



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

October 2017 – Vol. 24, No. 6

## NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 222  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222  
Established in 1970



### Forest Park Owls: Hunting and Feeding

Award-winning naturalist **Mark H.X. Glenshaw** returns to SIAS on **Friday, October 27** to discuss the hunting and feeding behavior of the Great Horned Owls he has been observing, documenting, and doing outreach with in Forest Park in St. Louis, MO since December 2005.

**This evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m.\* at the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W.**

**Main St., Carbondale. Mark's program will start at 7 p.m.**

Mark has learned many of their hunting perches and observed and documented many predatory attempts as well as seen the owls feed themselves and their many owlets. Come and gain insight on one of the most successful predators in North America with Forest Park Owls: Hunting and Feeding.

[forestparkowls.blogspot.com/](http://forestparkowls.blogspot.com/)



*\*Potluck set-up begins at 5:30 p.m. with the potluck starting at 6:00 p.m.*

*Members are asked to bring an entree to share and their own dinnerware. Some beverages will be provided.*

### Sept. SIAS Program Highlights:

#### South Again - Not Quite to the Pole

John Schwegmen along with his wife Martha, founding members of SIAS, took all of us along on a trip of their lifetime to visit Patagonia and Antarctica. They began the journey by jetting to Valparaiso, the seaport city on the mid-coast of Chile.

A short interval before boarding the ship that took them south was spent birding in the region. One of the southernmost dwelling hummingbirds was one target of John's and he had a very good view of the green-backed firecrown. The firecrown has the same attribute as our familiar kinglets, a tuft of red-orange feather on top of its head that it can raise or lower in display. There were also several species of gulls and shorebirds visible in the harbor area.

Once the ship got underway the birds seen were pelagic species such as tubenosed petrels, storm petrels, shearwaters, and albatrosses that only return to land to nest.

Chiloe Island was a port of call on the voyage with additional gulls seen in the port area.

The mountains of the southern Andes trail down toward the tip of the continent and southern hemisphere temperate rainforest grows between them and the Pacific.

The ship entered the straits of Magellan from the west and ported at Punta Arenas, Chile, the port city within the straits. Some time in port allowed John and Martha to visit a national park looking for the Magellanic woodpecker. This bird is a southern hemisphere cousin of the ivory-bill. They missed on that one, but saw the orange breasted cousin of our familiar meadowlark.

Punta Arenas is the point of access for all the tourist trips to the Antarctic Peninsula, and the ship sailed south to that location. Glaciers and mountains and sheets of floating pack ice are the features of this point of land pointing off of the continent.

There are three species of breeding penguins on the peninsula; Adelies have always been known as breeders and gentoo and chinstrap have recently established small colonies.

The skua is a south polar relative of jaegers, with a bad reputation for its partial habit of scrounging around penguin nesting colonies. Whales and dolphins, feeding on everything from krill to fish and smaller mammals were visible from the ship. Southern elephant, fur, crabeater, Weddell, and leopard seals all breed or are seen on the peninsula.

This was a great set of visuals about a once in a lifetime trip to the southern continent. Thanks to John for sharing them with us.

*– Joe Merkelbach, President*



## SIAS Meetings Calendar for Fall & Winter 2017

**Nov./Dec. on Dec. 1st:** Program: Local school groups will present on the native gardens developed through donations from SIAS

**Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>:** Lyle White on the Nebraska Platte River & Rowe Sanctuary

**Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Program speaker to be announced

**Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Program speaker to be announced

## SIAS Still Looking for a Hospitality Chair

SIAS is still seeking a Hospitality Chair. Responsibilities are to set out the refreshments at our regular meetings & make coffee. Refreshments usually include cookies or a similar snack that various members bring. SIAS will reimburse the Hospitality Chair for any treats they purchase for meetings. Interested? Please let Rhonda R. know.

January is SIAS board member election month. The current slate of officers to be elected/re-elected in 2018 is: Conservation/Education Chair Cathie Hutcheson, Finance Chair Greg Kupiec, and Outings Chair Don Mullison.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Oct. 20 > Critter Night with the SNF

Join Shawnee National Forest Service, Friends of the Shawnee and UNIMIN Minerals Inc. for an educational evening of activities and crafts centered on nocturnal animals at Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds in Jonesboro from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Visit a "bat Cave" and fun activity stations or walk a discovery trail around the pond. Free Again, Inc. will be presenting a live *Birds of Prey* program so bring a lawn chair or a blanket to enjoy this outdoor experience. For more details phone the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District at 618.833.8576.

