

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society



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Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society
www.shawneeaudubon.org

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618.564.2079

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Treasurer, Debbie Hogg
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Program & Education
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Terri Treacy
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618.683.2222

Sanctuary, Kevin Nagele

Newsletter Editor
Terri Treacy
terri@shawneeaudubon.org
618.683.2222

Please share the Annual Meeting flyer with your peeps!

SHAWNEE CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

BARN OWL RECOVERY PROJECT PRESENTATION

MAY 21ST + 7 PM + CARBONDALE TOWNSHIP HALL, 217 E. MAIN



Please join us for our Annual Meeting where we will elect officers and board directors followed by a *very special presentation*.

Dr. Jeff Walk, Director of Science at the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Board Director of Illinois Audubon Society, will present *The Barn Owl Recovery Project*.

The barn owl, *Tyto alba*, is one of the most widely distributed species of birds, nesting on six continents and many islands. In spite of versatility in nesting habitats and prey selection, barn owls have become rare in the Midwestern United States. Population declines are strongly correlated with changing agricultural practices. Hay and pasture - rich foraging areas for voles (*Microtus* spp.), the preferred prey in the region - have been extensively converted to row crops which support fewer prey. Although barn owls are rare and listed as Endangered in Illinois, they remain broadly distributed with nesting records from 31 counties during 1990-2009, mostly in the southern one-half of the state. Barn owl populations are secure in Mississippi River Valley states south of Illinois, and populations in some Midwestern states, including Illinois, may be expanding. As part of developing a recovery plan for barn owls in Illinois, historic nest sites were surveyed and 95 new nest boxes installed in 2010 and 2011.

The primary recovery strategy is to install more nest boxes - because they are proven to work, and provide the only practical way to track barn owl populations. The team is focusing

Continued page 2--Barn Owl Recovery

Celebrate our 17th Birthday
as a Chapter of Illinois Audubon Society!

Dinner with the speaker before the Annual Meeting
at Tres Hombres at 5:30 PM

Please RSVP to terri@shawneeaudubon.org so we know how many seats to reserve.

Barn Owl Recovery continued

this effort in counties with better-than-average availability of grassland foraging habitat, and in counties in the southern half of Illinois. The other recovery strategies include increasing the amount and quality of grassland habitat, to benefit barn owls and many other species, as Illinois Audubon Society and the Department of Natural Resources are currently undertaking with the restoration of the Society's 200-acre Loy Prairie addition to Prairie Ridge in Marion County. In total, the team documented 36 barn owl nests in 24 counties, 2010-2011. With the encouraging results, barn owls populations appear to be moving towards recovery objectives, but reaching them will take a sustained effort.

Dr. Walk is the Director of Science for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign studying grassland birds, and authored the recovery plan for greater prairie-chickens in Illinois. He was an assistant professor at the University of Dubuque for two years before returning to Illinois to draft the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan as a research scientist for the Illinois Natural History Survey. Dr. Walk and colleagues at the University of Illinois published their findings from the oldest bird survey in North America in the book, *Illinois Birds: A Century of Change*. Jeff also serves on the Board of Directors for Illinois Audubon Society and on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.



Barn owl photos here and on page 1 by Richard Day, Daybreak Imagery.

ELECTION 2012

The election of officers and directors of Shawnee Audubon Chapter will be held at the Annual Meeting on May 21st at the Carbondale Township Hall. The slate of nominees thus far is listed below. Contact our Secretary, Hank Mulder, to make a nomination (including yourself) for any of the positions. The Board of Directors will be elected by a simple majority of the members present at the meeting.

We have a vacancy on the board for Vice President. If you are interested in joining our board, please contact us before the meeting!

Officers:

Georgia Norman, President
 Vacant, Vice-President
 Henry "Hank" Mulder, Secretary
 Debbie Hogg, Treasurer

Directors:

John Wallace, Environment Chair and IAS
 Chapter Representative
 Andrea Douglas, Field Trip Chair
 Kevin Nagele, Sanctuary Chair
 Terri Treacy, Program and Education

Save the Dates!! Volunteers Needed!!

Hummingbird Festival • Saturday, August 4th

17th Annual Insect Awareness and Appreciation Day • August 25th

BIRDING CAVE VALLEY

Anne, Ann and Karen. Photo: T. Treacy

April 28, 2012 (Approximately 8 a.m. till noon) Cool morning, partly sunny.

Birders: Ann Douglas, Terri Treacy, Karen Frailey, Anne Parmley.

Although some warblers are here for the summer, spring migration gives a brief glimpse of most of the "butterflies of the bird world." Cave Valley near Pomona is one of the best places to see these tiny birds. Follow route 127 (heading north from route 146 or south from Murphysboro) to Pomona road, then head west to the natural bridge road (at the old Pomona store). Turn right (north), staying to the right as the road becomes gravel, cross a bridge over the creek, and watch for an old forest road on the right. This is an easy trail with great woodland habitat.

