



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

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

March 2019 – Vol. 26 No. 3

Established in 1970

"A Naturalist Trip to Newfoundland and the Gaspé Peninsula" is the title of program John Schweman will present to SIAS on Friday, March 22nd at 7 p.m. **And note, because of a scheduling conflict, we will be going back to the First United Methodist Church, 214 W. Main St., Carbondale on this evening for this presentation.**

John's program will take us on a trip to Acacia National Park, Maine and the Bay of Fundy before boarding the auto ferry at Sydney Nova Scotia for the 6 hour overnight car ferry ride out to Newfoundland. Then John will take us on a drive north up the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland to examine the coastal herbaceous vegetation, bogs, and boreal forests of this island province of Canada. Along the way we will examine a dead whale washed up along the shore and watch icebergs floating south on the Labrador current. The destination is the limestone barrens of Cape Norman at the very north point of Newfoundland where we will see coastal tundra, and pockets of unique vegetation in depressions that include orchids adapted to this extreme cold climate. We will then visit the nearby archaeology site of L'Anse aux Meadows where Norsemen established a village on North America 400 years before Columbus "discovered" it. We then return to the mainland and visit the Gaspé to see Bonaventure Island, a large sea bird nesting colony with many nesting Northern Gannets and other sea birds.

John is a lifelong naturalist who had a long career as a botanist with the IL Dept. of Conservation and IL Dept. of Natural Resources. He was instrumental in forming the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and continues to serve on the board. John's wife Martha and his sons (when they were young) often accompanied John on various treks throughout the state and the county. Since John's retirement, John and Martha have continued to study wildlife, including mussels, dragonflies, birds and plants.



Sod house restoration at L'Anse aux Meadows, Canada.



First view of Newfoundland with cotton sedge.

Spring Meeting Calendar

April 26th – Member Show and Tell!! (at Carbondale Township Hall)

May – SIAS picnic; date and location to be announced

June & July – No programs, enjoy nature's summer!

All About Birds – Golden-winged Warbler

One of nature's boldest, most striking neotropical songbirds, the golden-winged warbler breeds in the upper Great Lakes states and the Appalachians. Males sing prolifically in spring with a high, buzzy "bee-buzz-buzz-buzz." For breeding habitat, they use mosaics of shrubby, open areas and mature forests. Sadly, their populations have plummeted 66% since the 1960s. The Appalachian region population is down 98%. Cornell Lab of Ornithology and partners are working to create additional habitat for golden-wing warblers. For more details on this species or others, visit Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website: allaboutbirds.org.



Upcoming Events & Activities

Mar. 20 > 1st Day of Spring Full Moon Hike

It's the 1st official day of spring and what better way to enjoy it than a hike under the magical glow of the full moon. Listen for the occasional call of the barred owl and the chirps of the spring peeper frogs as we hike along the 1/3 mile Stonefort Trail at Giant City St. Park. For more information or to register, please call the Visitors Center at 618.457.4836.

Mar. 23 > Native Tree & Shrub Sale

Keep Carbondale Beautiful is partnering with Forrest Keeling and Tabor Nursery to provide tree and shrub species appropriate to our region. This sale will be held at the Carbondale Town Square Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for more details, phone Sarah Heyer at 618.525.5525

Mar. 23 > Hike with a Homeless Dog

Giant City St. Park is partnering with Wright Way Animal Rescue to get four legged and two legged friends out for a hike together. Folks will have the opportunity to walk either the moderate 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail or the easy 1/3-mile Devil's Standtable Trail. The 1st hike will run from 10-11 a.m., the 2nd hike will run from 11 a.m.-noon. Registration is required. Phone the Giant City Visitors Center at 618.457.4836 for all details.

Mar. 30 > Beginning Birding Basics

Master Naturalist Anne Parmley will offer bird watching basics, concentrating on the field marks and sounds of common southern Illinois birds. An optional hike will follow, weather permitting. This program will be held at the Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 State Rt. 37 S, Cypress, from 9-11 a.m. For more info, call the Center at 618.657.2064.

Mar. 30 > Earth Hour 2019

Turn out your lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. for Earth Hour and spend a moment in darkness pondering the world's future for the world's future.

