



# Southern Illinois Audubon Society

## NEWSLETTER

September 2018 – Vol. 25 No. 6

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

Established in 1970

**Dog Sledding and Related Skills Learned as a Teen.** is the title of a program that Dr. George Waring will present for SIAS on Friday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. This presentation will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale

At the age of 13, George offered to work (without pay) during summers (and other school breaks) at a tourist site in the mountains of Colorado near the small town of Aspen. The site was "Toklat Wilderness Lodge and Husky Kennel" developed and operated by a man whom his parents knew as youngsters prior to World War II. George was quickly invited to become a part of that wilderness operation, and worked there four years whenever his hometown school was not in session. That job allowed young George to learn dog sledding plus numerous other skills and interests that have shaped his life and profession.

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 AZ that Dr. Waring offers to present free of charge. To view Dr. Waring's amazing list of topics visit his website at <http://mypage.siu.edu/waring/lecturetopics.html>



RPPC SLED DOG TEAM - Winter Snow Sled Scene with Huskies ca 1940s from a Vintage Postcard

### SIAS Fall Meeting Calendar

- October 26th** – David Brewer: An Evening at Magee Marsh with the Birds
- November/December-> Dec. 7th** – Yet To Be Announced
- January 25th** – Annual meeting with potluck, silent auction and All That Buzz: Southern Illinois Bee Keepers Association
- February 22nd** – Yet To Be Announced

### August Program Highlights: Views of the Unusual for Sure

Our friend John Schwegman presented a program of the most unusual images he has ever captured in the field during his biology and botany career at the August meeting.

There were images of deer in strange situations, fawns trying to imprint on John's knee and a doe choosing to hide in plain sight near some hikers as a better choice than howling hounds.

A cloud of loess in the air from a mud flat at the base of a glacier, exactly the scenario that resulted in fertile southern Illinois soils.

One of the most riveting images was the end, not of the show, but of an unfortunate raccoon that got his head caught in a tree opening and could not extract itself. It was hanging from the knothole when John photographed it. There were many other images with interesting behind the scene stories. I thought it was an entertaining sidelong glance at the ever-surprising world of nature.

*Joe Merkelbach, President*

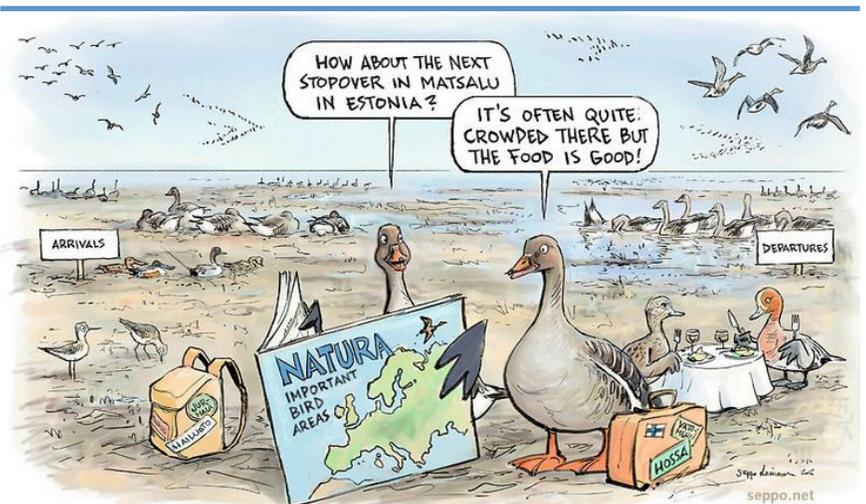
### Consider an Electronic Newsletter

Do you have good, reasonably fast internet access? Have you ever considered receiving your SIAS newsletter via email? Many folks now seem to prefer getting theirs electronically.

SIAS is more than happy to provide newsletters in paper copy form to members. Many folks like having the paper in hand. But as a way to be more earth friendly, SIAS does send out newsletters monthly via email.

If you'd like to try an electronic version, please send me an email at [woodthrusheola@hotmail.com](mailto:woodthrusheola@hotmail.com) I'll add you to the list. But, if after getting it via email you'd like to return to receiving a paper copy, we'll switch you back.

