Calendar

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS**
Forest Park Visitor Center at 5595 Grand Drive
First Saturday of Most Months
Walk from 830 AM to 10 AM, Meet at 815 AM
For info contact Amy birding@forestparkforever.org

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary
Saturday January 11th at 8A

**PATHWAYS THROUGH NATURE SPEAKER SERIES**
The Green Center in University City
Tuesday January 14th from 6PM to 8PM
RSVP Required
http://www.thegreencenter.org/

**BIRDS OF WINTER EAGLE WATCH**
Audubon Center at Riverlands
Sundays in January from 10 AM to 2 PM

**EAGLE DAYS AT OLD CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE**
North St. Louis County
Sat & Sun January 18th and 19th from 9 AM to 3 PM

**EAGLE WATCH AND HIKE**
Fort Belle Fontaine County Park
Saturday January 25th from 11a to 2p

**OPEN HOUSE SOCIAL—THIS PAGE**
Audubon Center at Riverlands
Sunday January 26th from 3P to 6P

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Riverlands Bird Sanctuary & Columbia Bottom
Saturday February 1st at 8A

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**
Baldwin Lake, Illinois
Saturday February 8th at 9A

**MIGRATORY BIRD PROGRAM—PAGE 2**
Webster Groves Library
Wednesday February 12th at 730P

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**Mid-Winter Open House**

Come One, Come All!

**St. Louis Audubon Society**
Webster Groves Nature Study Society

**Sunday, January 26th**
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Bring a dish. Beverages will be provided. Door prizes will be given.

Audubon Center at Riverlands
301 Riverlands Way
West Alton, MO 63386

Come early and check out the Eagles and Trumpeter Swans. The Center and its exhibits will be open during the social. For Center info, including volunteer needs http://riverlands.audubon.org/.

Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. Turn right on the last road before the Alton Bridge (at the gas station). Continue ¼ mile to Center on your left.
Board Meetings
Open to All. 2nd Tuesday of Every Month at 7 pm at the Sunset Hills Community Center at 3915 S. Lindbergh Boulevard.

Board recruitment is an ongoing process and requires a long-term commitment. If you have thought of serving in such a way, just stop by or call one of us.

Officers
Rixey Ruffin, President
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president@stlouisaudubon.org

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Newsletter
TaleFeathers is published monthly. For submissions, comments or corrections, contact Mitch Leachman as noted above.

Migratory Bird Studies: Ozarks & P.R.
Wednesday, February 12th at 7:30 pm

Please join us for our annual joint program with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, to be held at the Webster Groves Library. John Faaborg, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor in the Fisheries and Wildlife Department at the University of Missouri, will present a summary of his long-term studies of the migratory birds of the Ozarks and Puerto Rico. Much of this work can be classified as “island biogeography,” although the islands may be stands of oak within a sea of Missouri farmland. Nearly all of this work involves how bird populations respond to variations in habitats that occur over both time and space.

John received his doctorate from Princeton in 1975. He is an elected Fellow of the American Ornithologists’ Union and served as its president from 2010 to 2012. The library is at 301 East Lockwood Avenue in Webster Groves, Missouri 63119, just three blocks east of Elm. Questions, call (314) 599-7390.

Birding Basics
Thursday, January 30th, 2014 from 5:00–6:30pm
Forest Park Visitor Center’s Learning Lab
5595 Grand Drive in Forest Park

Interested in birding? Ever wonder about the birds that frequent your feeder, yard, or neighborhood? Want to take your interest to the next level? If so, join us for Birding Basics, a quarterly gathering for beginning birders sponsored by Forest Park Forever.

We are pleased to welcome Denise Kirkpatrick from the Wild Bird Center of St. Louis to start the new year. She will break down some beginning essentials, such as optics and their selection process, a general introduction to birding, and the ever personal and very important bird field guide selection. There will be light refreshments provided. Reservations will help us plan, but we won’t turn you away at the door. RSVP to Jean at jturney@forestparkforever.org.
President’s Message

By Rixey Ruffin

Happy New Year!