Apr. 5-7 > Indigenous Plants Symposium

The IL Native Plant Society Southern chapter's 2019 Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium is scheduled for April 5-7 at John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL. The event will include a keynote speaker, workshops, guided hikes and a native plant sale. For more details or to register, visit www.ill-inps.org

Apr. 6 > Native Plant Sale

The Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter and Carbondale GreenEarth are sponsoring this opportunity to purchase high quality nursery stock native perennial wildflowers, ferns, grasses, and shrubs. These plants were grown locally at Southernwood Gardens, in Alto Pass. The sale will take place outside at John A. Logan College, Carterville, Building H, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Look for signs showing way to building.

Apr. 11 > Movie Night at the Cache

Join the folks at the Cache River Wetlands Center, 8885 State Rt. 37 S, Cypress, for the 4th of their monthly Move Night features. They'll be screening Flight School. This movie tells the story of efforts to start a new flock of the rare and endangered whooping crane.

This year there is the option of viewing either a 3-4 p.m. matinee or a 6-7 p.m. evening screening. For more info, call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064.

In 1951 eighteen nesting pairs of Bermuda petrels, a bird thought to be extinct for 330 years, was discovered in Bermuda.

Apr. 27 > 18th Annual Birding Blitz of Southernmost IL

Hard to believe that this will be the 18th Birding Blitz! Consider joining the fun and spend April 27th birding in the midst of southernmost IL's amazing spring migration while also supporting habitat restoration and preservation in the Cache River Watershed. It's a doubly good thing!

Choose a category that best suits your team from a list of five: Open A / The Big Day; Open B / Dawn to Dusk - a more relaxed day of birding; County Big Day - spend the whole day birding in your favorite southernmost IL county; Muscle-powered - non-motorized birding; and last but not least the Senior / 55+ category - for the young at heart.

An awards brunch will be held at the Crab Orchard NW R Visitors' Center the morning of April 28th. The awards brunch is open to the public as a way for future competitors and non-birders alike to experience the camaraderie that exists between participants as well as meet other birders and possibly pick up some tips on birding, rare bird sightings and birding spots.

Visit the Birding Blitz website <http://www.birdingblitz.org> to view full details about the categories where you can find links to the rules, and pledge and registration forms. Or follow the Blitz on our Facebook page for where forms will be available too.

www.facebook.com/groups/317666471615613/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

If you would like to help the cause but prefer not to participate, please consider pledging to a competing team. Pledges can be made per species seen or in a lump donation. Or you can donate to the Friends of Cache River Watershed in support of all teams. Past donations have helped in the construction of the Michael Wolff Wetlands and in the acquisition of 80 acres of additional wetlands along the Cache corridor.

The Birding Blitz is coordinated by the Southern IL Audubon Society.

May 4 & 5 > Spring Bird Count(s) - Your Help Needed!

The Spring Bird Count(s) takes place on Saturday, May 4th and Sunday, May 5th. If you're not available to help the full day, consider feeder watching for two hours. Below are some of the local counts and compiler contact information.

Alexander County, 05/04: Allen Gathman agathman@gmail.com
Jackson County, 05/04: Rhonda Rothrock woodthrusheola@hotmail.com
Massac County, 05/04: Frank Bennett? frankbennett@gmail.com
Pulaski County, 05/05: Rhonda Rothrock woodthrusheola@hotmail.com
Pope County, 05/05?: Andrea Douglas anderatd@yahoo.com
Saline County, 05/04?: Tara Beveroth beveroth@illinois.edu
Union County, 05/04: Vern Kleen vkleen@comcast.net
Williamson County, 05/04: Vicki Lang-Mendenhall vickil@siu.edu

May 17-19 > IAS 2019 Spring Gathering

Register now for the IL Audubon Society's (IAS) Spring Gathering "Birding By The Big Lake". The event is being hosted by the Lake-Cook Chapter and will include 26 field trips, top-notch programs, great food, awesome auction and of course, old friends and new. For more details or to register, visit: <https://illinoisaudubon.org/annual-spring-gathering/>

31st Trinidad & Tobago Adventure - May 18-25

Join Nelda Hinckley and other naturalist guides for a tour of this two-island nation. Stay at the 200-acre, world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge. Land cost includes all meals, lodging, and field trips with naturalist guide).