*-Rhonda R.*



## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Saturdays > Hike with a Naturalist at Giant City

On every Saturday in September and October, from 1-2:30 p.m., you can join in on a 1-2 mile, moderately difficult hike at Giant City State Park. Hikes will offer a detailed look at plants, animals, rocks and history of the amazing park. No registration is required. Participants are asked to meet at the Giant City Visitors Center, off Giant City Rd. For more details, phone 618.457.4836

### Sept. 29 > Refuge Clean Up at CONWR

This will be Crab Orchard NW Refuge's annual Refuge Clean-UP Day. For complete details, contact the Refuge at 618.998.5350.

### Sept. 30 > Wildlife & Wild Place Photo Contest

Sept 30 is the deadline for the Friends of Crab Orchard annual Wildlife and Wild Placed Photo Contest. For complete details visit the Friends' website at <http://www.friendsofconwr.com/poster-1.html>

### Oct. 2 > Uncovering a Legendary Lost City

For generations, tales of a city lost in the Honduran jungle were whispered about by explorers, archaeologists, gold prospectors, drug smugglers and geologists. While some claimed discovery, no proof was ever given. That is, until documentary filmmaker and SIU Carbondale alum Steve Elkins embarked on an effort that unearthed the legendary city and put Ciudad Blanca, the White City, back on the map.

Mr. Elkins will recount his experience as expedition leader and discoverer of the mysterious ancient city in a remote Honduran jungle at the SIUC Student Center Ballroom at 7 p.m. on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event is free and open to the public. A reception and book signing will follow the presentation in the Student Center International Lounge. For more info, contact Vanessa Sneed at 618.453.7419.

### Oct. 6 > eBird October Big Day

Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird citizen scientist project will be focusing birding on this one day to survey birds on their travels south. Going out all day or spend 10 minutes in your backyard counts. Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your sightings via their website or download the free eBird Mobile app. You can enter and submit lists while you're out birding, and the app will even keep track of how far you've walked. While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's Merlin Bird ID app for help with identification.

Watch the sightings roll in: During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world. Follow along with sightings from more than 100 countries. Stats will be updated in real-time on our October Big Day page. Visit this link for complete details <https://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-6-october-2018>

### Oct. 7 > Cache Fall Migration Mini Sit

The "Mini Sit" is a bird watching event with the objective to record as many bird species in the Cache River State Natural Area from 9:00am-noon! The event welcomes birdwatchers of all levels to sit back, relax, and enjoy fall migration. This is being approached as a team event. Teams need to pre-register by Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, so they can be assigned specific areas within the site. Each team will sit in their 17-foot diameter circle for 3 hours, tallying all the birds that they can identify by sight or sound. Data will be recorded on eBird. To register a team, contact the Wetland Center at 618.657.2064.

### Oct. 7 > Cache Fall Mini Sit con't.

There is no limit as to how many people can sit within the circle. "Mini Sit" participants may work in shifts, but one person must be in the circle throughout the sitting period. Visit the Wetland Center to learn which access points are open for counts. Bring a lawn chair, binoculars or a scope, and snacks to enjoy your morning. After the event, there will be a potluck lunch at the Wetland Center to learn what species were spotted. Feel free to bring a dish.

**SIAS Team Cuckoo.** Join Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, Rhonda Rothrock, and other SIASers tallying bird at the North Cypress Access. This area is at "the end of the road" in the upper Cache, east of Wildcat Bluff "as the crow flies"; at 37.376318, -88.971794.

Take IL Rt. 37 south from West Vienna or north from Cypress to Bear Branch Rd, turn south onto Bear Branch and follow it to Old Cypress Rd. Turn east/left onto Old Cypress and follow it to Snake Hole Ln. Turn south/right onto Snake Hole and follow it to Fain Ln. Turn east/left onto Fain and follow it straight east until it dead-ends at a parking lot. We'll be set up just a short hike down the marked trail near the pond. If you have questions phone Rhonda at 618.534.8659.

