



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

March 2017 – Vol. 24, No. 3

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

NEWSLETTER

Established in 1970

Forest Birds of Polynesia

Come on Friday, March 24th at 7 p.m. to the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale, to learn

about the forest birds of Polynesia as Dr. George Waring shares information about the diversity and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) status of birds that live their lives entirely upon islands of the central Pacific Ocean.

Dr. Waring states that he and his wife, Ann-Meredith, have explored many of those islands as short-term visitors. On others, Dr. Waring has remained much longer to conduct biological research.

The upcoming illustrated lecture will cover a greater geographical area but will hopefully satisfy the requests he has had for an update to the program he gave decades ago on the endemic upland birds of Hawaii.

Dr. Waring is Professor Emeritus of Zoology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His research spans from ethology and vertebrate natural history to biological impacts of human activities on wild vertebrate populations. This program is just one of a list of lectures topics from A-Z that Dr. Waring offers to present free of charge. Visit his website at < <http://mypage.siu.edu/waring/lecturetopics.html> > to view the amazing list or email Dr. Waring at waring@siu.edu.



February Meeting Highlights: *Alas, No Thunderbirds*

The February meeting of the SIAS featured a show of images from a pair of “birding researcher” trips in late 2014 and very early 2015, when diplomatic relations began to thaw between the US and Cuba. Vernon Kleen combined images of birds taken in the western portion of the island with pictures of transportation and lifestyle to give a colorful impression of our close but distanced neighbor.

The birding groups, traveling cloaked under the title of researchers to preserve US diplomatic niceties, arrived in Havana and traveled by bus with local guides along the north coast. They stayed in some high end looking accommodations for field surveyors all the way through the trip. During this leg of the trip they also met with the dean of Cuban birding at his institute.

One stop along the coast were some wetlands with brackish to freshwater situations and good looks at flamingos and roseate spoonbills.

Some of the warblers that we see in the spring and fall spend the winter on the island; there were shots of black-throated green, black-throated blue and yellow-throated in the program. The blue-gray gnatcatcher was also featured.

Woodpeckers don't migrate, so there were different red-bellied and flicker appearing species endemic to the island. There were no slides but Vern mentioned that the ivory-billed woodpecker is still thought possible in some hard to reach habitats.

Two endemic hummingbirds live in Cuba and both were seen, the Cuban herald, and the bee hummingbird; the smallest bird in the world. The second tour saw an almost swarm of bee hummers, counting eight altogether. There were also endemic tanagers and thrushes sighted on the trip.

Rounding the western trip of the island and traveling back toward Havana the groups stopped at the infamous Bay of Pigs. Vern spotted and photographed a crocodile, the first one their guide had seen in many years.

The highlight bird in terms of color was the Cuban tody with green, pink, yellow and white coloration that rivals the male painted bunting. This small kingfisher relative is quite common on most of the island.

Mixed into the program were views of the many modes of transportation on Cuba. Horses and donkey carts and bicycles are commonly used. The most spectacular vehicles however were the cars from the fifties and sixties. I noticed the first Cadillac taxicab that I have ever seen. Unfortunately I did not spot any thunderbirds, but somewhere on the island a rare one might be lurking.

Thanks to Vern for the entertaining and originally designed program.
—Joe Merkelbach, President

NOTE to Members: April's SIAS meetings might be moved permanently to the 3rd Friday of the month so to not conflict with the Birding Blitz weekend. This would only be April's meetings and will be discussed at the March 24th SIAS meeting.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Mar. 31-Apr. 2 > Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium

Registration is live for the annual Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium to be held at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois. Jim Wiker, co-author of *Butterflies of Illinois*, will be the keynote speaker. Other speakers will be giving presentations. There will be guided hikes to Cove Hollow and Pine Hills' "snake road". To register, go to: www.ill-inps.org/2017symposiu

Apr. 1 > Native Plant Sale

GreenEarth of Carbondale and the IL Native Plant Society are sponsoring a native plant sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. on the lawn of Building H, John A. Logan College Carterville campus. The plants for sale, including perennial wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs, will come from local grower Southernwood Gardens of Alto Pass.

