

TALE FEATHERS

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

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 e-mail birding@forestparkforever.org.

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BK LEACH RAIL WALK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH AT 7A

BIRDING FIELD TRIP

AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS
WEST ALTON, MISSOURI
SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH AT 830A

[HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS/BIRD-WALK-OCTOBER-13TH](http://riverlands.audubon.org/events/bird-walk-october-13th)

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH AT 730A

OPEN HOUSE—PAGE 8

TWO RIVERS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH FROM 9A TO 3P
[HTTP://WWW.FWS.GOV/REFUGE/TWO_RIVERS/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/two_rivers/)

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 5

CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH FROM 9A TO 1P

OPEN HOUSE

CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 27TH
CALL THE PARK OFFICE FOR DETAILS: (636) 528-7247
[HTTP://MOSTATEPARKS.COM/PARK/CUIVRE-RIVER-STATE-PARK](http://mostateparks.com/park/cuivre-river-state-park)

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA/WELDON SPRING
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD AT 8A

WHITNEY & ANNA HARRIS CONSERVATION FORUM

ST. LOUIS ZOO, LIVING WORLD
USCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA/WELDON SPRING
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH FROM 530P TO 9P
[HTTP://ICTE.UMSL.EDU/EVENTS.HTML](http://icte.umsl.edu/events.html)

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10TH AT 8A

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An Opportunity to Give Back

The St. Louis Audubon Education Team wrapped up another successful year this past summer. The small group of passionate volunteers delivered 128 programs across the region, engaging over 2,300 children and nearly 450 adults. In addition, they connected with several thousand more children and their families at outreach events like Eagle Days and Wetlands for Kids. Many thanks to Lisa Nansteel, Team Leader, for her three years of dynamic leadership!

Our reach is only limited by the number of folks able to assist the Team. Teaching experience is helpful but not necessary. Training is provided and there is no specific hourly commitment required. For more info, visit <http://www.stlouisaudubon.org/education/education.php> or contact Marty Smigell, incoming Team Leader, at (314) 544-1650. We hope to hear from you. ♦



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 your interest and our need. If you have thought of serving in such a way, stop by or call one of us.

Officers

Rixey Ruffin, President

(314) 504-9575

president@stlouisaudubon.org

Marty Smigell, VP Education

(314) 544-1650

Mike Walsh, VP Conservation

(626) 262-8220

conservation@stlouisaudubon.org

Chris Ferree, Secretary

(314) 412-2208

oaksavanna2000@yahoo.com

Linda Tossing, Treasurer

(314) 849-4260

stltossing@aol.com

Mitch Leachman, Executive Director

(314) 599-7390

director@stlouisaudubon.org

Newsletter

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

Fall Migration in One St. Louis Yard



Randy Korotev took a fall migration "field trip" to his St. Louis-area backyard on September 30th. Here is a sample of what he found. See the rest of his pictures at: http://levee.wustl.edu/~rlk/images/yard_birds/index.htm

From top: Black-throated Green Warbler; Black-and-white Warbler; Tennessee Warbler

From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

It's election season and time for me to remind all of you to keep the birds, butterflies, clean water, clean air and the rest of the environment in mind when you go to the polls.

I have strong opinions about nearly all the issues being presented by the various candidates for office and/or their political parties, as I'm sure you do. Any one of those issues may warrant sufficient reaction for a decision to support or oppose that candidate. After all, poverty, income inequality, unemployment, crime, and foreign wars are all worthy of serious thought. Still, I ask that you consider the environment on equal footing when making your choices.

I recently came across a quote—although it has apparently been around for quite some time. “The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment.” Just think about it—so true. Every single thing we do is dependent upon the environment: trees for paper and lumber; fish for food; water for drinking; fossil fuels for power and raw materials like plastics; and so on.

Then there's the “function” so often not discussed: disposal. From heat to toxic chemicals to simply trash, everything we do requires a “sink” for the by-product of its operation or its eventual end-of-life. That sink is our biosphere. While providing services and raw materials for 7 billion-plus people, our single, self-contained globe of all life we know is expected to accept all of our waste products, too.

For such a critical topic—our life support system—it is astounding that it rates so few of the talking points for any candidate or party. So, you have to do some homework. Seek out candidate's positions on the environment; hint: it may be buried under the “Energy” heading. If you're fortunate enough to speak with a candidate directly, ask about their “environmental ethic.” Consider research by third parties like the League of Conservation Voters and others.

Also, encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same thing. Help them bring our Planet into their voting process, too. Collectively, we can make a difference. Our future depends on it! ♦

Field Trips, Etc.

Oct 13th BK Leach Rail Walk: Josh Uffman will lead this all day trip. Meet at 7 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 20th 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.

Nov 3rd at Busch Memorial Conservation Area: Mike Thelen will lead this all day trip that starts at 8 am. Take Hwy 94 south from Hwy 40. At 1.3 miles, turn right at light for Hwy D. Go 2 miles to entrance on right. Turn left at T to Hampton Lake and meet in lot.