### Oct. 6 > Giant City Rocks!

Giant City State Park is known for its rocks formations. Join Geologist Joe Devers as he leads a geology hike on the popular Giant City Nature Trail and learn about the types of rocks and how they were formed. Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center at 10 a.m. Hike lasts until noon. No reservations required. For more details, phone 618.457.4836

### Oct. 20 > Guided Hike at Cedar Bluff

Take part in a fall hike at Cedar Bluff Natural Area, an annex of Ferne Clyffe St. Pk., from noon 'til 2 p.m. This area features bluffs more than 50 feet tall, rocky overhangs, a shelter case and Dramatic views of southernmost IL fall colors. For all details including meeting place, contact the Cache River Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

### Oct. 20 > Bald Knob Wilderness Volunteer Day

Learn about maintaining trails in wilderness areas. Join the Forest Service and Friends of the Shawnee in tending to Bald Knob Wilderness, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. This day will focus on gravel hauling. Tools and safety gear will be provided. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring water and a sack lunch. No experience necessary. **Due to limited parking, volunteers will me in downtown Alto Pass and carpool to the Godwin Trailhead.**

### "As the Crow Flies" Let's You Find the Distance

You can determine the distance between any two points on earth at the "As the Crow Flies" website. <http://tjpeiffer.com/crowflies.html> Just type in the location you want to start from as "point A" and the location you want to go to as "point B". The site will calculate the distance straight from one to the other.

If I could fly like a bird, I'd travel only 53 miles from my home on Hickory Ridge, Pomona to Ft. Massac State Park. By car that's 70 miles. "As the Crow Flies", I live only 4 miles from Oakwood Bottoms Green Tree Reservoir. It's interesting to know, especially if you can fly a plane. But, as they say (whoever they are), the journey is half the fun!

*-Rhonda R*

## Poetry in Motion: How Poets View the Birds

By Laraine Wright

I've been reading poetry since taking a college course on the Romantic poets. Hark! Here was Keats's nightingale. Much of classic bird-themed poetry concerns our yearning to fly or linking into the simplicities of nature. Stephen Vincent Benet actually opened a poem with "Lord, may I be/A sparrow in a tree."

Modern poets bring us many more insights into what birds can mean to us. These poets make me laugh, reveal powerful emotions, dig deep around inside my chest. I've just discovered "Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds" edited by poet Billy Collins (Columbia University Press, 2010). Listen to this, by the late Lucia Perillo, a former professor at SIUC:

### The Crows Start Demanding Royalties

Of all the birds, they are the ones  
who mind their being armless most:  
witness how, when they walk, their heads jerk  
back and forth like rifle bolts.  
How they heave their shoulders into each stride  
as if they hoped that by some chance  
new bones there would come popping out  
with a boxing glove on the end of each...  
What they'd like to do now is smash a phone against a wall.  
But they can't, so each one flies to a bare branch and screams.

After reading these words, we can never look at crows in any other way. Among the contemporary poets I most value for direct language about human relationships to other life on earth are Mary Oliver, Jim Harrison, Billy Collins, Donald Hall, and Jane Kenyon. Here is a confession by Harrison on his keeping a life list of birds:

Some men count women or the cars  
they've owned, their shirts...  
or shoes, but I have my birds...  
On my deathbed I'll write this secret  
number on a slip of paper and pass  
it to my wife and two daughters...I'll wonder  
if there's a bird waiting for me in the onrushing clouds.

The final word here goes to Ruth Schwartz, who writes of a mute swan ("one of your prissy richpeoples's swans") she spotted in the polluted fringe of Lake Erie. Instead of sitting on an estate pond, this swan

Prefers to curve its muscular, slightly grubby neck  
into the body of a Great Lake,  
Swilling whatever it is swans swill,  
Chardonnay of algae with bouquets of crud,  
While Clevelanders walk by saying  
Look at that big duck!

Don't we all cringe at our past (current, future)  
misidentification of birds, butterflies, trees, each other?  
Modern poetry is so wonderful for showing us ourselves  
in all our searching, valuing, loving, and also wandering  
without seeing the life around us.

## Your Comments Needed on the Shawnee National Forest Waterfall Stewardship Pilot Project

Your comments are sought by the Shawnee National Forest on the proposed Waterfall Stewardship Pilot Project. This proposed project includes forest management to improve the health and sustainability of oak-hickory ecosystem, improvement of wildlife habitat, and reduction/control of non-native species. The area for this proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of the forest in Jackson County. The area is north of Illinois Route 3, east of Illinois Route 151, south of Gum Ridge Road, and west of Buttermilk Hill. Information regarding this project is now available on the SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST website at [www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects](http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/shawnee/landmanagement/projects).

