

TALE FEATHERS

St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122-0227
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Calendar

BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS

FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER AT 5595 GRAND DRIVE
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
WALK FROM 830 AM TO 10 AM, MEET AT 815 AM
For info contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 7

CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST FROM 9A TO 1P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BK LEACH RAIL WALK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH AT 8A

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NWR & RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY
SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 730A

GRAND OPENING—PAGE 2

AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS CELEBRATION
SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH FROM 1030A TO 330P

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 7

CREVE COEUR LAKE MEMORIAL PARK TREE PLANTING
SATURDAY OCTOBER 22RD FROM 9A TO 1P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

ST. STANISLAUS CONSERVATION AREA
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26TH AT 9A

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 7

CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 29TH FROM 9A TO 1P

CONSERVATION FORUM—PAGE 8

LIVING WORLD AT THE ST. LOUIS ZOO
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3RD FROM 530P TO 900P

TRIVIA NIGHT—PAGE 9

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4TH FROM 7P TO 10P

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September Birding

Birding Social

By Dave Rogles

On Sunday, September 11th, St. Louis Audubon had an informal "Birding Social"—One Day, One Place, One List. We established a presence at the picnic grounds in Riverlands and invited interested parties to drop in, contribute to the list, stay for lunch and just enjoy the day. About 20 people dropped in from time to time, and we established a list of about 96 species.

The day included a boat ride through the lock and dam and out to Maple Island. Four of us birded Maple Island, and we immediately located a number of warblers and other woodland species. Our warbler species totaled 13, and included multiples of most of these (including 6 Black and White Warblers moving together). Overall the trip was a success and indicates that we need to get to

See Birding on Page 4



Heron Pond at Riverlands

Al Smith Photo

Board Meetings

Open to All. 2nd Tuesday of Every Month at 7 pm. Powder Valley Nature Center at 11715 Cragwold.

Board recruitment is an ongoing process and requires your interest and our need. If you have thought of serving in such a way, stop by or call one of us.

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Newsletter

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

The Audubon Center at Riverlands**Grand Opening October 15th**

301 Riverlands Way

West Alton, MO 63386

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Join Audubon Missouri and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as we open the doors to the newest attraction in the St. Louis/Alton area for families, students, and nature-loving tourists! Located near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, our center is in the heart of one of the most significant migratory flyways in the world. Our open house will offer activities for all ages. Bring the family to explore our new exhibits and partner booths, experience guided trail walks, get crafty with the kids, and enjoy the beauty of the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

For a detailed schedule visit <http://riverlands.audubon.org>. ◆



President's Message

By Dave Rogles

FALL

The fall season is characterized by a mix of colors, a puzzle created by Mother Nature. The mix and match theme is reflected in the St. Louis Audubon (SLAS) fall calendar. We provide a little bit of everything, hopefully, for most people.

We have entered the fall birding season, and that means we will be sponsoring a number of trips. These trips are especially good for beginners, as the focus is on the beautiful ducks, geese and swans. For the truly hooked, there are the gulls, the sparrows and the fall warblers.

Fall also means fundraising, so we will be sending out the year-end appeal, and we will sponsor a trivia night. (Be sure to sign up soon; it happens Friday, November 4th). I hope everyone will help our programs by supporting one or the other.

We are also in the final stages of development of a major SLAS program called Bring Conservation Home. (For program details, see our website at <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/BCH/index.php> and previous issues of *TaleFeathers*.) This initiative, developed by a committee led by our Executive Director Mitch Leachman and former Board President Dave Tylka, is a key element of the St. Louis Audubon future. It targets the urban homeowner and the urban environment. We hope it expands into meaningful partnerships with our corporate neighbors and helps to make the area an environmental showcase in the future.

We have a hodgepodge of other events scheduled. We will again have our Open House with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. There are fall workdays for the volunteer in all of us. We have added the Birding Social on an irregular basis. Finally, our Education Team will be visiting many classrooms in the next few months and regularly trains volunteers to help—no experience necessary.