Before walking along the trail, we spent at least a half hour birding along the road near the creek. This birding offered us a very nice view of a singing Cerulean warbler. The bird seemed to pose just for us, turning so we could have both side and front views. As you can see from the following list, we saw and heard many more warblers and other birds that

morning. Some of the most spectacular were the blue-winger warbler, singing low on a branch, and a black-and-white gleaning along the trunk of a tree. Our only regret was not seeing the Mississippi kites that usually guard the valley.

Bird list: Canada goose; wood duck; great blue heron; black and turkey vultures; Cooper's, red-shouldered, broad-winged, and red-tailed hawks; killdeer; rock pigeon; mourning dove; chimney swift; ruby-throated hummingbird; belted kingfisher; red-bellied, hairy, and pileated woodpeckers; Acadian flycatcher; eastern phoebe; great crested flycatcher; eastern kingbird; white-eyed, Philadelphia, and red-eyed vireos; American and fish crows; purple martin; tree and barn swallows; Carolina chickadee; tufted titmouse; white-breasted nuthatch; Carolina wren; blue-gray gnatcatcher; eastern bluebird; wood thrush; American robin; gray catbird; northern mockingbird; brown thrasher; blue-winged, yellow-throated, pine, cerulean, black-and-white, prothonotary, and Kentucky warblers; northern parula; American redstart; ovenbird; Louisiana waterthrush; common yellowthroat; summer and scarlet tanagers; eastern towhee; chipping, house, and field sparrows; northern cardinal; rose-breasted grosbeak; indigo bunting; red-winged blackbird; eastern meadowlark; common grackle; brown-headed cowbird; orchard and Baltimore orioles; and American goldfinch.



Wolf spider carrying egg sac. Photo: T. Treacy

We don't have any upcoming field trips scheduled this summer, but be sure to check the website <http://shawneeaudubon.org> in case that changes!

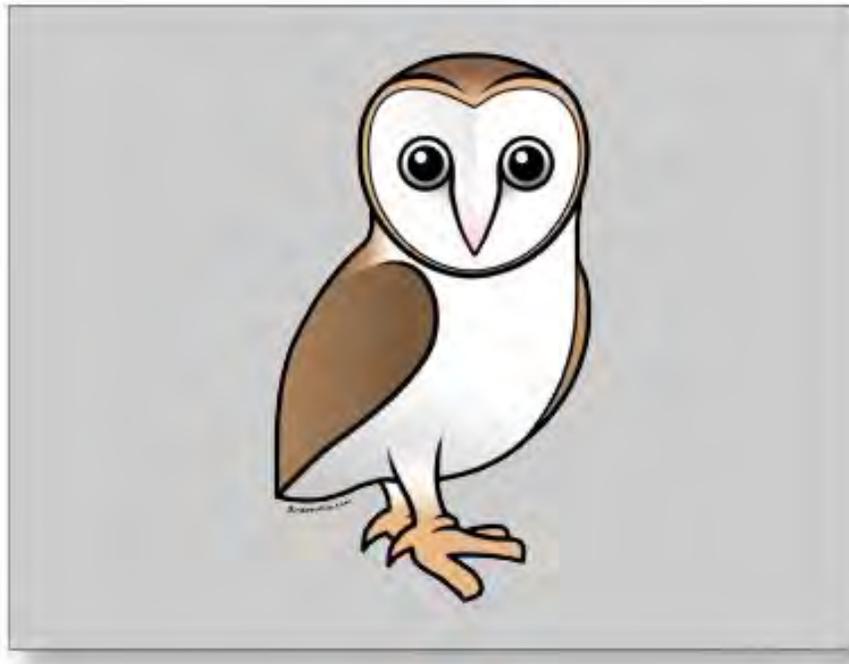
Shawnee Audubon Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Presents

Barn Owl Recovery Project by Dr. Jeff Walk



Monday, May 21st 7 pm
Carbondale Township Hall
217 E. Main Street

The Annual meeting of the Shawnee Chapter will feature a presentation by Dr. Jeff Walk, Director of Science for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Join us for a fascinating look at the history of barn owls and plans for their recovery in Illinois. The ***The Barn Owl Recovery Project***, which surveyed historic nest sites in Illinois and installed 95 new nest boxes, documented 36 barn owl nests in 24 counties. Jeff will explain the strategies for recovery and the prospects for success.

More information: Terri Treacy at terri@shawneaudubon.org

<http://shawneaudubon.org>



SAVE STAMPS FOR WILDLIFE!



Shawnee Chapter
 Illinois Audubon Society
 PO Box 73
 Carbondale, IL 62903
 BARN OWL RECOVERY
 PROJECT
 MAY 21ST

WAR BLUFF VALLEY SANCTUARY

JOIN US

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

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

WBVS NATURE BLOG

<http://warbluffvalleysanctuary.org>

SHAWNEE CHAPTER ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member of Shawnee Chapter you will receive Chapter newsletters 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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (INCLUDES ILLINOIS AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP PLUS \$10 SHAWNEE DUES)

- Friend \$35
- Friend Plus \$40
- Steward \$60+
- Guardian \$110+
- Advocate \$510+
- Benefactor \$1,010+
- Legacy \$5,010+

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