

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society



In this issue:
January 2012

Amphibians of Southern Illinoisp 1

CCC Camps of southern Illinois Living Historyp 1

I-66.....p 2

Bald Eagle Watch Weekend Starved Rock S.P.p 2

March Mtg Flyer.....Insert

Events Calendar.....Insert

Bluebird Workshop

Photos.....p 3

Mermet Field Trip

Recapp 3

Membershipp 4

Shawnee Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
www.shawneeaudubon.org

Officers/Board Members

President, Ann Douglas
ann@shawneeaudubon.org
618.564.2079

Vice-President, Georgia Norman
vicepresident@shawneeaudubon.org

Secretary, Henry Mulder
618.893.4993

Treasurer, Debbie Hogg
618.695.4338

Environment, John Wallace
environment@shawneeaudubon.org

Birding, Anne Parmley
fieldtrips@shawneeaudubon.org
618.524.9022

Program & Education
IAS Board Representative
Terri Treacy
terri@shawneeaudubon.org
618.683.2222

Sanctuary, Kevin Nagele

Newsletter Editor
Terri Treacy
terri@shawneeaudubon.org
618.683.2222

March 19th • 7pm • Carbondale Township Hall
The Wonderful World of Amphibians in Southern Illinois



Marbled salamander. Photo by Tony Gerard

The March meeting of the Shawnee Chapter will feature a presentation by Tony Gerard, biology instructor at Shawnee Community College, Board Director of Friends of the Cache River Watershed, and all-around fabulous herpetologist.

Tony's multimedia presentation will feature photos and vocalizations of the frogs and toads in our region, as well as photos of our various salamanders. Tony's knowledge and enthusiasm for the amphibians of southern Illinois is a delight you don't want to miss. And, Tony promises to bring in a few live specimens to view up close, too!

Bonus!! Tony will be our guide on a follow up field trip to Heron Pond on Saturday, March 24th--see Upcoming Events Calendar insert for details!

The meeting takes place at Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street, Carbondale. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Georgia Norman at glmn77@gmail.com or 618-521-0789.

April 16th • 7pm • Trail of Tears State Forest
Civilian Conservation Corps Interactive Living History Presentation

Join us for a cozy campfire under the stars as we take a step back into the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps in southern Illinois. Kay Ripplemeyer, local historian and storyteller will lead a Civilian Conservation Corps Living History presentation at Trail of Tears State Forest.

The presentation will take place at the group campsite located behind the picnic area South of State Forest Road. Turn into the picnic area across from the white barn and follow the signs. We'll either meet under the stars, or in case of rain we'll utilize the nearby shelter. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight! Rustic seating is provided but lawn chairs may make your experience more comfortable.



Camp Union, Jonesboro, Illinois

Be sure to check the website often for updates
and additions to our calendar of events.
<http://www.shawneeaudubon.org>

I-66 -- A HIGHWAY DESIGNED TO BRING MORE TRUCK TRAFFIC THROUGH OUR TINY SLICE OF PARADISE

The January 2012 newsletter mentioned Illinois plans to spend \$4.5 million to conduct a feasibility study for constructing a segment of Interstate 66 through southernmost Illinois. Please visit the Citizens for Southernmost Illinois website to read more about the proposal and the history of failed attempts to put another major highway through our tiny slice of paradise. The website also has an online petition that you can sign, as well as a handout and paper petition to download and share.



Citizens for Southernmost Illinois
<http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org>

IAS Bald Eagle Watch Weekend at Starved Rock State Park



Terri, far left, joined friends from the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club for hike in Illinois Canyon.
 Photo: Wendy Marquis.

Frozen waterfalls, Sam the Eagle muppet, live bird shows, and of course, *bald eagles*, made for a tremendous weekend at Starved Rock State Park.

IAS staff and volunteers played host to thousands of visitors to this extraordinarily popular event.

If you've never been, plan now to attend next year--you're sure to have a great time.



Sara Doolen-Mathis gets a hug from Sam the Eagle. It was great getting spend the weekend with Shaweequon (Shawnee/Emiquon Chapter) friends!
 Photo: Cindy McGrew



Sam the Eagle and Tom Clay working the crowd before one of the eight World Bird Sanctuary live bird presentations.
 Photo: Cindy McGrew

Shawnee Chapter has lots of great programs and field trips coming up this Spring. Check the Upcoming Calendar of Events insert for all the details.

Plan to join us, too, at the Illinois Audubon Spring Gathering in Vermillion County the weekend of April 20-22. What's a better way to celebrate Earth Day than getting out to some gorgeous areas to catch spring migrants, spring wildflowers and other natural wonders with good friends and new friends? Contact Terri for carpooling connections--618-521-1030 or terri@shawneeaudubon.org.



January 2012 Birding Trip

by Anne Parmley, Birding Committee Chair

On a cold but sunny January morning, Ann Douglas and I explored Mermet Lake and the surrounding area. We were rewarded early on with a fantastic flyover by *7 trumpeter swans*. Our hike through the woods behind the archery area gave us great looks at red-headed, red-bellied, downy, and pileated woodpeckers as well as northern flickers and the usual chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and Carolina wrens. As we left the woods, we saw a swamp sparrow and several rusty blackbirds. We then took "the long way" home, seeing a *loggerhead shrike* on an overhead wire, 25 killdeer in a field, and several meadowlarks. All in all, a fun way to fight cabin fever.