As I write this, it is the evening of January 1, and I’m happy to say I already spent some time this year birding. My wife and I spent a few hours this morning looking for, and at, Bald Eagles along the Mississippi River. It was a great way to kick off the year, for no matter how many times one sees a bald eagle in the wild, it never loses its power to amaze. Clearly, other people think so too, for I was happy to see not only lots of eagles, but lots of other birders too. It’s a hopeful sign that the public’s interest in birds (and their protection!) will continue to rise throughout 2014, and that organizations like ours can continue to reach ever more people and do ever more good for birds and bird habitats.

Indeed, this is our organization: it is not the Board’s organization, nor Mitch’s (though we would be far less active without him), and certainly not mine. It belongs to you, the members and supporters and friends of the organization. Some of you who are reading this are dues-paying members; some of you give in response to the annual appeal or otherwise, and some of you are friends who have expressed an interest in what we do. To all of you, I say, thank you. You are the backbone of SLAS, and we would be nowhere without you.

For those of you who pay dues or otherwise make gifts, my extra thanks for your financial support. Your generosity is humbling and very much appreciated. For those of you who have not yet officially joined or who have not found the right time to donate, I urge you to do so. St. Louis Audubon has been doing good and important work for nearly a century. Your support will enable us to continue to expand our protection of birds and their habitats in the St. Louis region and beyond. Thank you.

PS. If you like the idea of eagle-watching, come out to the Chain of Rocks Bridge on Saturday, January 18 or Sunday, January 19, for Eagle Days!

Field Trips, Etc.

Jan 11th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary: Bill Rowe leads this half day trip that will start at 9:00 am. Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. Turn right on the last road before the Alton Bridge (at the gas station). Turn right on the next road to the Teal Pond lot.

Feb 1st to Riverlands & Columbia Bottom: All day trip led by Bill Rowe that meets at 8 am. A very good trip for beginners. Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. Turn right on the last road before the Alton Bridge (at the gas station). Turn right on the next road to the Teal Pond lot.

Feb 8th to Baldwin Lake, Illinois: All day trip led by Pat Lueders that meets at 9:00 am at the Hwy 270 and Hwy 30 west commuter lot. Caravan and carpool will be arranged there. Site can be reached via Hwy 3 south from I-255 in Illinois to Redbud. Then east on Hwy 154 to Baldwin. Follow signs to Lake Baldwin.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. For questions, contact Mike Grant at mikecurlew@att.net.
Interior Department Rule Threatens Eagles

Summary

Audubon supports strong federal protection for the Bald Eagle, America's national symbol, and the majestic Golden Eagle under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. But a December 2013 rule by the U.S. Department of the Interior would weaken protections for eagles by making it possible for wind energy companies to acquire 30–year permits to kill and injure eagles. Audubon strongly supports properly sited wind energy, but this new Interior Department rule fails to provide the protection eagles need. That’s why we’ve put all options on the table to oppose the rule.

What Does Audubon Say about the Rule?

Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold issued the following statement to media nationwide: "Instead of balancing the need for conservation and renewable energy, Interior wrote the wind industry a blank check. It’s outrageous that the government is sanctioning the killing of America’s symbol, the Bald Eagle. Audubon will continue to look for reasonable, thoughtful partners to wean America off fossil fuels because that should be everyone’s highest priority. We have no choice but to challenge this decision, and all options are on the table."

What Does the Rule Do?

The rule weakens protections for eagles by making it possible for the U.S. government to issue 30–year permits to wind energy companies to kill or injure Bald and Golden eagles, which are otherwise protected from harm by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. You can read the full rule at this link: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013–29088_PI.pdf.

Why Is This Rule a Bad Idea?

Today, wind companies are required to obtain a five–year permit, and those permits can require them to take steps to conserve eagles. But in moving to 30–year permits, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not approved a single Advanced Conservation Practice (ACP) that is scientifically defensible, so permits cannot be written now with scientifically sound practices for reducing eagle mortalities. Furthermore, the agency also has made clear that it does not have the resources to monitor these permits adequately.

This rule was not necessary to promote responsible wind power development; the Department of the Interior simply gave up on finding a solution that would both protect eagles and promote wind power.

With no effective conservation measures in place, and without adequate monitoring capabilities, the government would be locking in unproven and Article concludes on next page
Wind Power and Eagles

ineffective permit conditions for decades while protecting the wind industry from enforcement. It is a recipe for more dead eagles.

