



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

NEWSLETTER

August 2022 - Vol. 29 No. 6

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

Established in 1970



Dr. Jeff Hoover Capturing Prothonotary Warbler

Forest Management Effects on Breeding Bird Abundances

Dr. Jeff Hoover will discuss how forest management has mostly positive or neutral effects on breeding bird abundances during this virtual* program for SIAS on

Friday, August 26th at 7 P.M. See Zoom invite and instructions below and to the left.

Dr. Jeff Hoover and his students have taken some steps up and out of the swamplands of deep southernmost Illinois and are now studying the process and effects of natural/unnatural succession in the forests of Illinois. Birds are good indicator species of habitat health and relatively easy to observe both visually and aurally, so their populations are a means of reviewing forest health.

The secondary regrowth of forests, at least in southernmost Illinois, has proceeded through a stage of mature oak and hickory with plenty of mast (acorns and nuts) for wildlife towards a generation of maples and beeches with less species diversity and mast potential. This tendency of deep shading determining which trees come to dominate the mature forest has been, mostly inadvertently, brought about by consistent human suppression of forest fires. This has made the occurrence of closed densely shaded forest canopies more uniform and universal.

Jeff and his crew of graduate students are using point count censusing to evaluate population density for four grades of evaluated habitats. Untreated areas are used as a control and lightly thinned and burnt, burnt at extended intervals, and burnt at frequent intervals are the four categories. The burns are not exactly uniform in character as some portions of the tracts are drier or wetter depending on topography. The bird species involved are all of those that are detected as breeding in the forest and typically include 50-70 species at a given site. These species represent guilds of birds that nest and/or forage in different strata within the forest.

Dr. Jeff Hoover, Avian Ecologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey at the University of Illinois, is no stranger to southernmost Illinois. For 11+ years Jeff has been studying breeding populations of prothonotary warblers in the Cache River Wetlands. His research has yielded information from >3,000 individually marked adults, >6,000 nesting attempts, >5,500 offspring produced and represents one of the most detailed and extensive data sets ever recorded for a migratory passerine.

All SIAS members should take a short period of time to visit the zoom website and join before Friday so that accessing will be painless for the meeting. It is free to all to join to view and participate in meetings and SIAS is now an official license holder to schedule and run meetings.

-Joe Merkelbach, President

***Instructions for signing into the August SIAS Zoom presentation:**

Time: August 26, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81034063019?pwd=K1gyMEJiV DdHWkVzRFV1NTg4QU1wdz09>

If you have to type in the link, use this shortened version:

<https://tinyurl.com/4jt8wnk3>

Meeting ID: 810 3406 3019 Passcode: 255374

Dial in by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Dial-ins, be prepared to provide the following Meeting ID & Passcode

Meeting ID: 810 3406 3019 Passcode: 255374

Or find your local number at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81034063019>

SIAS Meeting & Program Calendar

Sept. 23rd Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Tara Kate Robinson

Oct. 28th Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Kelly McKay

Nov./Dec. combined meeting (to avoid holiday conflicts) on

Dec. 2nd Zoom presentation/meeting at 7pm; Speaker: Tara Beveroth

Jan. 27th Annual meeting, program, and possible potluck

Natural Areas Fire and Disturbance

Most research natural areas would benefit from periodic burning. Fire is needed to maintain unique habitats such as barrens, glades, and oak savannas. Many threatened, endangered, and sensitive species are dependent upon the renewing effects of fire to ensure their survival. The detrimental effects of the lack of fire on grassland species, shortleaf pine, and other barren species have been documented.

-Dr. Michael Jeffords, *Natural Areas of the Shawnee National Forest*, circa 2011.

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What Happening in Southernmost IL...

...besides native plants going to seed and swallows staging

Reptiles in the Neighborhood in the Cache

Sat., Aug. 27th, 1 p.m., at the Cache River Wetland's Ctr.

Join reptile enthusiast Tony Gerard for an up-close look at snakes, skinks, lizards, and turtles highlighting characteristics of reptiles found in southern Illinois. The program concludes with an optional guided hike to Todd Fink-Heron Pond Trail. Indoor presentation at the Wetlands Center begins promptly at 1pm. To reserve your spot on, call IDNR Natural Resource Coordinator Molie Oliver at 618.657.6064.