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or standing for administrative review.

Address written comments to Justin Dodson, Shawnee National Forest, Attn: Waterfall Project, 602 North First Street, Vienna, IL 62995, or fax comments to 618.658.1300, with "Waterfall Project" on the subject line, or email to: [comments-eastern-shawnee@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-shawnee@fs.fed.us), subject: Waterfall Project. Written comments also may be delivered in person to the above address between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Mon-Fri. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, organization represented and title (if applicable). Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf). For further information and/or copies contact the Forest at the above address, or Justin Dodson at 618.658.1316.

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## Combating the Bat Killing White-nose Syndrome

Bats are crucial to our nation's farmers and foresters, helping control pest insects such as beetles and locusts, and significantly reducing the amount of toxic pesticides that would otherwise be needed. Studies estimate bats save farmers at least \$3.7 billion per year in lost crop revenue and pesticide savings.

White-nose syndrome has killed millions of North American bats in recent years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is providing \$1 million in grant funds to 39 states and the District of Columbia to combat this bat killing disease.

First discovered in New York in the winter of 2006-2007, the white-nose fungus has now spread to at least 36 states and seven Canadian provinces and infects nine of the top 10 agricultural producing states.

Additional information about white-nose syndrome is available at [www.whitenosesyndrome.org/](http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/).

\* \* \* \* \*

## 26 Environmental Rules Being Rolled Back in the Trump Era

President Donald Trump's deregulatory agenda has pushed at least 26 environmental regulations issued during the Obama administration out of the queue. Some have been revoked completely, while others are in the process of being replaced by less stringent rules under the Trump administration.

Overtaken: Requirement for oil and gas companies to report methane emissions leaks; Rule that limits toxic emissions from industrial facilities; Rule that prohibits hydrofluorocarbons as replacements for ozone-depleting compounds; Proposed rule to reduce air pollutants from sewage treatment plants. See full list at: [www.bna.com/26-environmental-rules-n73014477330/](http://www.bna.com/26-environmental-rules-n73014477330/)

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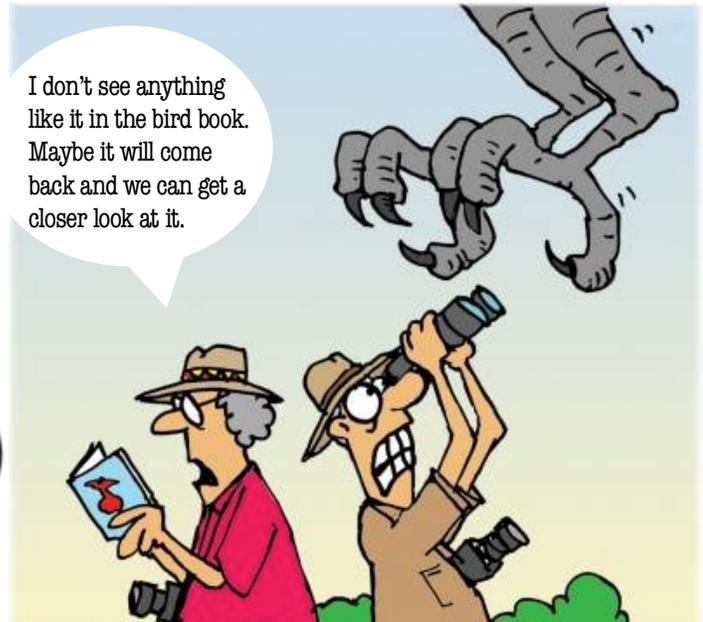
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contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.

### The Vetoed "Cat Bill" of 1949

Senate Bill 93, "An Act to Provide Protection to Insectivorous Birds by Restraining Cats", was placed before then Governor Adlai Stevenson who vetoed it. At the time Mr. Stevenson was know for his ability to "turn a phrase". He wryly noted, "to escort a cat abroad on a leash is against the nature of the cat...cats perform useful service...in combating rodents-work they necessarily perform alone and without regard to property lines."\*

Since then, Illinois has never enacted any law regarding the "restraining" of felines. Maybe it's ok if they're unleashed abroad but they ought to be restrained here at home in Illinois. (\*This is from the 100 Most Valuable Documents at the IL State Archive website.)

-Rhonda R.



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