Apr. 7 > Calling All Owls

Swoop on in to learn all about the owls of southern Illinois, and then head out into the night to listen for their eerie calls. The program starts at 7 p.m. at the Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 IL Rt. 37, Cypress. Then Mark Guetersloh will lead an owl prowl. For more details, phone 618.657.2064.

Apr. 11 > Spring Migration Bird Hike

Meet at the Lower Cache Access, Access Rd., south off Perks Rd. at 6 p.m. for this evening birding hike along the Limekiln Springs Trail at Cypress Creek NWR. For more details, phone the Refuge at 618.634.2231.

Apr. 13 > Movie Nights at the Cache

Bring your family and friends for a relaxing evening of nature movie watching at the Cache River Wetland Center, 8885 IL Rt. 37, Cypress. This month's showing is *Hummingbirds: Jewels of the Air*. For more details, call Cypress Creek Refuge at 618.634.2231.

Apr. 22-23 > IOS Spring Migrant Tune-up

Join Keith McMullen for a fun Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS) birding trip through southern Illinois forests. This field trip is an excellent opportunity for you to "tune-up" your eyes and ears for the coming spring migration. Registration required – Limited to 30 participants. For details and registration, see IOS's event calendar at <http://www.illinoisbirds.org/calendar-2/>

April 29 > 16th Birding Blitz of Southernmost IL

Form a team and compete in the 2017 Birding Blitz! Spend Saturday, 04/29, birding in the midst of songbird migration with some of your friends. Try a new category you've not participated in before. The Awards Brunch held on Sunday, 04/30 at Crab Orchard NWR Visitor's Center, is open to the public. This year pledging is optional but encouraged. For all Blitz details including registration forms (due 04/22) contact Rhonda Rothrock at 618.684.6605 woodthrusheola@hotmail.com.

May 19-21 > IAS Spring Gathering

The Kane County Audubon Society invites everyone to gather in the Fox River Valley for the 2017 Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) Spring Gathering. There will be bird hikes, great programs, and delicious cuisine. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. For details or to register, visit: www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=2046&EID=23377

My Great Friend Florence Glass

When I opened one of the field guides at the Audubon book sale and saw the name "Florence Glass" written on the fly leaf, I got a sudden pang, as Florence was one of my best friends and I didn't realize that her daughter, Meriwether Wilson, had donated her bird books to the Society.

Florence and I were friends for well over 40 years and we first met in St. Louis when the National Audubon Society had a meeting there. Over the years, we frequently went birding together and did the spring bird census together at Rend Lake. Florence was an avid birder and went on trips to Africa and South America accompanied by her husband, Theodor "Ted" Gunter Glass, who was not all that interested in birds, but was a very dutiful husband.

Ted's great hobby was racing his Flying Scot sailboat and he and Florence, who were members of the sailing club at Crab Orchard Lake, sailed together from 1965 to 1996 and won many trophies.

Ted died in 2003 and Florence died on October 2, 2016 at the age of 97. – *Judith Joy, SIAS member and Centralia Morning Sentinel Feature Editor*

SIAS is sincerely grateful to Ms. Meriwether Wilson for the donation of her mother's wonderful collecting of birding and nature related books.

Funds raised through the sales will support SIAS's commitment to nature education and habitat preservation.

May 24-31 > 9th Trinidad & Tobago Adventure

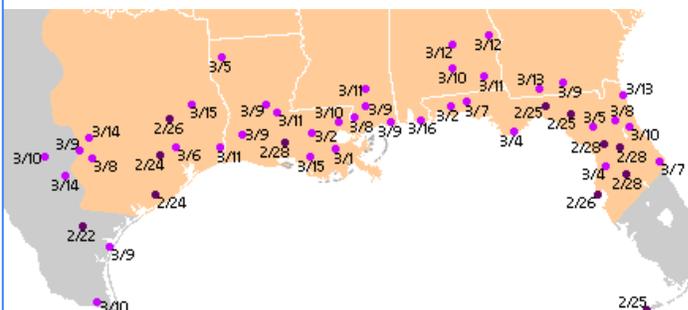
Join Nelda Hinckley and other naturalist guides for an 8-day tour of this two-island nation. Experience a tropical evergreen rain forest, a mangrove, tide pools, a tropical deciduous forest, and stay at the 200-acre, world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge. Land Cost: \$1695 (with 10 participants, includes all meals, lodging, and field trips with naturalist guide). For details, contact: Nelda W. Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Track Hummers on Hummingbird.net