### Oct. 27 > Tunnel Hill Trail Guided Van Tours

Senior citizens and those with limited mobility can explore a section of the Tunnel Hill State Trail. Registration is required and seating limited, so for more details or to register, phone 618.657.2064.

### Oct. 28 > Kincaid Mounds Archaeology Field Day

The Kincaid Mounds Archaeology Field Day program is scheduled for Saturday at the Kincaid Mounds Historic Site. Formal programs will start at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 2:00 p.m., with a walking tour to Mound 8. There will be Mississippian artifact displays. New this year is a display of native plants used by the people of Kincaid Mounds and a children's pottery workshop. The day's events are free of charge.

### Oct. 28 > Reptiles, Amphibians & Photography at Giant City

Join local photographer and reptile & amphibian enthusiast Jeremy Schumacher as he shares his love of our scaly and slippery friends. Jeremy will have a few different live species to show off as well as photography tips. For more info, phone 618.457.4836.

### Nov. 9 > Cache Annual Meeting

Come to the Carbondale Civic Center at 6:30 p.m. to hear featured speaker Dr. Greg Spyreas, plant ecologist and biologist with the IL Natural History Survey, will share the most current research on the impact of milkweeds on the survival of monarch butterflies. There will be refreshments, door prizes, Cache merchandise and updates on Friends of the Cache activities. Advance reservations requested. Phone Paula Havlik at 618.457.4836.

### Dec. 14 – Jan. 5 > Christmas Bird Count Season

Christmas Bird Count Season is less than two months away! This is the 117<sup>th</sup> year of the all-day census of winter bird populations, providing the longest running database in ornithology. The dates and details for local circles will follow in the Nov./Dec. Newsletter.

### May 19-26 > 30th Trinidad & Tobago Adventure

Join Nelda Hinckley and naturalist guides for an 8-day tour of this two-island nation. Experience a tropical evergreen rain forest, a mangrove, tide pools, and tropical deciduous forests. The tour will be based at the Blue Waters Inn in Tobago and the Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge in Trinidad.

For details, phone:

Nelda W. Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or email [neldahinckley@jalc.edu](mailto:neldahinckley@jalc.edu)

## In Memoriam: Marilyn Campbell

The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) lost a valued friend last month with the passing of Marilyn Campbell. Marilyn's commitment to IAS was enormous. She served on the IAS Board from 1988 to 1993, including serving as President for two years from 1992-1993. From 1994 to 2006 she served as the Executive Director for the Society and upon stepping down as ED, she became the editor of our magazine from 2006-2013.

Marilyn's first few years as Executive Director were focused on modernizing the Society – moving to a computer based accounting system, restructuring chapter qualifications, and rewriting our bylaws, policies and procedures. She also worked hard on improving relations between the Society and our Chapters. It was also during Marilyn's time as Executive Director that the Society expanded our niche to include land acquisition. Beginning in 1998 with the purchase of Karcher's Post Oak Woods Nature Preserve in Hamilton County, the Society would invest more than \$3,000,000 to acquire 15 parcels totaling 1,133 acres under Marilyn's tenure as Executive Director.

Marilyn was deeply committed to conservation. She was a birder as well but often spoke of the need for birders to get involved in conservation, "otherwise, we may one day have few birds to watch."

In 1992 Marilyn wrote, "Organizations have many members, but it is usually only a few who have true commitment to a dream..." For over 25 years, Marilyn had commitment to the dream that is the Illinois Audubon Society and birds, wildlife, and habitats in the state are better off as a result of her efforts.

*From IAS's website:*  
<https://illinoisaudubon.org/leader-illinois-conservation-remembered/>

## The Pebble Mine, Not This Again

EPA just struck a backroom deal with the mining industry that paves the way for the disastrous Pebble Mine. This toxic gold and copper mega-mine poses catastrophic risks to Alaska's spectacular Bristol Bay and its world-renowned salmon runs, abundant wildlife populations, and Native communities. More than 65% of Alaskans, 80% of Bristol Bay residents and Native communities, and 85% of commercial fishermen oppose the mine.

The Natural Resources Defense Council has a petition to stand with the people of Bristol Bay and prevail on President Trump and the EPA to stop the Pebble Mine.

