



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

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

Established in 1970

An Evening at Magee Marsh with the Birds

On Friday, Oct. 26th at 7:00 p.m., spend an evening 'in the bush' with the migrating birds at Magee Marsh during peak spring migration in May 2018. This program is being presented by David Brewer and will have minimal narration and use high resolution imagery to permit the audience to do what birders do best: observe and identify particular species. Audience participation is encouraged, in the hope that experienced birders will share tips on identifying featured species with those of us who are not 'experts.' Over thirty species will be featured, with high resolution images projected, putting the audience 'in the bush', with magnification equal to the use of binoculars or a spotting scope, and permitting viewing of key features essential to species identification."

The presentation will take place in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale. This evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m.*

After retiring from the faculty of the SIU School of Medicine in 2006, David Brewer turned a hobby of Nature Photography into a small business in 2007. He specializes in species portraits and fine art prints. David currently has prints in collection in nine states, with a mix of corporate and private clients. He conducted a variety of workshops and presentation on imaging in general and nature imaging in particular.

**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.*



Image by David Brewer

Welcome New Members:

Welcome Elizabeth Klaver of Carbondale and Terry Werner of Carterville.

If you are a new member and were never formally welcomed, please forgive our oversight.

In Memoriam- Conrad Hinckley

Our good friend Conrad Hinckley, 83, died on Sept. 27. We send our condolences to Nelda, married 61 years, his two children and, among his four grandchildren, Trevor. We will miss Conrad greatly at our meetings and thank him for many years of hosting our former winter seed sales.

SIAS Fall Meeting Calendar

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 – To Be Announced

March 22nd – To Be Announced **April 26nd** – To Be Announced

Thousands of tons of plastics are being sent to landfills following China's ban on imported waste

The market for several types of recycled goods, most notably single-use plastic containers, is now gone. These materials are now being sent to landfills, even here in Southern Illinois. For the past 20 years, China has been the world's recycling bin, importing millions of tons of recyclable materials to use in manufacturing. But in January, it banned 24 types of solid waste, including plastics and unsorted scrap paper, to reduce the amount of foreign trash it imports. This has left an enormous gap for waste managers and municipalities across the globe, who have nowhere else but landfills to send certain plastics and papers.

It's hard to truly comprehend the scope of this problem. China has imported about 45 percent of the world's plastic waste since 1992, according to a study published in June by the journal Science Advances. In 2016, the U.S.A. sent 16 million tons of waste to China, or \$5.2 billion worth. Also that year, the United Kingdom shipped enough recyclables to China to fill 10,000 Olympic-size swimming pools, according to the New York Times. Exports of scrap plastic to China have plummeted in the past three years. In 2015, these exports were valued at more than \$300 million, but totaled only \$7.6 million in the first quarter of 2018, down 90% from the same quarter a year earlier.

Although some other countries are now accepting more plastics, total scrap plastic exports in the U.S.A. are still down by 40% so far this year. This regulatory change is affecting individuals, businesses, municipalities, states and nations. Arnaud Brunet, head of the Bureau of International Recycling, compared the ban to an "earthquake," the Huffington Post reported.

-from The Neighborhood Co-op's Morsel publication

September Program Highlights: On King! On you huskies!

Dr. George Weber took us on a memory tour back to the days of yesteryear for the September meeting of SIAS. When he was growing up in Denver he wrote a letter to Toklat Lodge in the Aspen region asking about a summer job with the dog training and adventure company in the mountains. When he got a positive answer back he took the idea to his parents and since they knew the Maces, the lodge proprietors, he was able to sign on. This was the beginning of first hand experience in wilderness observations that eventually lead to a career for George. Stuart Mace was a dog and soldier trainer for the 10th mountain division in Colorado during WWII, and when the war ended he obtained some of the dogs and equipment to begin a tourist and travel resort outside of Aspen. George signed on a few years after the business began and spent his out of school time at Toklat for several years. He did dog training and wrangling and took tourists on trips to the high country above the lodge.