Crab Orchard NWR 75th Anniversary Photo Contest

Join the Friends of Crab Orchard NWR in celebrating CONWR's 75th Anniversary by sharing your best ever pictures taken on the refuge. Join the "Friends of CONWR and Photography," Facebook page for full instructions and to participate.

<https://tinyurl.com/2rd4k6mx> Choose up to five of your best ever pictures taken on the refuge. Photos should be posted on the Friends of CONWR and Photography Facebook page between September 1st and September 30th.

2nd Saturday Monthly Birding with SIAS

Sept. 10th Outing at Bogart Point, CONWR, 9:00-11:00 AM

Directions (from Carbondale, IL Rt. 13): Take IL-13 east to S Division St in Carterville, turn right/south onto Division. Take Division to Old Rt. 13 then turn left/east. Take Old Rt. 13 to N Wolf Creek Rd. Turn right/south onto N Wolf Creek Rd. Continue south to the causeway. Turn left/west into parking lot. Take to the point
NOTE—Day use passes are required on Crab Orchard Refuge and can be purchased at the Headquarters Bldg. Purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp for \$25 provides the bearer with a year pass to the Refuge. For seniors over 62, a lifetime recreation pass is \$80.

SIAS Bird Blitzer's Big Site for IOS

Sept. 25th all day, location to be announced

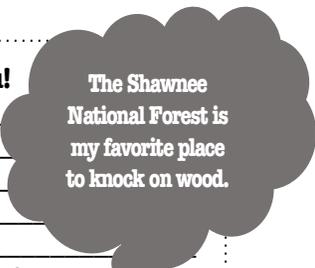
Please come join Vicki Lang and Rhonda Rothrock for a Big Sit on Sunday, Sept. 25th. We still haven't decided where but we'll be there from sunrise to sunset in our attempt to identify and count as many bird species as we can from a stationary, 20-foot diameter, area. This is a fundraiser for the Illinois Ornithological Society's (IOS) Grant Program funding state-wide avian studies.

To learn about the IOS Big Sit, visit the site on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/5422454247834459>

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, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

I/We would like to receive our newsletter via email: YES / NO
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.



Gifford Pinchot

Gifford Pinchot, was born on August 11, 1865, in Simsbury, Connecticut. His family were well-off upper-class merchants, politicians, and land owners. When he entered Yale in 1885, his father asked, "How would you like to be a forester?" At the time, no American had made forestry a profession. Pinchot stated, "I had no more conception of what it meant to be a forester than the man in the moon...But at least a forester worked in the woods and with the woods – and I loved the woods and everything about them...My Father's suggestion settled the question in favor of forestry."

The management of the forest reserves was transferred from the Dept. of the Interior to the Dept. of Agriculture and the new Forest Service in 1905. The chief, or forester, of the new Forest Service was Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot, with Roosevelt's approval, restructured and professionalized the management of the national forests, as well as greatly increased their area and number. He had a strong hand in guiding the fledgling organization toward the utilitarian philosophy of the "greatest good for the greatest number." Pinchot added "in the long run" to emphasize that forest management consists of long-term decisions.

During his period in office, the Forest Service and the national forests grew from 60 units covering 56 million acres in 1905 to 150 national forests covering 172 million acres in 1910. The pattern of effective organization and management was set during Pinchot's administration, and "conservation" of natural resources in the broad sense of wise use became a widely known concept and an accepted national goal.

<https://foresthistor.org/research-explore/us-forest-service-history/people/chiefs/gifford-pinchot-1865-1946>

I'm Against Logging! – *It's not that simple, nothing is.*

Many people are quick to say "I'm against logging!" If it were only that simple, but it's not. No one wants trees cut yet we all use wood, wood products, and recycled wood products daily, continually.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, 90% of homes built in 2019 were wood-framed. Plus, flooring is laid over wood plywood sheathing or similar wood composite materials. Roofing is supported by plywood sheathing. Doorways, doors, and decks are wood or wood composite. Need to add a bedroom or cozy den? That would most likely be wood framed as well.

