

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.

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/)

BIRDS OF WINTER-- [HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS](http://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS)

AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18TH AT 9A

BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3

MALLARD LAKE AT CREVE COEUR PARK

SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST AT 8 AM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS AND COLUMBIA BOTTOM CONSERVATION AREA

SATURDAY JANUARY 28TH AT 9A

AUDUBON SOCIAL—PAGE 3

AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS

SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH FROM 3P TO 6P

[HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/](http://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/)

FEBRUARY PROGRAM—PAGE 2

WEBSTER GROVES LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1ST AT 7P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BALDWIN LAKE, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4TH AT 9A

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18TH AT 8A

CLIMATE WATCH

VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND ST. LOUIS

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

JANUARY 15TH THROUGH JANUARY 30TH

SEE THE DECEMBER 2016 *TALE FEATHERS* FOR DETAILS

[HTTP://STLOUISAUDUBON.ORG/NEWSLETTER/DEC_16/DEC_16.PDF](http://STLOUISAUDUBON.ORG/NEWSLETTER/DEC_16/DEC_16.PDF)

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A Winter Walk

By Karen Meyer

On this peaceful winter day

Winter's fragile colors surround us in this expansive space.

A gentle but cold sky, lacking a strong sun,

Softens the browns, grays and rust-colored forbs and grasses.

Across the river on Pelican Island, more unbelievably lovely seasonal hues nourish our spirits.

We take long, deep breaths...and we walk.

The company and serenity of the scenery fills our hearts.

White and peach-colored stones invite us to climb down closer to the water's edge.

The wide river glides beside us, silent, cold and powerful,

Taking our playful gifts of sticks and stems.

Bird calls are few but familiar, cheery and crisp against the stillness.

We are thankful for all this, holding dear our shared adventure. ■



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

Katy Fechter, President

(618) 339-7356

stlaudubonpresident@gmail.com

Lisa Nansteel, VP Education

(636) 391-4898

Herb Huebner, VP Conservation

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Newsletter

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

Bird's Eye View

An Introduction to Avian Visual Ecology

February 1st at 7:00 p.m.

Webster Groves Library

Unlike humans, there are numerous species of birds. While some things are the same or similar for all birds, some species have some interesting, specialized sight adaptations. Marcel Proust said, "The real voyage of discovery consists of not seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Matthew Toomey, PhD, will deliver this talk to help you leave your vision behind and see through someone else's eyes...birds. Explore what you think you know about how birds see the earth, and learn what we know about bird's eyes and vision.

Matthew is a postdoctoral research associate in Dr. Joseph Corbo's lab at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He received his PhD from Arizona State University where he studied in the lab of Dr. Kevin McGraw.

This is our annual joint program with the Webster Groves Nature Study Society (WGNSS). The library is at 301 E. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119. For questions about this event, contact Karen at (314) 602-7318 or kb2bird@sbcglobal.net. ■



Peregrine Falcon

Richard Thoma Photo

Proud Member of the



From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

Happy New Year! I do hope that all of you had a warm and wonderful holiday season!

Before we get wrapped up in new projects (and there will be plenty), I'd like to take a couple minutes and return to the Fall Gaggle we held at the Creve Coeur Lakehouse last November. This was a new and smallish "open house" style event to socialize and raise some funds for our programs. For our first effort, we are very pleased with the more than \$1,700 cleared after expenses!

Thanks of course to everyone who attended, bid on or won silent auction items! Thanks also to the donors of those items including Jerry Castillon, Charley Harper Art Studio, Mary & Paul Dueren, Katy & Randy Fechter, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, Greenscape Gardens & Gifts, Jazz St. Louis, Karen Isbell, Karen & Glenn Meyer, PRP Wine International, Inc., Sugar Creek Gardens, Urban Chestnut Brewing Company, Wild Bird Center of St. Louis, Wild Birds Unlimited–Chesterfield and the World Bird Sanctuary.

Many thanks to the event planning committee of Mary Dueren, Mitch Leachman and Karen Meyer, with help from Katy Fechter and Dorothy White. Finally, thanks to Beth Derby and the staff at the Lakehouse and to Bill Lloynd for that nice discount! We expect to repeat the event this fall, but hopefully earlier, like mid-October. Please watch our website and *TaleFeathers* for details. Until then, hope to see you "in the field!" ■

Field Trips, Etc.

Jan 18th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

This half day trip 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.

Jan 21st 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 28th to Riverlands & Columbia Bottom: This all day trip starts at **8:00 am**. Follow the directions for the Jan 18th trip.

Feb 4th to Baldwin Lake, Illinois: All day trip 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.

Feb 18th to Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary:

This all day trip will start at **8:00 am**. Follow the directions for the Jan 18th trip.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required. If questions, contact Mike Grant 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.

Riverlands Bird Sanctuary Field Trip Report

By Mike Grant

Saturday, January 7. A drive through Riverlands to the dam before the trip officially started confirmed what I feared, it was frozen over. The drive was birdless until we got to the turn to the dam and a Cooper's Hawk flushed up from the brush pile.

The only bird at Teal pond was a very dead Canada Goose, frozen in the ice. About noon there was an immature Bald Eagle feeding on the frozen carcass.

The group headed to the Ellis Island parking lot where the water was open. That small area was packed with several thousand waterfowl: Mallards, Gadwall and Canada Geese were the greatest numbers but around 550 Trumpeter Swans. Several Tundra Swans were also there along with some White-fronted Geese. Most of the group was able to see the Hooded Mergansers, Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup Ruddy Duck, Redhead and Pintail that David Becher mentioned in his post. Thanks to him for finding and identifying several of them. Also, there were two adult Bald Eagles in the trees on an island.

We then drove to Lincoln Shields which was frozen solid. The only birds a couple of chickadees high in the large trees. We then went to the Audubon Center where quite a few White-crowned Sparrows were around the door. I was looking at them while others in the group found a very dark hawk in a tree near the shoreline. We believe it was a Harlan's Red-tailed; a photo is posted on eBird. There were a few Red-winged Blackbirds near the feeders.

Leaving the crowd at the center behind we drove to the dam. Along the way were several Northern Harriers and a Kestrel in a tree. At the dam I don't think we found even 6 gulls. We did have a group of a dozen or so Common Goldeneye diving near the frozen boat ramp.

On a tip from the WGNSS group on a Longspur sighting we drove to Cora Island NWR. Aside from a bunch of Crows and one Northern Harrier, the drive was unrewarding. At the parking lot a perched hawk was found and after some debate was determined to be a young Red-Shouldered, again photo on eBird. On the drive out we found a group of two dozen Horned Larks with at least one Lapland Longspur.

Weather wise it was sunny and not very windy, but the temps were in the teens most of time. Thanks to those that pitched in to find and identify birds, and shared their scopes!

eBird checklist at: <https://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S33511671>



Immature Bald Eagle and Canada Goose



Horned Lark

Sharon Lu 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 and Talks 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.



Register for one or both-but Hurry!
Space is Limited

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

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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>