



Southern Illinois Audubon Society Newsletter

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Southern Illinois
Audubon Society (SIAS)
P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL
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Established in 1970

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SIAS is the sponsor of
*The Birding Blitz of
Southernmost Illinois*
Over 22 years of
team birding for a cause!

Details can be found at:
[www.facebook.com/groups/
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Greetings Southern Illinois Audubon members and supporters!

Hope you had a great summer and have enjoyed the cool spell in early August. We will be resuming our meetings and programs at the Carbondale Town Hall on Fridays but with one twist.

EFFECTIVE IN AUGUST OF 2024, ALL OUR MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 6 P.M.

Our potlucks will also start at 6 p.m., with the program beginning at 7 p.m. We will continue with a spring and fall picnic, our next one scheduled for Sunday September 22. I would love to hear from anyone regarding feedback on Southern Illinois Audubon Society.

Do the programs interest you, do you enjoy the potlucks or picnics? Do you have any requests for outings? Do you have ideas on how to increase membership?

Please feel free to call me at 618.697.9878 or e-mail at vickil#siu.edu. Hope to see you at the August, 23 6pm Bahamas program. - *Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, President*



Ornithologist Dr. Mike Baltz will provide an historical and ecological overview of the birds of The Bahamas as well as discuss conservation efforts on the islands. Dr. Baltz's presentation will start at our new meeting time of 6 P.M., in the meeting room at Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St. Carbondale. Entrance to the Township Hall is from the rear of the building (216. E. Monroe St.) where two parking lots are available for use. Mask wearing is welcome but not required.

Dr. Baltz has a PhD in avian ecology from the University of Missouri. He lived and worked in The Bahamas and has studied and written extensively about West Indian birds, with an emphasis on neotropical migrants overwintering in the West Indies. While working for The Nature Conservancy, Dr. Baltz was part of a scientific team that helped establish a system of National Parks on Andros Island, Bahamas. Dr. Baltz has lived in Carbondale for over 20 years with his wife and two children.

Dr. Baltz will give details of a birding trip he will be leading to Andros Island, January 18-25th, 2025.

SIAS Upcoming Meeting Calendar

September 22nd- SIAS Fall Picnic and IOS Big Sit at Evergreen Park, Carbondale

September 27th- Mollie Oliver – Update on Cache River Restoration

October 25th- Program to be announced

December 6th- Nov/Dec combined mtg. Program to be announced.

January 24th- Annual Meeting and Potluck. Program to be announced

Monthly Brown Bag Birding & Socializing

Mark your calendar for the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m.! Meet at Red Oak Pavilion located in Evergreen Park, Carbondale. We sit under a pavilion, so lunch happens rain or shine. Please bring your lunch, drink, binoculars and conversations. Everyone welcome, 09/10, 10/08, & 11/12.

Directions (from IL Rt. 51/ South Illinois Ave.) Take IL Rt. 51 south from Carbondale to stop-light intersection with Pleasant Hill Rd, turn west onto Pleasant Hill Rd, follow it to Evergreen Park's western most park entrance then turn south next look for Red Oak Pavilion on right. For more information contact Kathryn Jenkel at katjenkel@yahoo.com or 618.559.2908.

Treasurer Wanted – After many many years of faithful service, our treasurer Laraine Wright, is ready to pass the role on to another. If you would be willing and able, please contact Laraine or any Board Member!

What's Happening in Southernmost IL...

...migrating warblers are arriving with their hearts full of song

Friends of the Cache River Watershed Annual Mtg.

Thursday, Aug. 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.

At the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale. Guest speaker Jessica Mohlman, Asst. Scientist (Wildlife Ecology) & Research Coordinator for the National Great Rivers Research & Education Ctr., will show a video and answer questions about her research on the state-threatened bird-voiced treefrog.

There will be snacks, door prizes, and merchandise for sale.

Fall Trash Blasts on the Shawnee National Forest

First Friday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Sept. thru Nov.

The USDA SNF Forest Service, Friends of the Shawnee, and the IL Extension Office will partner to host these annual fall Trash Blasts, at various locations in the Shawnee National Forest.

Attendees will break into small teams of volunteers to collect litter from selected sites. No matter what we find, we try to remove it to help restore the area to its natural state. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, bring their leather work gloves, wear long pants, and closed-toed shoes. If you do not have leather gloves we can help provide them for you. This event is limited to 30 participants. For more info, contact Anne Townsen at cupquake@illinois.edu Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9876ux>

Monthly Birding with SIAS at Evergreen Park

Starting: Saturday, Oct. 12th & Nov. 9th, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Meet at the Red Oak Shelter that sets along Carbondale Reservoir lake in Evergreen Park on the south side of Carbondale.

SIAS Fall Picnic & IOS Big Sit, Sept. 22nd at Evergreen Park, Carbondale

SIAS will have a Fall Picnic at Black Locust Shelter, Evergreen Park, Carbondale on Sept. 22nd! Arrive at noon for set up and socializing. We plan to eat at 1 p.m. Meat and meatless hotdogs will be on the menu and some beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or desert, to share, your own plates, utensils, and beverages. Grillers needed!

The SIAS Boom-Shakalaka Chachalacas will glide again...in the all-day IOS Fall Big Sit fundraiser to be held Sunday Sept. 22th at Evergreen Park, Carbondale on picnic day! Join Vicki Lang, Kimberly Rohling, and Rhonda Rothrock from 6:44 a.m. to 6:44 p.m. (or any time in between) as we attempt to identify and count as many bird species as we can in one day from a stationary, 17-foot diameter, area. Folks are invited to join in on the count for whatever period of time they choose or just come visit throughout the day, before, during, or after the SIAS picnic.