Bird list of 49 species seen that morning: 20 Canada geese, 7 trumpeter swans, 68 mallards, 8 northern shoveler, 5 lesser scaup, 2 pied-billed grebes, 4 great blue herons, 4 black vultures, 6 turkey vultures, 1 northern shoveler, 1 Cooper's, 2 red-shouldered, and 2 red-tailed hawks, 2 American kestrels, 35 American coots, 25 killdeer, 50 rock doves, 7 mourning doves, a kingfisher, 8 red-headed, 3 red-bellied, 1 pileated, and 2 downy woodpeckers, 4 northern flickers, 1 loggerhead shrike, 6 blue jays, 4 American crows, 2 horned larks, 5 Carolina chickadees, 4 tufted titmouse, 3 white-breasted nuthatches, 1 Carolina wren, 15 eastern bluebirds, 3 American robins, 1 northern mockingbird, 50 European starlings, 1 eastern towhee, 5 song sparrows, 1 swamp sparrow, 1 white-throated sparrow, 2 white-crowned sparrows, 7 northern cardinals, 500 red-winged blackbirds, 7 eastern meadowlarks, 6 rusty blackbirds, 50 common grackles, 2 brown-headed cowbirds, 8 American goldfinches, and 1 house sparrow.

*Shawnee Chapter
of the Illinois Audubon Society
Upcoming Events*



March

- 10 **Stewardship Day at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary** • See details on back page.
- 19 **Shawnee Chapter Meeting • 7-9 pm . Carbondale Township Hall • 217 E. Main Street**
Amphibians of Southern Illinois
Tony Gerard, Biology Instructor at Shawnee Community College.
- 24 **Herping at Heron Pond** • Tony Gerard will guide us through Heron Pond State Natural Area to look and listen for frogs, toads, salamanders, snakes..... Meet at Heron Pond parking lot at 10 am.

April

- 14 **Stewardship Day at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary** • See details on back page.
- 16 **Interactive Living History Presentation on CCC Camps Union, Hutchins, and Pomona • 7-9 pm . Trail of Tears State Forest**
Led by local historian, Kay Ripplemeyer-Tippy.
- 20-22 **IAS Spring Gathering** • Hosted by Middlefork Chapter in Vermillion County
Check your *Cardinal News* for all the details, field trip descriptions and registration form.
- 28 **Cave Valley Birding** • Birding for warblers, vireos and other spring migrants • Meet at 8 am in front of the old General Store in Pomona.

May

- 5 **WBVS Spring Bird Count • Dawn to Dusk**
Save the Date! Details to come.
- 14 **Stewardship Day at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary** • See details on back page.
- 21 **Shawnee Chapter Annual Meeting • 7-9 pm • Carbondale Township Hall • 217 E. Main Street**
Barn Owl Recovery Project
Dr. Jeffrey Walk, Director of Science for The Nature Conservancy Illinois Chapter and Illinois Audubon Society Director.

June-July

- 9, 14 **Stewardship Day at War Bluff Valley Sanctuary** • See details on back page.
- ?? **Shawnee Chapter Swim & Picnic at Little Grassy Lake** • Date & Details to be announced.

Check the website for additions or changes to our events schedule.

<http://shawneeaudubon.org>

Visit us on [Facebook!](#)

Don't forget to visit the Illinois Audubon Society website
for upcoming IAS Events and Activities.

Shawnee Audubon Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Presents
Amphibians of Southern Illinois
by Tony Gerard



Monday, March 19th

7 pm

Carbondale Township Hall

217 E. Main Street

The March meeting of the Shawnee Chapter will feature a presentation by Tony Gerard, biology instructor at Shawnee Community College, Board Director of Friends of the Cache River Watershed, and all-around fabulous herpetologist.

Tony's multimedia presentation will feature photos and vocalizations of the frogs and toads in our region, as well as photos of our various salamanders. Tony's knowledge and enthusiasm for the amphibians of southern Illinois is a delight you don't want to miss. And, Tony promises to bring in a few live specimens to view up close, too!

More information: Georgia Norman at 618-521-0789 or glmn77@gmail.com

<http://shawneeaudubon.org>



SAVE STAMPS FOR WILDLIFE!



Shawnee Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 73
Carbondale, IL 62903
HERPS OF SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS
MARCH 19TH

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 10 am. Call 618.683.2222 for more details or if the weather is 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

IAS Membership Structure Change

If you've had a chance to read your Winter 2011-2012 *Cardinal News* then you probably read Executive Director Tom Clay's message regarding the redefined membership levels.

The main change you will notice is the reduction in the number of categories and a change in category names. **Friend** and **Friend Plus** are the new *Individual* and *Family*.

The other change you will notice when you receive your dues renewal notice is a flat \$10 dues rate for membership in the Shawnee Chapter, regardless of the IAS support level you choose. In other words, whether you are an individual or a couple, Shawnee dues are \$10. Households that join at the **Friend Plus** level or above still get their two votes in Shawnee elections.

Limiting our dues to one rate is a streamlining step that will benefit our hardworking staff in Springfield who handle our dues and memberships. Keeping track of multiple rates and multiple levels for 15 Chapters is a bookkeeping nightmare! Although IAS has not mandated that Chapters adopt a single rate, the long-range desire is one \$10 rate across the board for all Chapter dues.

Since Shawnee Chapter has always been a trend-setter, we've decided a rate increase that amounts to the price of one gallon of gas (or less if you been a Family level supporter) is well worth the price in efficiency. We hope you agree!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.