Raffle items have to be sorted and labeled. Again, our merchandise needs to be displayed, tickets sold and food readied. Officially we start at 3 p.m. but volunteers are needed for the preliminary work much earlier. After the potluck, items are raffled off and we all get to relax with the evening's entertainment.

Stewardship at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Stewardship of Illinois Audubon Society's largest sanctuary is carried out by Shawnee Chapter volunteers. Stewardship Days are normally the 2nd Saturday of each month. I say "normally" because ice storms, floods, excessively hot or dangerously cold weather has caused Stewardship Day to be postponed or cancelled several times over the past few years. So, it's always a good idea to call ahead -- 618-683-2222.

Stewardship projects include habitat restoration, trail maintenance and building repairs. The August 13 Stewardship Day shares the date with the Hummingbird Banding event at the Sanctuary -- so extra help will be needed that day. Whether you come once or every month it would be great to have you visit War Bluff Valley Sanctuary and see its treasures!

Membership

The backbone of our Chapter is our members. Whether you are an active volunteer, enjoy attending our meetings and events, or prefer a more passive role, we want you to know how much we appreciate your support by having joined the Shawnee Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society. The key to a vibrant organization is its members, so let's work together to keep our membership growing. Please consider sharing the membership form on the last page of this newsletter with a friend, or consider giving a gift membership to a family member or colleague.

To volunteer for any event or activity, please contact Ann at 618-564-2079 or ann@shawneeaudubon.org

WAR BLUFF BRIEF ~~ PHOTOS SAY IT ALL



Bluebird eggs hatching.



Fledgling Carolina chickadees.



American toads.



White-tailed doe and fawn.



Volunteers pulled multiflora rose from the bluebell patch.



Spring 2011 flooding across Bushwack Road.



Many dragonflies are found here--come to Insect Awareness & Appreciation Day to find out which one this is!

IF YOU'RE NOT SEEING THIS NEWSLETTER IN
FULL COLOR
THEN YOU NEED TO
SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
Sign up to receive your newsletter electronically.
You'll also receive timely updates about upcoming events and activities.
Contact the editor at terri@shawneeaudubon.org

SAVE STAMPS FOR WILDLIFE!



Shawnee Audubon Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 73
Carbondale, IL 62903
INSECT AWARENESS &
APPRECIATION DAY!
AUGUST 27TH

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