

TALE FEATHERS

St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, St. Louis, MO 63122-0227
www.stlouisaudubon.org mitch@stlouisaudubon.org (314) 599-7390

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 at birding@forestparkforever.org.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH AT 8A

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND ST. LOUIS
ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
DECEMBER 14TH THROUGH JANUARY 5TH
[HTTP://WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/JOIN-CHRISTMAS-BIRD-COUNT](http://www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count)

BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK
SATURDAY DECEMBER 17TH AT 8 AM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
SATURDAY JANUARY 7TH AT 9A

EAGLE FESTIVAL

DOWNTOWN ALTON & THE RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD
SANCTUARY IN WEST ALTON
SATURDAY JANUARY 7TH FROM 10A TO 2P
[HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/ALTON-AUDUBON-EAGLE-FESTIVAL](http://riverlands.audubon.org/events/alton-audubon-eagle-festival)

EAGLE DAYS

OLD CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE
SATURDAY/SUNDAY JANUARY 14 / 15 FROM 9A TO 3P
[HTTP://GREATRIVERSGREENWAY.ORG/EVENT/EAGLE-DAYS-2016-2017-01-15/](http://greatriversgreenway.org/event/eagle-days-2016-2017-01-15/)

CLIMATE WATCH—PAGE 1 / 4

VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND ST. LOUIS
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
JANUARY 15TH THROUGH JANUARY 30TH
CONTACT ST. LOUIS AUDUBON FOR MORE INFO

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18TH AT 9A

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Climate Watch

National Audubon's [Climate Watch](#) is a new crowd-sourced science program that explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. In 2014, Audubon released the [Audubon Birds and Climate Change](#) report highlighting the risks that climate change poses to birds across North America. In response, thousands of people asked how they could help make the world a better place for birds. We are proud to announce that St. Louis Audubon will be participating in a pilot phase of the program in January 2017.

For the 2014 report, Audubon scientists used three decades of citizen-scientist observations from the Audubon Christmas Bird Count and the North American Breeding Bird Survey to define "climatic suitability" for each bird species - the range of temperatures, precipitation, and seasonal changes each species needs to survive. Then, using internationally recognized greenhouse gas emissions scenarios, they mapped where each bird's ideal climatic range may be found in the future as the climate changes. Of the 588 North American bird species Audubon studied, more than half are likely to be in trouble. Specifically, the models indicate that 314 species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080.

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Board Meetings

Open to All. 2nd Tuesday of Even Months at 7 pm at the Sunset Hills Community Center at 3915 S. Lindbergh Boulevard.

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

Officers

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Newsletter

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

Project FeederWatch

By Herb Huebner

Last year, I decided to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (www.birdcount.org, Feb 17-20 for 2017), looking out my patio door at the bird feeder with the goal of improving my bird identification skills and helping scientists study bird population and movement. Because of the enjoyment I had and the birding skills I improved, this year I decided to participate in [Project FeederWatch](#).

FeederWatch asks you to observe and record bird counts in your backyard regularly over a five-month period, from early November to April. I learned to look carefully at the bird's coloring and shape. What was the beak shape and color? Was the red head marking partial or full? What color are the legs? About how big is the bird? Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology gives you a great color chart of typical feeder birds, and also gives you guidance on how to distinguish similar looking birds from the same family. I also practiced pointing my binoculars to quickly find birds, not only on my feeders, but also on the trees in my yard.

One of the biggest challenges I have when going on bird walks is that the critters often are high in the tree and jump around, hiding amongst the leaves. Having the discipline of weekly practice is helping me a lot. So I have fun and learn a lot, and scientists have more data to inform bird conservation actions!

There is an \$18 fee for new participants which covers staff support, web design, data analysis, and materials. You will receive a research kit with complete instructions for participating, a bird identification poster, year-end report and more. Participants also receive access to the digital version of *Living Bird*, the Cornell Lab's award-winning, quarterly magazine. For all the details, go to feederwatch.org. ■



Northern Flickers - Male (left) and Female

Al Smith Photo

Proud Member of the



From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

At the end of each year, we pause to celebrate our accomplishments, honor our volunteers and contributors and look to the hard work that remains. I never cease to be amazed at the time, energy and resources given by so many to support our programs. In just the last three years, 2,200 volunteers have given over 16,000 hours of services, and our Education Team alone has delivered 500 programs to over 10,000 children!