Nov 10th to Riverlands Bird Sanctuary: Sue Gustafson will lead this half day trip that starts 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.

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

Eagle Scout Service Project at Creve Coeur Park

Hi, my name is Andrew Bonnett from Boy Scout Troop 843 of the New Horizons District. Currently, I am working to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout. As such, I am in the process of completing my Eagle Project. Due to recent budget cuts to the local county parks, I approached the St. Louis County Parks to see what I might be able to do to help them. There are many project ideas to help the county parks, but I have chosen to construct a viewing blind located in Little Creve Coeur, which is the least developed area of the park.

From my understanding, many members of the St. Louis Audubon Society already enjoy the beautiful environment the park provides to watch the birds. With this in mind, I am hoping to get your help!

My project will cost about \$750 to pay for the supplies, because they have requested that I use composite materials, which are rather expensive. If you are able to make a donation, **please make checks payable to BSA Troop 843**. Checks can be mailed to either myself or my project coach at the addresses located below. If possible, please send donations to me as soon as possible so I can complete my project by late October. If you have any questions please email me at fishboydrew@gmail.com or call 314-808-3290, so that I can contact you with details. I am very appreciative of your support.

All the Best,

Drew Bonnett

Troop 843

2024 Sir Jeffery Court

Chesterfield, MO 63017

Mitch Jensen

Project Coach

15069 Clayton Road

Chesterfield, MO 63017



On September 22 a group of 20 volunteers gathered at Cuivre River State Park for an early celebration of National Public Lands Day. Representing the Bodine plant in Troy, Fort Zumwalt West High School in O'Fallon, and St. Louis Audubon members, the group helped clear several acres of aggressive trees as part of a savanna restoration project.



Bruce Schuette, MO DNR, shows the younger volunteers a very chilly Fence Lizard

Karen Meyer Photos

Habitat Restoration Workdays

Saturday, October 27th at Cuivre River State Park. Prairie Restoration.

All ages welcome. Help us celebrate National Public Lands Day early. 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, November 17th 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. 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 Nov 18.

These projects continue efforts begun by Audubon in 2009 to improve critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. Since then, over 1,300 volunteers have contributed 4,400 hours to plant 1,200 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. All are half-day and include lunch. Gloves and other supplies/materials are provided. For Audubon info, visit www.stlouisaudubon.org.



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



Carlyle Lake Trip Report, September 15–16

By Joe Eades

Unfortunately, we were unable to find any "pelagic" species this year but had very good to excellent birding overall. The land bird migration was very good on Saturday and turned to excellent on Sunday. We listed 16 species of warbler on Saturday, 17 on Sunday and totaled 20 for the weekend. Warbler highlights included a Cape May and a male Black-throated Blue (both on Sunday).

Saturday began bright and early at the Carlyle McDonald's parking lot where we ticked off our first few species, EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE, Killdeer, American Kestrel and the ubiquitous Ring-billed Gulls. We disembarked at 7:30 am and began the day's birding at the boat ramp near the west end of the dam. There were many Ring-billed Gulls on the beach and at least 40 FORSTER'S TERNS. Two birds showed the head pattern of COMMON TERN and there were 4 or 5 CASPIAN TERNS in the group. A lone HERRING GULL was spotted on a buoy. The day's first highlight, a MERLIN materialized overhead out of the scattering flock of birds. We then took a route to include some field habitat. Mike Thelen spotted a NORTHERN HARRIER and our first stop yielded dozens of HORNED LARKS and more Killdeer. The highlight of this stop was a single PALM WARBLER in the bushes along the open fields. Further along on a loop drive, we spotted a BOBOLINK perched atop a stalk and then several more in a nearby field. A final tally on the flock came to 50+ birds.

Our next stop was the Cherokee Hiking Trail at Hazlett State Park. The weather was cool and we had morning sun that faded into overcast for the rest of the day. We would stay here searching for migrant land birds for the next three hours. Migrants were around, but it took some time to find groups that revealed the diversity of birds present. We enjoyed nice views of a very clean, bright apparent adult male YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. The most abundant migrant warbler, as is often the case, was AMERICAN REDSTART, next in abundance was probably TENNESSEE WARBLER, though it didn't reach that status until we ran into a flock of 25–30 in one area. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER was abundant as was MAGNOLIA. Multiple GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS were seen. EASTERN WOOD PEWEE was abundant. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO was heard continually. WHITE-EYED VIREO was heard occasionally. It was surprising to see multiple PHILADELPHIA VIREOS and GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSES as each is usually uncommon. Jim Malone found a VEERY. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER was seen overhead in flight several times. Large flocks of CEDAR WAXWINGS were attacking fruit bearing trees and vines. A lone EASTERN KINGBIRD was seen on a tree top. A SUMMER TANAGER "pic-it-uped". Half the group lingered at a brushy area of the woods where a Gray



From left: Caspian Tern; Forster's Tern

Photos by Dan Kassebaum

Continued from previous page

Dogwood was laden with fruit. The area was loaded with migrants. The best bird there was a CANADA WARBLER. Those in the woods missed another highlight as a MISSISSIPPI KITE soared over the parking lot. We weren't really done with the process of finding and filtering through the migrant land birds but alas it was time for lunch ahead of the boat ride.