Contact: Nelda W. Hinckley at 618.549.5588 or neldahinckley@jalc.edu

Presidents 2020 Budget Would Cut Broad Set of Public Services

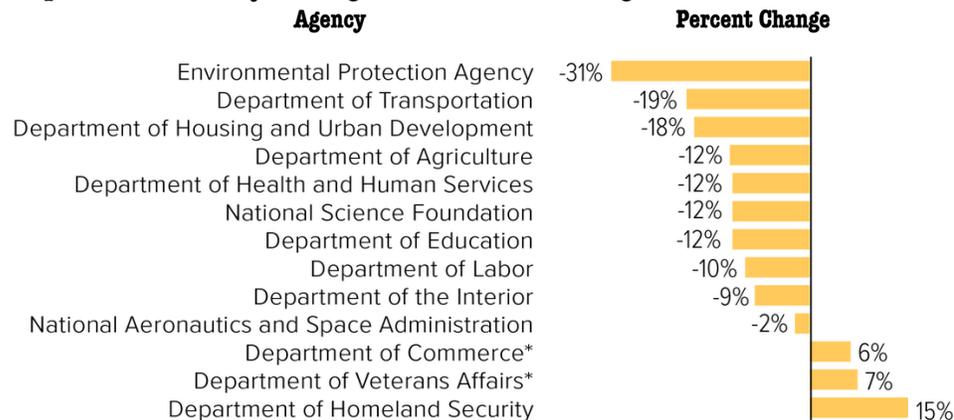
President Donald Trump released his budget for fiscal year 2020 on Monday, to a general outcry from environmental groups who say it underfunds key programs and agencies. EcoWatch has already reported on its biggest ask — \$8.6 billion in funding for a border wall that would threaten borderland wildlife and communities — but the budget has been equally criticized for what it would cut, including a 31% decrease in funding for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a nine to 14% decrease for the Dept. of the Interior (DOI).

"In the face of a nationwide drinking water contamination crisis, a broken chemical safety net, and devastating hurricanes and wildfires, a rational and concerned president would seek more funding to protect Americans' health, keep our environment clean, and combat the threat of catastrophic climate change," Environmental Working Group President Ken Cook said in a statement about the budget. Here are some of the programs the president would like to ax.

1. **Endangered Species Funding:** The budget for adding new species to the endangered species list would be cut by about 50%, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) said, while funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service overall would fall by 16% compared to 2019 levels.
2. **The Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The popular Land and Water Conservation Fund uses money from offshore oil and gas drilling to create national parks, wildlife refuges and protected areas. It was re-authorized in a bipartisan public lands bill that Trump is expected to sign, yet his budget would reduce its funds by 95%, the Huffington Post reported.
3. **The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:** Among the many potential EPA cuts, the Trump administration wants to massively reduce funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which works to restore wetlands and improve water quality. The budget wants to cut \$270 million of \$300 million in funding, but the Detroit Free Press notes this plan is unlikely to pass Congress because it is popular with both Republicans and Democrats representing Midwestern states. Cuts proposed to the program over the last two years were also voted down.
4. **Climate Change Prevention and Research:** Many plans to study or deal with climate change would see cuts, Pacific Standard reported. Those include a 90% funding decrease for the EPA's Atmospheric Protection Program, which reports on greenhouse gasses, and a 70% funding decrease for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Excerpts from: www.ecowatch.com/trump-budget-cuts-2020-2631384803.html

Proposed Discretionary Funding for Various Domestic Agencies Relative to FY 2019 Level



Note: In 2019 and 2020, funding levels include disasters, wildfire suppression, and HUD receipts.

*The increase for the Department of Commerce is due to funding for the 2020 decennial census. The Veterans Affairs funding increase is due in large part to rising health care costs and the implementation of the 2018 MISSION Act, which increases veterans' access to health care outside of VA facilities.

Source: CBO for 2019 funding, OMB for 2020 request

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

IDNR Awards Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants to Schools

Privately funded program will assist more than 6,500 pre-kindergarten through high school students in learning about Illinois' Natural Heritage.

More than 6,500 students will visit Illinois state parks, natural areas, museums and other natural resources sites this year, including the Cache River Wetlands and Touch of Nature, to learn about nature and conservation thanks to grant funding through the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director Colleen Callahan today announced the awarding of more than \$88,000 in donated funds for 100 field trip grants. Winners represented 36 counties in the state. Grant recipients are located throughout Illinois.

The entire \$88,815.13 being awarded for 2019 was made possible by private donations from the Independence Tube Corporation of Bedford Park, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation of Skokie and the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation of Wilmington. The donations and funding for the grants are coordinated by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF).