The teams are made of Eskimo and Siberian huskies and Alaskan malamutes all bred for pulling sleds in the arctic. The lead dog has a good communication capability with the driver and skills at leading the team. Behind the lead are the pair of point dogs, then swing dogs and finally the strongest pullers, the wheel dogs, just in front of the sled. The dogs, and particularly the lead are controlled by verbal commands, no whips; with gee and haw for left and right and whoa for stopping. The command for starting is a word unique to sledding, hite, shouted vigorously and it gets the sled zipping along.

Stuart Mace had a fine reputation as a dog sledder and his location was the place for filming of many of the long distance scenes for Sgt. Preston of the Yukon, a 1950's television program. George was one of the mushers in long camera shots for the program; appearing with his fellow team handlers as villains or heroes as the scripts required. The lodge dog teams were the livestock for the series, except for "King" who was a true Hollywood dog with the ability to respond and act in relation to non-verbal cues.

The Toklat resort was famous for unusual menu meals; prepared by Isabel Mace as well as dog sledding. The resort buildings are now a part of the Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, a regional group that sponsors science research.

This was an enjoyable discussion of wilderness activities if not exactly wildlife centered, an interesting change of pace.

-Joe Merkelbach, President

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

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 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Saturdays > Hike with a Naturalist at Giant City

On Saturdays in October, from 1-2:30 p.m., you can join in on a 1-2 mile, moderately difficult hike at Giant City State Park offering a detailed look at plants, animals, rocks and history of the amazing park. Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center, off Giant City Rd. For details, phone 618.457.4836

Oct. 27 > Oakwood Bottoms Open-house Field Trip

This field trip is a follow-up to the Oct. 18 Open House held to discuss current conditions and future management and habitat restoration work in the Oakwood Bottoms project area. Meet at the Oakwood Bottoms interpretive site at 9 a.m. for a tour of sites within the Greentree Reservoir system with US Forest Service staff.

Nov. 10 & Dec. 8 > Travels with John Schwegman

On Nov. 10* take a "Springtime in the Rockies" slide tour of outstanding natural areas within vacation driving distance of southern Illinois. John Schwegman will guide this exploration the flora and fauna in North America. This slide tour includes a stop for prairie birds at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas and at Rocky Mountain National Park to see alpine tundra wildflowers and wildlife and at lower elevations plants like the rare Clustered Lady Slipper Orchid and the Dipper.

On Dec. 8 *enjoy "Winter Birding in South Florida" on this mini tour of outstanding natural areas within vacation driving distance of southern Illinois. John Schwegman will guide this slide tour to explore view the fresh water wetland birds of the Everglades and swamps as well as coastal wetlands and shore birds of the coastal areas. It will also looks at alien birds that have escaped and become established in the Miami suburbs.

***Both of these programs will be held at the Cache River Wetlands Center starting at 10 a.m. For more details, phone 618.657.2064.**

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

Nov. 17 > Wildcat Bluff Wander

Join conservation/education rep. Kimberly Rohling for a guided mile long hike along Wildcat Bluff Nature Preserve from 10-11:30 a.m. Hike along a hillside prairie with spectacular views of the Cache River basin and floodplain forest identifying resident wildlife and flora. The trail conditions may be wet along the way so wear appropriate footwear. Bring binoculars to help spot wildlife. Meet in the parking lot at Wildcat Bluff Access. For more info or to register, call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

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

Christmas Bird Count Season is less than two months away! This will be the 118th 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.

Seeing Birds As we say goodbye for the summer to all the lovely little songbird visitors, we prepare for the arrival of all the large waterfowl. But the bird that most recently caught everyone's attention was not supposed to be here at all, a brown pelican! A coastal species, it arrived at Crab Orchard NWR Lake, around The 1st of October and was still present as of the 13th. But it was not the only brown pelican that decided to visit Illinois, another has spent weeks at Carlyle Lake and was still present at Carlyle when the other showed up at Crab Orchard. One-third smaller than an American white pelican, its presence was no less substantial.

"A wonderful bird is the Pelican. His beak can hold more than his belly can. He can hold in his beak enough food for a week! But I'll be darned if I know how the hellican?"-Dixon Lanier Merritt