**How Dangerous are Wind Farms to Eagles?**

Wind farms kill eagles. The infamous Altamont Pass facility alone kills 65–70 eagles per year, and a study released in September 2013 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists documented an additional 67 eagle deaths elsewhere over the last five years. But those are just the ones we know about. The toll is likely higher, and it's increasing. Nationwide, wind turbines have been estimated to kill 573,000 birds per year, including 83,000 raptors.

**How Does This Rule Relate to the Wind Industry Guidelines Audubon Promoted?**

Audubon supported and helped develop federal guidelines for the wind industry, released in 2012, to help minimize harm to birds and other wildlife. Of course, in order for those guidelines to be effective, the government must enforce existing laws that protect birds and other wildlife, including the Endangered Species Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. That enforcement is undermined by this new rule granting 30–year authorizations to kill eagles, which is why we're challenging it.

**Does Audubon Support Wind Power?**

Yes. Audubon strongly supports properly sited wind power as a renewable energy source that helps reduce the threat posed to birds by climate change. However, we also strongly advocate that wind power facilities should be planned, sited, and operated in ways that minimize harm to birds and other wildlife, and we advocate that wildlife agencies strongly enforce the laws that protect birds and other wildlife. You can read more about our position on wind power at our Wind Power Overview page.

**What is Audubon Doing About the Rule?**

We're challenging this rule, and all options are on the table. We will keep our network informed about how we plan to move forward in opposition to this measure, which weakens protections for eagles.

**What Can I Do?**

Send a message to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell online through Audubon’s Action Center or by mail to Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

If you have contacts within regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices, voice your concerns about this permitting rule to the FWS biologists and others with whom you work. ✦
Partners for Native Landscaping
...a special evening with Doug Tallamy

Friday, March 21, 2014
at Missouri Botanical Garden  St. Louis, MO

Lecture and Reception Cost: $30.00
Includes Lecture and Appetizers
5:30pm - 9:00pm

This special evening is designed for continuing native gardeners
where Doug Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home will present
“Your Role in Building Biological Corridors: Networks for Life”

At this special event you will be able to...

Meet the Partner Organizations
Purchase “Bringing Nature Home”
Have your book Signed by the Author
Meet Other Experienced Native Gardeners
Free Appetizers
Cash Bar

Registration for Friday Evening Event
and Saturday Workshop are Separate

Register Today!
Space is Limited to the First 200 People

1. Register Online at www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL
2. To be held at Missouri Botanical Garden
   4344 Shaw Blvd Saint Louis, MO 63110
3. For more info call 636-451-3512 ex. 6078
Partners for Native Landscaping
...a workshop for homeowners featuring Doug Tallamy, nationally acclaimed author of *Bringing Nature Home*

Saturday, March 22, 2014
at Missouri Botanical Garden

**Workshop Cost:** $25.00
Includes Lunch and Native Landscape Guide

9:00am - 5:00pm

This in-depth workshop is designed for homeowners. It offers information and resources on how to landscape with native plants to create healthier communities.

**Learn How To...**
Bring Nature Home
Landscape for Birds and Butterflies
Manage Invasive Plants
Develop a Rainscape
Garden in Shade

**Also...**

Hear about Organizations
Discover Upcoming Events
Meet Other Native Gardeners
Purchase Missouri Wildflowers
Receive Native Landscape Guide ($5 value)

**Register Today!** Space is Limited

1. Register Online at www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL
2. To be held at Missouri Botanical Garden
   4344 Shaw Blvd Saint Louis, MO 63110
3. For more info call 636-451-3512 ex. 6078

Partner Organizations...
St. Louis Audubon Society
Year-end Fundraising Appeal

We are proud of everyone who helps us achieve our goals, including passionate volunteers, dedicated members and enthusiastic donors.

Your past support has made our success possible, and we need your help to sustain our programs. Help us continue to connect our community to the nature that surrounds us all. Please send in your gift today.

Make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society
Mail Checks to:
St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122–0227

□ $250 □ $100 □ $60** □ $30 □ Other_______

** Donations at the $60 level or higher will receive a Birds of St. Louis □ or Birds of Forest Park □ note card set as our gift (please select one).

□ No thanks. Please do not send me any gifts.

Thank you so much for your interest and support!

If you prefer credit card, visit our website
http://www.stlouisaudubon.org

Donations are tax-deductible.
St. Louis Audubon is a tax-exempt charity.