Last year our Big Sit team tallied 60 species. This year we're hoping for at least 65 species. And, we've set a donation goal of \$500 for this year.

The Big Sit is a fundraiser for the Illinois Ornithological Society's (IOS) Grant Program funding state-wide avian studies. SIAS has funded grants supporting studies in southernmost IL through IOS in the past. If you would like to donate in support of our team, do so at the website link <https://tinyurl.com/5ay6ammm> or just contact Rhonda directly at woodthrusheola@hotmail.com or at the picnic!

Directions to the picnic/big sit site: (from IL Rt. 51 a.k.a. South Illinois Avenue): Take IL Rt. 51 south from Carbondale to the stop-light intersection with Pleasant Hill Rd., turn west onto Pleasant Hill Rd., follow it to west most park entrance, turn south, follow road south then east to the small shelter near the water.

Southern Illinois Audubon Society P.O. Box 222 Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society and
the Illinois Environmental Council*



FERNE
CLYFFE
STATE PARK
75TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!

GUIDED HIKES, BIOBLITZ,
EXHIBITS, AND MORE!



September 21, 2024

SIAS is participating by providing a birding walk!

The 2024 Birding Blitz, Another Success!

While this is year 2024 and the Blitz was first held in 2002, it's actually only the 21th competition because we skipped the CoVid years 2020 & 2021. It is just so wonderful that the interest in and enthusiasm for the Blitz hasn't diminished. So many amazing folks have participated over the years and still are. And while the songbird fallout we all had hoped for didn't arrive for Saturday, the weather cooperated better than forecasted.

Seven teams, a total of 23 birders, registered and competed in 4 of the 5 Blitz categories, with the County category being favored by 4 teams. The other 3 categories had one team each competing. The overall winning team, the team with the highest species count, was the SI Hot Shots in the Open A (True Big Day) category, with 153 species! The Open B (Dawn to Dusk) category was one by the Just Winging It team with 112 species. The 49ers won the Senior (55 or Better) category tallying 107 species.

As I stated above, the County category was this year's favorite category, with 4 teams competing. The Raven Loonatics pulled off the win with 129 species found in Jackson County. Also, in this category were the Cache Bandits who chose Johnson County, tallying 114 species. The Warblords birded in Williamson County, tallying 118 species. And the Boom Shakalaka Chachalacas birded in Alexander County, tallying 120 species.

When we compiled an overall list of species see in our eleven southernmost IL counties on Saturday, the total was 184! The list included our featured

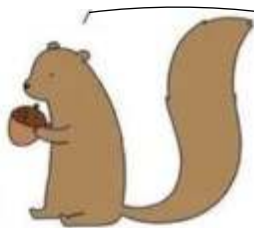
species, the red crossbill, located by the SI Hot Shots.

This year's Blitz collected \$2,102.00 in pledges! A special recognition goes to the 49ers team for raising \$1,060.00 of that total! And a huge Thank You to everyone who pledged their financial support for habitat restoration and preservation and/or helped again to make the event a success. Also, a shout out to the Haven and a Thank You to the Haven's caretakers Donna and Mark who always make us feel so welcome. It's such a warm and wonderful place with an important purpose. <https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/photos/235069/departments-illinois-haven>

And last but far from least, our love and gratitude to all the participants. There's an inspiring shared consciousness knowing all these folks are out there on the same day doing what they love, what we love: looking and listening birds!

The SI Hot Shots: Dan Kassebaum, Mark Seiffert, and Keith McMullen. *The 49ers:* Nancy Garwood, Cathie Hutcheson, Mike Bowers, and Joe Merkelbach. *Just Winging It:* Lily Glaeser and Felix Piwczyk. *The Raven Loonatics:* Beau Schaefer and Jasper Winter. *The Cache Bandits:* Zach Skubiszewski and Charlie Hunt. *The Warblords:* Nick Wells, Kyle Wells, Rachel Caballero-Wells, Rob Kaminsky, Liz Spratt, and Jane Jordan. And *The Boom Shakalaka Chachalakas:* Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, Allen Gathman, Mark Vukovich, and me (Rhonda Rothrock).

I like acorns



Same. I like that they come with a little hat.



Join Vicki & Rhonda for the Cache Fall Migration Mini-Sit on Sept. 14th

Join in on the 7th annual Cache River Wetlands Fall Mini Sit
Sept. 14th, from 9 a.m. - noon!

A "mini-sit" is a bird watching event where the objective is to record as many bird species by sight and sound during a set period of time. This citizen science birdwatching event invites birders of all experience levels to enjoy fall migration. Pack your binoculars, scope, camera, lawn chair, beverages, and snacks. To join Rhonda, Vicki, & other members of SIAS, register for the North Cypress Access hotspot at:

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/2024-fall-migration-mini-sit>. Or use the QR Code → Online registration closes on Sunday, Sept 8th. Phone registration will be open until the day of the event, call 618.657.2064 (or text Rhonda at 618.534.8659)

North Cypress Access is a charming, semi-secluded woodland with a small lake. It's located along Fain Lane. From the Intersection of IL Rt. 146 & IL Rt. 37, turn south onto IL Rt. 37. Go 3.8 miles to Bear Branch Rd., turn left (southeast). Drive Bear Branch to Old Cypress Rd., turn left (east). Drive Old Cypress Rd to Snake Hole Ln, turn right (south). Drive Snake Hole Ln to Fain Ln, turn left (east). Drive straight on Fain Ln to North Cypress Access parking lot. We're still hoping to top our 2019 high of 33 species!

Register on-line
by September 8th



Register at
go.illinois.edu/MiniSit

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.

A little birdy told me that,
to keep SIAS going, it's
really important to renew
dues & get new members!