Hummer enthusiasts can track hummingbirds as they migrate north by visiting (Missouri's) Lanny Chamber's website: <http://hummingbirds.net/>

Lanny's website is a place to learn about attracting, feeding, watching, and studying the hummingbirds that breed in North America, as well as offering other hummingbird related information. And his site is a place to both track the progress of migrating hummingbirds and report your first ruby-throated hummer.

Dates, month and day, on the map below are for Spring 2017.



The Good and the Bad and the Ugly

Good News in Dark Times: Third Jaguar Detected in Arizona

Big news from the Southwest: Another new jaguar has been detected on a trail camera in southeast Arizona, the third in the past year and a half. The animal was roaming in the Dos Cabezas Mountains, about 60 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Jaguars are trying hard to return to their homelands in the United States," said Randy Serraglio with the Center for Biological Diversity. "But Trump's \$20 billion border-wall boondoggle could stop them – it's devastating for human communities and wildlife alike."

A young male jaguar was photographed on the Fort Huachuca military reservation last November, and a large male jaguar in the Santa Rita Mountains became an internet sensation last year after being named "El Jefe" by Tucson schoolchildren. The new cat's sex is unknown.

The Center has been working for decades to save jaguars. In 2014 they secured more than 750,000 acres of federally protected critical habitat for U.S. jaguar recovery. *From: <https://biologicaldiversity.org/> Because Life Is Good.*

President Trump, Military Split on Climate Change

Previously, President Donald Trump has called global warming a hoax. More recently he had said there is "some connectivity" between human activity and climate change. But his EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, denies that carbon dioxide is a major contributor to climate change. The Pentagon, on the other hand, takes climate change and its risks seriously.

"The military has seen climate change as a problem since 2003, if not earlier," says retired Army General Gerry Galloway, now with the Center for Climate and Security. According to the Center, national security threats from climate change are included in eight defense and intelligence documents published before President Obama took office. Rising seas threaten coastal installations. Severe storms can cut off supply routes. Extreme heat limits training.

"Climate change acts as a threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world," a group of high-ranking former military officials wrote in a landmark 2007 report. "Economic and environmental conditions in already fragile areas will further erode as food production declines, diseases increase, clean water becomes increasingly scarce, and large populations move in search of resources," the report continued. These conditions "foster the conditions for internal conflicts, extremism and movement toward increased authoritarianism and radical ideologies."

For the complete story visit Voice of America's website:
<http://www.voanews.com/a/president-trump-military-split-on-climate-change/3702979.html>

On First Day, Zinke Rolls Back Protections From Lead Ammo

After riding into his downtown Washington, D.C., office on a horse named Tonto for his first day at work, new Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke quickly revoked Obama's phase-out of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on national wildlife refuges. The order reverses a decision by the Obama administration to phase out use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on wildlife refuges by 2022.

Looking to cash in on the \$30 million it spent on ads promoting Trump's election, the National Rifle Association had pressured Zinke to reverse Obama's science-based decision.

"Switching to nontoxic ammunition should be a no-brainer to save the lives of both wildlife and people," said the Center For Biodiversity's Jonathan Evans. "It's ironic that one of the first actions by Secretary Zinke, who fancies himself a champion of hunters and anglers, leads to poisoning of game and waterfowl."

From: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/politics/>

This Just In- Budget Cuts

President Trump's initial budget proposal would completely zero-out funding for protecting the Great Lakes.

We treasure our Great Lakes—they provide clean water, drive tourism, and bring commerce and jobs to our cities and towns. We should be working to protect them for generations to come, not slashing funding for their restoration.