Here's the link: <http://on.nrdc.org/2xLKnpd>

## It's Raining Meteors

The meteor showers listed below are the easiest to observe and provide the most activity. Particular attention should be noted to the time and moonlight conditions. All these showers are best seen after midnight. Some are not even visible until after midnight. Showers that peak with the moon's phase greater than one half illuminated (first quarter to last quarter) will be affected by moonlight and difficult to observe. While the time each shower is best seen remains much the same year after year, the moonlight conditions change considerably from one year to the next.

**Orionids** - Active from Sept. 23rd to Nov. 27th  
The Orionids are a medium strength shower that sometimes reaches high strength activity. In a normal year the Orionids produce 20-25 shower members at maximum. In exceptional years, such as 2006-2009, the peak rates were 50-75 per hour. Peak nights Oct. 21-22.

**Leonids** - Active from Nov. 5th to Nov. 30th  
The Leonids are best known for producing great meteor storms in the years of 1833, 1866, 1966, and 2001. It is not the fresh material we see from the comet, but rather debris from earlier returns that also happen to be most dense at the same time. The Leonids are often bright meteors with a high percentage of persistent trains. Peak nights Nov. 17-18.

**Geminids** - Active from Dec. 4th to Dec. 16th  
The Geminids are usually the strongest meteor shower of the year and meteor enthusiasts are certain to circle Dec. 13 and 14 on their calendars. This is the one major shower that provides good activity prior to midnight, as the constellation of Gemini is well placed from 10 p.m. onward. The Geminids are often bright and intensely colored. Due to their medium-slow velocity, persistent trains are not usually seen. These meteors are also seen in the southern hemisphere, but only during the middle of the night and at a reduced rate. Peak nights Dec 13-14.  
[www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/](http://www.amsmeteors.org/meteor-showers/meteor-shower-calendar/)

## Antarctica Still Losing Mass

A mysterious hole as big as the state of Maine has been spotted in Antarctica's winter sea ice cover. The hole was discovered by researchers about a month ago. The team, comprised of scientists from the University of Toronto and the Southern Ocean Carbon and Climate Observations and Modeling (SOCCOM) project, was monitoring the area with satellite technology after a similar hole opened last year.

And this past September an iceberg 3 times the size of Manhattan broke off Antarctica. The break comes two months after a 2,200 square-mile piece of ice detached from Antarctica in July. At nearly the size of Delaware, that iceberg was one of the largest ever recorded.

"The fact that the calving events have gotten a little more frequent is not a good sign," Chris Shuman of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center said. He adds there is no sign the trend is reversing.

Excerpts from USA Today.com & National Geographic.com

## Graduate Student Assisting in Clouded Leopard Reintroduction Study by Andrea Hahn

October 11, 2017 - Evan Greenspan, a graduate student in forestry at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, is part of a team conducting popular opinion surveys in Taiwan as an early step in the possible reintroduction of Taiwan's former major predator, the elusive and increasingly rare clouded leopard. The clouded leopard is a beautiful wild cat, weighing about 50 pounds at full growth and two to three feet long, with a tail to double its length.

According to a recent discovery, there are two species. The one native to Taiwan is the mainland species; the other is the Sunda clouded leopard, which lives exclusively in Sumatra and Borneo. Though the genetic difference is as much as that between a lion and a tiger, the two species bear close physical resemblance to each other. The range of the mainland species native to Taiwan covers the Southeast Asian rainforests and extends to the Himalayans in Nepal.

Greenspan's work is part of the "human dimension study" that is generally part of major reintroduction or policy changes in environmental conservation movements.

He had been a history teacher in Massachusetts. After four years of teaching, Greenspan quit, taking a year to travel from one conservation volunteer job to another, from Peru and Bolivia to Botswana and Thailand. He was "pretty broke" by the time he got to Thailand. So he stayed a while, making money playing saxophone and later, landing another teaching job. Meanwhile, he was writing letters to faculty members at various schools, seeking a way into conservation without the burden of earning a second bachelor's degree. "I wrote more than 200 letters," he said. "Most of the time I didn't get a response."