The competitive grant program allows Illinois teachers to apply for funds to take students on a field trip to study Illinois' biodiversity. Learning activities must directly relate to the school's curriculum. For more information about the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program, contact the IDNR Division of Education at dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov or 217-524-4126. The Illinois Conservation Foundation gladly accepts donations for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant Program. For a list of this year's grant recipients, check the IDNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Documents/IBFTGAwards2019.pdf.

The 2020 application form will be available soon at www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/GrantsIBFTG.aspx.

The Dangers of Osprey and Baling Twine – During the spring and summer in Montana, osprey fly, fish, perch, and nest along lakes, rivers, and streams. Until 1972, the pesticide DDT nearly wiped out osprey. Although their population is recovering, they face a new deadly challenge – baling twine. Osprey build stick nests and line the cup-shaped interiors with finer material like grasses weeds, mosses, and baling twine. Unfortunately, osprey, especially chicks, get tangled in the baling twine and may even end up dangling below the nest when they try to fly.

To keep baling twine and similar materials (plastic shopping bags, six-pack rings, fishing line, etc.) out of the nests of osprey, and other bird species, pick up all used twine and materials, store used materials in buildings or garbage cans with secure lids, dispose of old baling twine and similar materials safely out of the reach of birds, and share this information with friends and neighbors.

-from NorthWesternEnergy.com

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 _____
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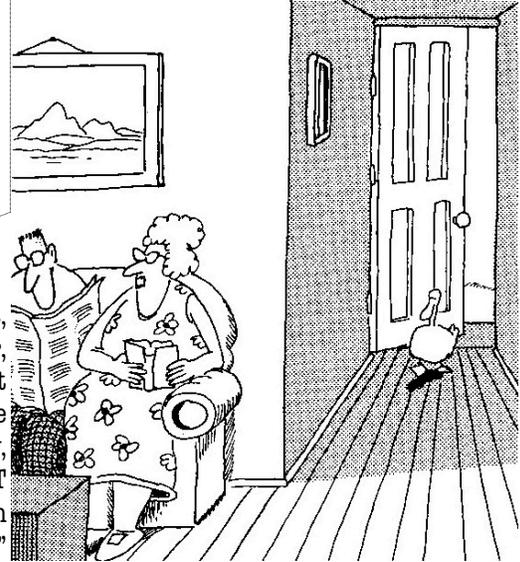
**Mail to: Southern Illinois Audubon Society
 Attn: Membership
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I/We would like to received our newsletter via email: YES / NO
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.

Will The Mississippi River Top Record Floodstage This Spring?

The National Weather Service office in St. Louis is predicting a well above normal (average) flood chance along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers this spring. The weather service, in its spring 2019 flood outlook has noted that there has been more than three months of above-average precipitation across Missouri and Illinois. All of that water makes it down tributaries and streams then into the Mississippi. Factor in Typical snow depths in northern states and along the Missouri River basin and conditions look favorable for significant flooding, particularly if spring rains are above the seasonal average. None-the-less, whether flooding will reach record-setting heights is not being predicted, at least not yet. -*excerpts from Country Journal Vol 40 #10, journalist Larry Willis*



“Here he comes, Earl ...Remember, be gentle but firm...we are absolutely, positively, NOT driving him north this spring.”

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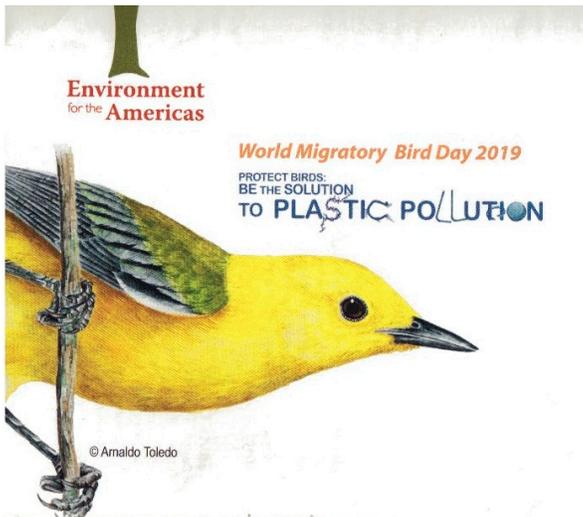
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*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
 the Illinois Environmental Council,
 & the North American Bluebird Society*



The accumulation of plastic and plastic pollution has become a worldwide epidemic and a primary threat to birds across the globe. This year’s World Migratory Bird Day theme is –
Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.