

Stewards of War Bluff Valley Sanctuary

Shawnee Chapter

Illinois Audubon Society



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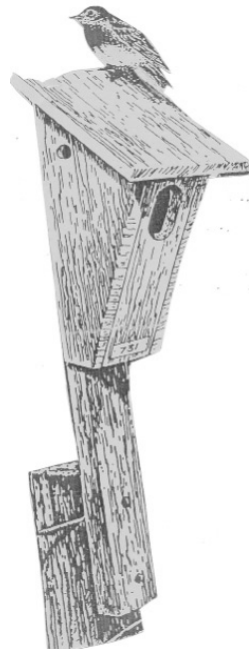
January 16th • 7pm • Carbondale Township Hall

**Turkeys, Quail and Grassland Birds in Illinois:
Studies of Avian Ecology and Conservation**

The January meeting of the Shawnee Chapter will feature a presentation by Dr. Clay Nielsen, Assistant Professor with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory and Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Dr. Nielsen will discuss three research projects he is conducting on avian ecology and conservation in Illinois.

The three studies focus on turkey response to prescribed fire, genetics of northern bobwhite quail, and the effects of CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) management on grassland birds.

The meeting takes place at Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street, Carbondale. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact terri@shawneeadubon.org or 618-683-2222.



**February 11th • 10am • War Bluff Valley Sanctuary
in Pope County**

Bluebird Nest Box Workshop

Join Shawnee Chapter members, John Wallace and Hank Mulder, for some family-friendly fun as they guide participants through an enjoyable and enlightening morning. You will discover much about these beautiful "Gems of Blue" as well as build your own bluebird nest box to take home!

A \$10.00 registration fee covers all supplies, instructions, handouts, nails and fun. All you need to bring is a hammer, if you have one.

Participation is limited to 20 registrants -- so email terri@shawneeadubon.org or call War Bluff Valley Sanctuary at 618-683-2222 to sign up a.s.a.p.



See the Insert for a complete list of Upcoming Events & Activities. And be sure to check the website often for updates and additions -- <http://www.shawneeadubon.org>

Starved Rock State Park Threatened -- Please Take Action!!



Photo: Mississippi Sand, LCC website.

In 1911, local and state officials protected Starved Rock State Park in LaSalle County. Now, 100 years later, the LaSalle County Board will act on a request by Mississippi Sand LLC to mine sand used for hydraulic fracturing from 315-acres next to the park. If approved, the mining operation destroys an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site wetland, exposes the watershed to further hydrologic degradation and once more permanently imprints the progress of man upon the Illinois River corridor.

The Illinois Audubon Society opposes this request and encourages members to send a letter of opposition to the LaSalle County Board Chairman. You can access a sample

letter here: www.illinoisaudubon.org/JerryHicks2.pdf. The letter comes from Starved Rock Foundation and Starved Rock Audubon Society and is addressed to the LaSalle County Board Chairman. We encourage you to print, sign and mail the letter or create your own.

The deadline for submitting your comments is **January 12th**.

TWO PROPOSALS TO KEEP AN EYE ON

I-66: Illinois plans to spend \$4.5 million to conduct a feasibility study for constructing a segment of Interstate 66 through southernmost Illinois. Should the proposal move forward, the actual construction of this environmentally devastating roadway will cost approximately **\$3.5 million per mile**. The Citizens' for Southernmost Illinois, or CSI, are commencing an educational campaign about the threats posed by such a highway to our businesses, our family farms and our unique environment. An Interstate highway through Southernmost Illinois is a government waste of taxpayer dollars, will negatively impact farmland and our rural lifestyle, will be a drain on the local economy, will threaten outdoor recreation and tourism and will have a major impact on the sensitive natural resources of the Shawnee National Forest and Cache River Wetlands.

Please let the Illinois Department of Transportation, your State Representatives and the Governor know that you oppose spending taxpayer dollars on the Feasibility Study I-66 -- an unnecessary and destructive roadway. Stop the project now!!

SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE PROPOSAL: The SNF is proposing to exchange a 384-acre federally owned parcel of land in Gallatin County to American Land Holdings of Illinois (aka Peabody Coal Co.) for three parcels of non-Federal land located elsewhere within the Forest's proclamation boundary. The federal parcel, which is situated on a beautiful stretch of the Saline River and contains some of the largest cherrybark oaks in southern Illinois, if acquired by Peabody would be stripmined for coal. Download the detailed proposal at: www.fs.usda.gov/stelprdb5344295.pdf

Scoping comments on this proposal are being accepted until January 31st. See the above mentioned document for details on where and how to submit your comments.