According to the USDA (yes, the U.S. Forest Services' Dept of Ag.) "Collectively, Americans use 10 to 15 billion cubic feet (more than 100 million tons) of wood each year in the form of wood and paper products as well as wood for energy. With more than 313 million people in the US, that translates to roughly 640 pounds of wood per person each year, or 1.75 pounds of wood per person each day."

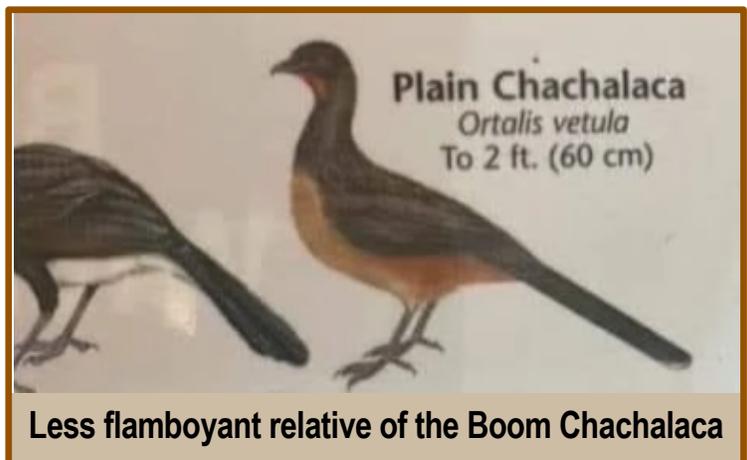
Look around your home. Cabinets-wood, closets-wood, and furniture-wood or wood framed covered in cloth or other material. These are just the big, visible pieces of wood or wood composite materials. Then there are knife and tool handles, carpet backing, food cartons, and tea bags. And don't forget all the chemicals made from wood including "natural" dyes, scented oils, and herbal treatments.

Many folks use wood burning stoves or fireplaces for heat in the winter. Burning wood in stoves helps keep the winter electricity bills low. This wood could be considered salvage as many folks chop up dead logs and branches but by burning wood, sequestered carbon stored in wood is released.

And, yes, there is sustainable wood. The general definition of sustainable wood is wood obtained legally and gathered in ways that protect other existing trees in the forest, as well as waterways, wildlife, and the environment in which the wood was harvested. In a sustainable lumbering practice, new seedlings are planted faster than trees are removed. There is a Forest Stewardship Council certification that confirms the forest is being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people and workers, while ensuring it sustains economic viability.

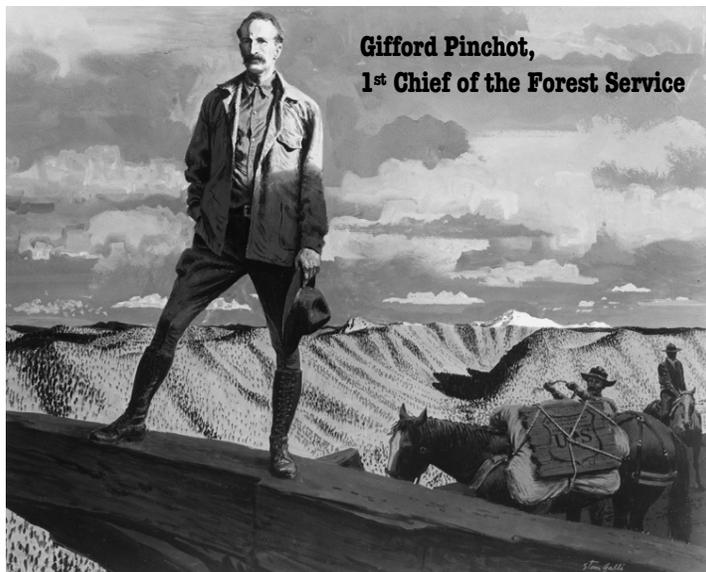
The definition of logging can mean the industry or the process. We can all say we're "against logging" but none of us are really in a position to throw the baby out with the bath water. -*Rhonda R.*

In a 2019 Guardian article "Concrete: the most destructive material on Earth" journalists stated that if the concrete industry were a country, it would be the 3rd largest carbon dioxide emitter in the world, surpassed only by China and the U.S.A.
<https://tinyurl.com/wf82dr3k>



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



**Gifford Pinchot,
 1st Chief of the Forest Service**