The boat ride was choppy due to wind and waves and we got a bit wet! We kept it slow and enjoyed the raucous gang of gulls whirling around the boat whenever we eased up on the throttle. The pelagic portion did allow great views of a first cycle GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL and a second cycle LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. BLACK, FORESTER'S, COMMON and CASPIAN TERN were also seen. The boat ride was fun and the garrulous flocks of gulls are always entertaining.

Susan Eaton met us with brownies when we came back off the lake. Is this birding community great or what? We decided to cover some new ground after the boat ride and headed to South Shores State Park. Our first stop put us into some new birds, with the day's first (surprisingly) BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, a WILSON'S WEARBLER and a GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER. An Empidonax flycatcher showed the marks of YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER and ultimately, after the fact, we identified it as such. Towards dusk we added COMMON NIGHTHAWK and BARRED OWL. We did a "lakewatch" from Point 18, but it was late in the day and all the gulls looked like Lesser Black-backed at first and Ross' later because of dimming and rosy light. I estimated 10,000 TREE SWALLOWS blanketing the several square miles of the lake's surface. Almost all the swallows we saw while on the lake were Tree Swallows.

We witnessed the most beautiful sunset imaginable and spend most of the last 30 minutes of our day watching the sky ablaze. This was tortuous for Bill Duncan who brought his camera set up for bird photography but not his landscape lenses. It was during this time that Mike Thelen spotted a couple of shorebirds in a snag along the riprap. They were Spotted Sandpipers, the last bird of the day. Seven or eight of us enjoyed dinner together at the Lighthouse restaurant and compiled our list.

Sunday's group was much smaller but we enjoyed some truly great birding. Overwhelming numbers of migrant warblers were moving everywhere; it was impossible to see and identify them all AND we liked it! We saw a lot of BAY-BREASTED WARBLERS on Sunday along with more of most of the species seen on Saturday. An immature male ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK munching on Flowering Dogwood berries at very close range was a treat. We had two sightings of RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH on Sunday, whereas it was heard only on Saturday. We did not see Palm, Canada or Nashville but these were more than made up for by the Cape May and Black-throated Blue. Thanks to Mike Grant for spotting the Black-throated Blue and sharing it with the rest of us immediately after we called it a day and went our separate ways! We had extended excellent looks at close range. I also saw a probable Yellow-rumped and Dan Kassebaum photographed one (in juvenile plumage) in Hazlett on Sunday. It was surprising to hear so many warblers singing. We heard Tennessee, American Redstart and Northern Parula and perhaps others. Some of the singing seemed more emphatic than the "whisper" songs sometimes heard in the fall. I ended up with a few chigger bites. So if you're itching, maybe I strayed off the path a little too often.

Day list totals were 102 for Saturday and 91 for Sunday with a weekend total of 114. Even more species were seen over the weekend by birders not associated with our trip. It rained overnight on Saturday night and this seemed to produce more of a fallout effect. For example, covering the same ground, we saw 6 Scarlet Tanagers on Sunday whereas we saw none on Saturday. ◆

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2012

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week

Brussels, Ill.– In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge near Brussels, Ill. will hold an open house from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20.

At the open house visit with refuge staff and volunteers, build a bird feeder, tour the refuge on an auto tour or birding hike, and enjoy a wildlife photography exhibit. In addition, Tree House Wildlife Center will present a live bird demonstration at 12 p.m.

The wildlife photography exhibit will highlight local professional and amateur photographers and will be on display at the refuge visitor center Oct. 16–20.

All local photographers are invited to submit original photographs of wildlife and natural landscapes taken on Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge or in Calhoun County Illinois. Photos must be submitted by Friday, Oct. 12 to Two_Rivers@fws.gov or mail to HC 82 Box 107, Brussels, IL 62013.

Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge is a proud part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a nationwide network of public lands set aside to protect wildlife and their habitats. The nation's 556 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts offer Americans wonderful opportunities to fish, hunt, hike or observe fascinating creatures in the wild.

National wildlife refuges across the country will host many public events for National Wildlife Refuge Week, Oct. 14–20. Find an event near you or on your travel route by checking the Refuge System online events calendar: <http://go.usa.gov/wR3>.

For more information about the open house, call 618–883–2524 or email Cortney_solum@fws.gov. ♦



Wood Ducks at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge

Al Smith photo

Supplement: Two Rivers NWR is in need of volunteers to help staff the front desk at headquarters in Brussels. Hours are flexible and support is needed throughout the week. For details, contact Cortney Solum as noted above.

St. Louis Audubon will be leading a field trip as part of the open house event on October 20th. For details, see page 3 of this issue. ♦

St. Louis Audubon Society Donation Form

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!

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

10/12

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