And then Anthony Giordano, founder of S.P.E.C.I.E.S. (the Society for the Preservation of Endangered Carnivores and their International Ecology Study) gave him a chance. "He told me about a project he wanted to develop that might suit my background - a clouded leopard reintroduction study," Greenspan said. "He suggested I write a scientific proposal. I didn't really know how to do that, and I was working, so it took me a few months. But I sent it to him. He said it showed commitment - so he'd help me fix the mistakes and go forward with it."

Going forward included becoming an SIU student working with Clay Nielsen, professor of wildlife ecology and conservation, a friend of Giordano. Greenspan was in Taiwan this past summer with Giordano and Nielsen overseeing the public attitudes survey. The survey includes rural populations in the areas near where the clouded leopards would be reintroduced, and urban populations. For the rural survey, Greenspan and the team visited towns and talked with the tribal leaders of indigenous people. The urban survey will be online.

"It was strange - everyone we talked to in Taiwan, every single person - knew what a clouded leopard is even though they are extinct there," Greenspan said. "But in Thailand, where clouded leopards still live, no one seemed to know what they are."

Greenspan left Taiwan with 258 surveys. He's starting to work through the data now and will continue when the urban population surveys are compiled. "This survey is in the early stages, so it's too early to draw conclusions," Greenspan said. "But it does seem so far that we have more positive feedback than negative, though reintroduction is not without controversy. And even if we have really positive support, reintroduction is still a ways off."

"Evan's research represents an important step in understanding reintroduction potential for large carnivores globally," Nielsen said. "This project fits well with my research program that associates human attitudes with ecological attributes of the animals themselves when conserving large carnivores."

Greenspan is excited to be part of the effort. "I expect to have all the data collected by December," he said, noting that his goal is publication of the study.

Excerpts from <http://news.siu.edu/2017/10/101117amh17090.php>



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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.)

**U of I Extension Forestry Seeking Volunteers**

U of I Extension Forestry at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center is seeking volunteers to assist with several projects. This would be a great opportunity to get some training and experience or just enjoy helping restore our forests and getting some fresh air! If you have any questions or you are interested in assisting with one or more of these programs, see contact info at end.

\*Bluebird house construction and monitoring program. We need people interested in constructing bluebird houses, and people to help monitor the nesting success of the bluebirds once they are established in the field.

\*Bat box construction and installation. Monitoring bat boxes for use and

counts once they are placed in the field. Two threatened and endangered bat species can be found in the vicinity of Dixon Springs Ag Center. Help us help the bats!

\*Native seed collection for prairie plantings and for assisting partner organizations in restoration and establishment of native plants. Includes collection of seeds, documenting locations, and processing seeds in preparation for planting.

\*Greenhouse maintenance and seed propagation for use in plantings and for outreach to promote interest in native plant gardening, landscaping, and restorations.

Kevin Rohling, Forestry Technician, 618.695.3383 or [krohling@illinois.edu](mailto:krohling@illinois.edu);  
 Chris Evans, Extension Forester, 618.695.3383 or [cwevans@illinois.edu](mailto:cwevans@illinois.edu)

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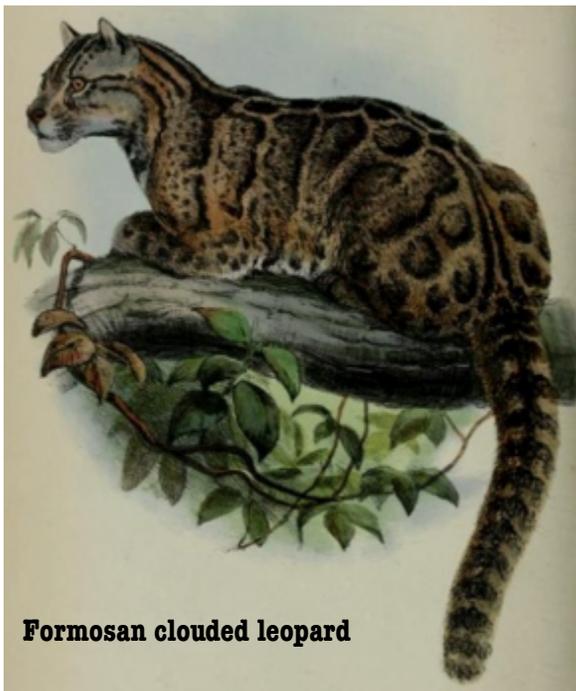
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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,  
 the Illinois Environmental Council,  
 & the North American Bluebird Society*



**Formosan clouded leopard**