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

January 16th
7pm
Carbondale Township Hall
217 E. Main Street

Turkeys, Quail and Grassland Birds in Illinois: Studies of Avian Ecology and Conservation

Dr. Clay Nielsen

Assistant Professor with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory
and Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



**The Role of Landscape Structure
on the Genetics of
Northern Bobwhite Quail**



**Effects of CRP
Management on
Grassland Birds**

**Turkey Response to
Habitat Management with
Prescribed Fire**



For more information call 618-683-2222; email [terri AT shawneeaudubon.org](mailto:terri@shawneeaudubon.org)
<http://www.shawneeaudubon.org>

*Shawnee Chapter
of the Illinois Audubon Society
Upcoming Events*



January

- 16 Shawnee Chapter Meeting . 7-9 pm . Carbondale Township Hall . 217 E. Main Street**
Turkeys, Quail and Grassland Birds in Illinois:
Studies of Avian Ecology and Conservation -- Dr. Clay Nielsen, Assistant Professor with the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory and Department of Forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, will discuss three research projects he is conducting on avian ecology and conservation in Illinois.
- 28 8am to noon • Mermet Lake Birding**
Driving trip around the lake looking for wintering waterfowl and other interesting birds. Meet at Restored Prairie parking area just before the lake. Sign up by sending an e-mail to fieldtrips@shawneeaudubon.org or by calling Anne at 618-524-9022 so that you can be notified in case of cancellation.

February

- 11 10am • War Bluff Valley Sanctuary • Bluebird Nest Box Workshop**
Discover much about these beautiful “Gems of Blue” as well as build your own bluebird nest box to take home! Pre-registration required and \$10 fee to cover costs.

March

- 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.

April

- 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.

May

- 5 WBVS Spring Bird Count . Dawn to Dusk**
Save the Date! Details to come.
- 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

- ?? 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.**



Baby barn owls in a tree cavity nest. Don't miss our Annual Meeting on May 21st where Dr. Jeffrey Walk will give a talk on the Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Project. Photo: Courtesy of Richard Day--Daybreak Imagery.

TO COUNT OR NOT TO COUNT – 2011 WAR BLUFF VALLEY CBC

by Andrea Douglas

December 17 was a fairly nice day for a Christmas Bird Count. The skies were clear and although it started out cold, it warmed up enough to be comfortable. Fourteen participants including two feeder watchers helped with the War Bluff Valley circle finding a total of 68 species, about average for our winter count. We had six parties with 2 – 4 people in each team counting.

Even though we did not have any dedicated owlers (between midnight and 6:35 a.m. or between 5:30 – 11:59 p.m.), we did manage to get a great horned owl, several barred and a barn. The barn owl had been seen in the spring at an old roosting site so

a point was made to find it.

Three teams saw a bald eagle. I was not on one of those teams! But, I did get to see white fronted goose, eastern phoebe, savannah sparrow.

Each team had unique contributions even if it was a single pied-billed grebe, bobwhite, fox sparrow, belted kingfisher, sharp-shinned hawk or hermit thrush. On the other hand, most teams had black vultures, red-shouldered hawks, kestrels, red-bellied woodpeckers, flickers, blue jays, crows, juncos, cardinals and goldfinch.

Less numerous species were the kinglets, ruby crowned and golden crowned, white crowned sparrows, horned larks, purple finch, yellow-rumped warblers, brown creepers and a few red-headed woodpeckers. No rare species had to be documented this year.

Of the duck species, only mallards were found. Three common mergansers were scoped at Lake Glendale and hooded mergansers were found in a wet area in the Brownsville bottoms. Numerous snow and Canada geese were seen, some in overhead flights and others mellowing out at Lake Glendale.

One of the oddities that I enjoy is when I scan an empty field and suddenly a movement catches in the peripheral vision; locking in on it, I say “looky there” - a killdeer, then another and another and another. Take the binoculars away and there’s an empty field again. How many other things am I missing? Meadowlarks were like that as well. One turns and the sun enhances the golden chest, then others start moving around it. Counts go as high as fifteen or twenty-five.

I have been compiling the War Bluff Valley Circle since 1999 and sometimes it feels like a chore. I’m sure that the participants I badger to help feel the same way at first. However, I always hear the comment “I’m so glad I did that. It was wonderful to get out in nature again.” So let me fulfill your unmet needs and plan to help in next year’s count. In the meantime, the Spring Count will be May 5. Good Birding to everyone!

PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS
TO SEE THIS NEWSLETTER IN

FULL COLOR

You will also receive timely electronic updates and alerts
about upcoming events and activities in the region.

Contact the editor at terri@shawneeaudubon.org

SAVE STAMPS FOR WILDLIFE!



AVIAN ECOLOGY &
CONSERVATION
IN ILLINOIS
JANUARY 16TH

Shawnee Chapter
Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 73
Carbondale, IL 62903

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 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a member of Shawnee Chapter you will receive Chapter 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