I hope the fall finds everyone in good spirits, and you will give us a look when you feel the need to get out and enjoy the weather! ◆

Field Trips, Etc.

Oct 8th BK Leach Rail Walk: Josh Uffman will lead this half day trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the SE corner of the Dierberg's parking lot at the SW side of I-70 and Hwy 79. Caravan/carpools arranged from there. Registration required. Contact Josh at (314) 387-8037 or birdsandbugs@sbcglobal.net.

Oct 15th to Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge: Mike Thelen will lead this all day trip. Meet at 7:30 am at the Gilbert Lake parking lot just north of the

entrance to Brussels Ferry outside Grafton, IL. From Alton, take Hwy 100, the River Road, thru Grafton.

Oct 26th to St. Stanislaus Conservation Area: John Solodar will lead this half day trip. Meet at 9:00 am. From I-270 take McDonnell Blvd north 1.3 mile to Teson Rd. Turn left and follow to a "T" at Aubuchon. Turn right and follow to conservation area. Meet in first lot on left.

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

September Birding

Continued from Page 1

Maple Island with some regularity.

The pipeline pool at Confluence State Park contributed a number of shorebirds and we added some more (including the rare in fall White-rumped Sandpiper) at Heron Pond. An American Avocet in basic plumage was particularly striking.

The food was more than we could eat and Sheri Britt brought some delicious desserts. We fired up the

charcoal for burgers, steaks and beans. Someone even brought a favorite ice beverage!

All in all, it was a successful first effort and everyone agreed we should try it again. Look for more “spontaneous” birding socials in the near future.

Carlyle Lake Pelagic

We arrived early on Saturday the 17th and started at the usual spot: the beach. To everyone’s surprise there were 8 Sanderlings, doing the Sanderling line dance on the beach. The 8th Annual SLAS Carlyle Pelagic was off and running. (A second field trip, not discussed here, ran on Sunday the 18th.)

We moved over to Hazlett State Park and immediately found more migrants– lots of kingbirds (+50), robins, grosbeaks, tanagers, vireos and, my oh my, warblers, more warblers than most of us could ever remember seeing on this trip. The calls were fast and furious and you could not see all the different species. If you were slow, they were gone! Still, it was memorable, and for those of us who have not birded much this year it afforded the opportunity to fill out the list.

Surely the omen portend a successful boat ride? The ride started with awesome looks at a rare fall migrant, the Red Phalarope. Within fifteen minutes we had located the bird and we wore ourselves out taking photos and cautiously circling. A walk-away look at the Red Phalarope–surely the gods are kind!

Alas, that was the last big find of the day. We did get most of the usual suspects, including a number of shorebirds after the boat ride, but we did not get the Sabine’s Gull or any jaegers. The Sabine’s was seen earlier in the week and again late Sunday, though not by SLAS.

Still, it was one of the most successful fall outings we have had with over 120 species seen. A big thanks to Joe Eades for organizing and to our boat captains. Susan Eaton provide cookies and fortunately no one got hurt trying to get in the same boat as the cookies. ◆



White-rumped Sandpiper

Al Smith Photo



Sanderlings

Dan Kassebaum Photo



Boating Birders

Jim Malone Photo

Carlyle Lake Field Trip Pics



Clockwise from top left: Red-necked Phalarope, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Blue-headed Vireo

Below: Black-and-white Warbler

Dan Kassebaum Photos



Audubon Action Alert: Arctic Refuge Protection

We need your help today to take advantage of a historic opportunity to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For the first time in the history of the refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) could recommend Wilderness protection for the Coastal Plain, the biological heart of the refuge that has been in Big Oil's sights for decades. We've fought battle after battle to keep the Arctic Refuge out of the hands of oil companies. Now we have a chance to take a critical step toward permanent protection of this ecological jewel.