Supporters just like you help make it all possible through your generous giving, especially to our year-end appeal. I have included a brief summary of our 2016 successes below and a donation form on page 6. For the full letter or to give online simply visit our [website](#). Thanks SO much for ALL your support! ■

Bring Conservation Home: 175 landscape consults completed, 30 of those certified; 13 bird gardening programs delivered to nearly 500 people.

Education Team: 180 programs presented to 3,700 children and 650 adults on birds and other topics.

Field Trips: 22 volunteers led 44 free birding field trips serving over 800 people.

Outreach: Engaged nearly 4,300 people at 25 events plus an estimated 2,400 more at Eagle Days.

Stewardship: 380 volunteers worked 8 projects that installed over 800 native trees and other plants and cleared invasive plants from 9 acres.

In Total: Over 500 volunteers assisted with Chapter activities, providing 7,800 hours of services.

Field Trips, Etc.

Dec 10th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

This half day trip will start at 8:00 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.

Dec 17th Beginner Walk at Mallard Lake: This easy walk starts at 8:00 am from the south parking lot at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse, 2160 Creve Coeur Mill Rd. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available. We should finish about 10. Check our Facebook page for any last-minute updates.

Jan 7th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

This half day trip will start at **9:00 am**. Follow the directions for the Dec 10th trip.

Jan 18th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

This half day trip will start at **9:00 am**. Follow the directions for the Dec 10th trip.

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

Mid-Winter Open House Come One, Come All!

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

**Sunday, January 29th
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Bring a dish. Beverages will be provided.
Door prizes, too!

**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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to Center on your left.

Climate Watch

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Climate Watch will provide Audubon scientists with data on the current distribution of target species that can be used to validate and refine the models for where these species' ranges will shift under the effects of climate change. As each model is ground-truthed and improved for accuracy they will be used to identify areas of high climatic suitability for target species and to inform on-the-ground conservation decisions.

The goal of Climate Watch is to capture changes in the breeding and wintering activity of target species, and species monitoring will be done in late January and early June. Although the timing of breeding and arrival on wintering grounds varies across species and across the country, these timeframes do a good job of capturing those parts of their lifecycle despite the many variables.

The Climate Watch pilot will focus on specific species for which the climate models have strong predictions and which have a high detectability in the field. For the January 2017 phase of the pilot, chapters will focus on two groups of species: **bluebirds** and **nuthatches**. Specifically, St. Louis Audubon participants will be surveying for White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches.

The monitoring will focus on areas of predicted change for nuthatches within the St. Louis region. These areas of change are primarily areas of potential range contraction based on Audubon's climate models. Maps of the chapter's territory overlaid with a grid of 10 km x 10 km squares showing species-specific predictions for each square based on the climate models will be provided to pilot volunteers. Twelve point count locations will be selected within each square for each team of observers.

Audubon is using general bird data, such as reported through eBird, to help inform this program, however data reported using the Climate Watch protocol measures detectability in a way that general birding data does not. This protocol is being implemented in areas where the birds do not yet have range, or may be abandoning their range. That focus is a very important part of measuring how the birds will respond to climate change.

Can I get involved?

Experienced birders will likely work best for this project, and we are actively recruiting those seasoned veterans of previous counts, field trip leaders and such. However, we may use less experienced birders to help with the recording. If you are fascinated by this subject and available during the second half of January, contact Jean Favara, jfavara@audubon.org, or Herb Huebner, conservation@stlouisaudubon.org, for more info. ■



White-breasted Nuthatch



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Al Smith Photos

Partners for Native Landscaping

...present a reception and workshop for homeowners
featuring Neil Diboll, President of Prairie Nursery
and Heather Holm, author of Pollinators of Native Plants

Reception Fri., March 3, 2017 5:30-9pm

Workshop Sat. March 4, 2017 9am-4pm

at St. Louis Community College - Meramec Campus

Saturday's Workshop offers information and resources
on how to landscape with
native plants for greener communities.



SAVE THE DATES
Registration opens in January

Register Online at
www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL2017

Workshop at

St. Louis Community College - Meramec

11333 Big Bend Blvd

Kirkwood, MO 63122

For more info call 636-451-3512 x6078

Breakout sessions on...

- Gardening for Wildlife
- Designing Native Gardens
- Maintaining Native Gardens
- Developing Rainscaping Features

Also...

- Hear about Organizations
 - Discover Upcoming Events
 - Meet Other Native Gardeners
 - Purchase Missouri Wildflowers

Cost:

Friday \$20 With Appetizer Buffet

Saturday \$15 With Lunch

Partner Organizations...



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

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

12/16

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!

<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
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Thank you so much for your interest and support!

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

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