Join Illinois' Senator Durbin in fighting to protect the Great Lakes. Visit this link <http://action.dickdurbin.com/page/s/great-lakes?source=em20170316-lakes>

to add your name in opposition to President Trump's major cut to Great Lakes funding.

Great Lakes restoration funding cleans up pollution, protects native wildlife, and ensures safe drinking water and clean beaches. The money we spend to protect our Great Lakes is an investment that easily pays for itself many times over. Senator Durbin states, "With the Trump White House in chaos, I know it's hard to keep track of every harmful policy the Administration has proposed, but the future of our Great Lakes is too important to overlook."

And...

President Trump released his first official budget proposal — and it's worse than we expected. Trump's budget calls for a bone-deep 31% cut to the EPA, bringing it down to \$5.7 billion — its lowest level in 40 years — and eliminating some 3,200 jobs.

Trump's skeleton budget would starve the EPA of the resources it needs, making it nearly impossible for the agency to tackle climate change ... protect our cherished public lands ... hold corporate polluters accountable ... crack down on the toxic pesticides wiping out pollinating bees and threatening our food supply ... clean up drinking water in communities like Flint... and defend the health and safety of the American people.

These kinds of cuts — in the hands of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, a pro-polluter extremist — would decimate the agency's core mission of protecting our climate, clean air, water and public health.
From: www.nrdc.org

To Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form and return it with payment. Thank You!

Individual Member \$15
 Family \$25
 Student Voting Member \$ 5
 Donation _____
 Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Your Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 Email _____

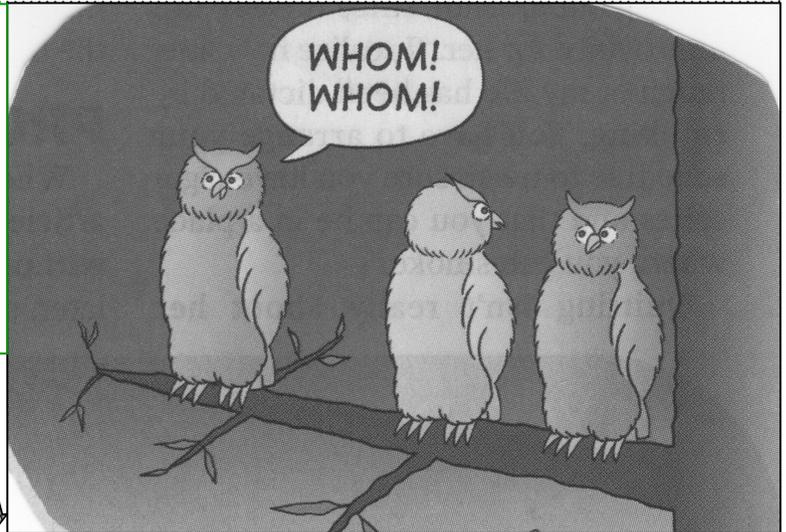
**Mail to: Southern Illinois Audubon Society
 Attn: Membership
 P.O. Box 222
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I/We would like to received our newsletter via email: YES / NO
 Member mailing labels reflect current dues status.
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 Contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.
 (Annual membership renewal month is January.)

We Would Love For You To Renew Your Dues

May of you have already renewed your dues and we on the Board are very grateful. If you're not sure whether you have or not renewed, please check the top right corner of your mailing label. If it says "16", it is time to renew. If you receive your newsletter via email, contact Laraine W. or me, so we can check your paid-to date in our records. Likewise, if you think you've already renewed, contact one of us and we'll correct our error. Thanks! -Rhonda R. > 618.684.6605



"She never lets us forget she was an English major."

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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
 the Illinois Environmental Council,
 & the North American Bluebird Society*



Earth Hour 2017

On March 25th, join the millions of people, businesses, cities, and landmarks—including the Empire State Building—who are standing up for strong climate action by turning off their lights from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. local time in celebration of Earth Hour.

Now in its 11th year, Earth Hour is an action of solidarity in the fight against climate change. This year, Earth Hour will stand directly for a commitment to protecting the future of our planet and the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

To learn more about Earth Hour and how climate change affects some of our favorite species, visit: www.earthhour.org