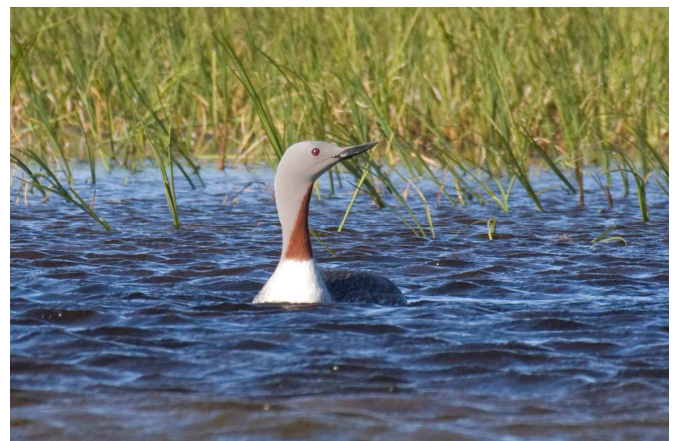


Seize this unprecedented opportunity to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by asking the USFWS to recommend Wilderness designation in the final Comprehensive Conservation Plan being prepared for the refuge. You can submit your own comments at Audubon's Action Center: www.audubonaction.org/site/Advocacy?id=1155

The 50-year-old Arctic Refuge is the only National Wildlife Refuge established specifically to preserve wilderness values. Its Coastal Plain is a vital part of the larger Arctic ecosystem, home to some of America's iconic wildlife species—including wolves, polar bears, grizzly bears, muskoxen, and caribou. In addition, 180 migratory bird species from six continents depend on the Arctic Refuge.

The USFWS recently released a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan for public input, which lays out the conservation future of this spectacular wildlife refuge. This plan is the first critical step toward achieving permanent protection for the Coastal Plain. Some places are too special to drill, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of them. For all the details about the plan, visit the USFWS website at <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>

Be part of history in the making. Submit comments now in support of Wilderness protection for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: www.audubonaction.org/site/Advocacy?id=1155. ◆



Porcupine Caribou (left) and Red-throated Loon

Richard Spener Photos

St. Louis Audubon Society Fall Volunteer Workdays

Saturday, October 1st at Cuivre River State Park. Savanna Restoration.

All ages welcome. Help us celebrate a belated National Public Lands Day. The Park is outside Troy, MO. From I-70, take Hwy 61 north for 15 miles to Hwy 47, turn right. At 3 miles, turn left onto Rt 147. The park office is 2 miles ahead on your left. We may meet elsewhere, so please register as noted below.

Saturday, October 22nd at Creve Coeur Park. Tree Planting.

All ages welcome. Bring a shovel if you have one. Meet in the upper park—west of I-270 and north of Dorsett. Take I-270 Exit 17 for Dorsett Rd and go west about 1.5 miles. Enter Park on right, just before light at Marine and take Streetcar Drive north. Continue past park office, ball field and tennis court to gravel parking lot on right. Parking is somewhat limited, so please carpool if possible. Rain date Oct 23.

Saturday, October 29th at Cuivre River State Park. Savanna Restoration.

All ages welcome. Follow directions for October 1st project.

Saturday, November 12th at Creve Coeur Park. Honeysuckle Removal.

All ages welcome, but those under 18 must have parental/adult supervision at all times. Bring your favorite lopper or saw. Follow directions for October 22nd project. Rain date Nov 19.

These projects continue efforts begun by Audubon in 2009 to improve critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. In just two years, over 700 volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours to plant 900 trees, remove over 20 tons of trash and restore several acres of wetland and forest. We hope you can join us! Volunteers are requested to register for all projects by providing their name, contact information and number attending at director@stlouisaudubon.org or (314) 599-7390. All projects begin at 9 am, are half-day and include lunch. Gloves and other supplies/materials are provided. For general Audubon info, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.



These projects made possible by support from a National Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen grant. For more info, visit www.togethergreen.org.





2011 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum

Giants in the American Conservation Movement

Thursday, November 3, 2011
The Living World, Saint Louis Zoo

5:30 p.m. Registration, Book Signing, and Exhibit Viewing

Session 1: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

David Allen Sibley

“Field Guides and Nature in the 21st Century”

David Sibley is an ornithologist and author of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, considered by many to be the most comprehensive guide for North American field identification. He has also authored: *Sibley's Birding Basics*, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*; *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*; *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*; *Hawks in Flight*; and *The Sibley Guide to Trees*.

Refreshments, Book Signing, and View Exhibits: 7:00 -7:40 p.m.

Session 2: 7:40-8:45 p.m.

Susan Flader, Ph.D.

“Whither Missouri? Aldo Leopold’s Challenge”

Susan Flader is professor emerita of history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she has taught American and world environmental history and the history of Missouri and the American West. She has published several books including *Thinking Like a Mountain* and *The River of the Mother of God* on the career and thought of Aldo Leopold, as well as *Exploring Missouri’s Legacy: State Parks and Historic Sites*.

Maril Hazlett, Ph.D.

“Recovering Carson's Conservationist Side”

Maril Hazlett has worked extensively in the fields of environmental advocacy and environmental policy, most recently for the Climate and Energy Project of The Land Institute. She specializes in renewable energy, clean air, and clean water issues. She earned her undergraduate degree from Amherst College and her Ph.D. in environmental history from the University of Kansas, writing her dissertation on reactions to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

Panel Discussion: 8:45-9:00 p.m.

Registration required: Call: (314)-516-6203, email: hintonpa@umsl.edu

Event is free and open to the public.

There will be an opportunity to purchase David Sibley’s books and have them signed by the author.

Co-sponsored by: Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Zoo, and the Academy of Science-St. Louis.

St. Louis Audubon Society Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, November 4th



Sponsors: St. Louis Audubon Society

Date: Friday, November 4th

Location: Kirkwood Community Center's East Gym, 111 S. Geyer, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Time: Doors open at 6 p.m. and the Trivia begins promptly at 7 p.m.

Cost: \$25/person or \$160 for a table of 8

Registration includes soda, popcorn and snacks while they last. You are welcome to bring your own food and beverages (including alcohol). Get a table of friends together and test your knowledge!

The evening is a fundraiser and will include a silent auction, raffle and other games. Mulligans will be sold, and prizes will be given for the first, second and last place teams.

All proceeds support the operations of the St. Louis Audubon Society. The organization serves the greater St. Louis region with environmental education and conservation programs. In just the past year, over 5,000 school children and 600 adults participated in free education programs. Another 600 attended free field trips, and nearly 450 volunteers helped restore habitat for birds and other wildlife at area parks and natural areas.

For more information about Audubon visit www.stlouisaudubon.org. For questions about the event, contact Mitch at (314) 599-7390 or e-mail via director@stlouisaudubon.org.

The Community Center is on Geyer, just south of Adams and four blocks west of S. Kirkwood Road.

Seating is limited, so register early.

This is a smoke-free event.

2011 AUDUBON TRIVIA NIGHT REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ E-mail: _____

City/St/Zip: _____ No. of Tables/Persons: _____

Total Amt. Enclosed: _____

Payment due with registration. Detach this form and send with payment via check or money order payable to St. Louis Audubon at P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122. To pay with credit card, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.

Please print clearly the names of those attending on the back of this form.

St. Louis Audubon Society Donation Form

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

E-Mail or Phone (if desired):

Make checks payable to:
St. Louis Audubon Society

Mail Checks to:
St. Louis Audubon Society
P.O. Box 220227
St. Louis, MO 63122-0227

10/11

Mission: to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation.

Your support will allow us to maintain and expand our efforts in the St. Louis Metro Area. All our programs are free to the public. Thank you very much for your past support!

\$20 \$30 \$50** \$100 Other _____

Education Only

Conservation Only

General Fund--Unrestricted

All Contributions are Tax Deductible

If you prefer credit card, visit our online donation page at

<http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/giving/giving.php>.

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