

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 contact Chris at birding@forestparkforever.org.

GREEN FIRE MOVIE & PROGRAM

INCLUDES PRESENTATIONS BY CONSERVATION PROFESSIONALS

POWDER VALLEY NATURE CENTER

11715 CRAGWOLD ROAD IN KIRKWOOD

FRIDAY SEP 16TH AT 700 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED, CALL (314) 301-1500.

MISSISSIPPI EARTHTONES FESTIVAL

ALTON RIVERFRONT AMPHITHEATER

SATURDAY SEP 17TH FROM NOON TO 10P

[HTTP://WWW.RIVERFRONTAMPHITHEATER.COM/EARTHTONES/](http://www.riverfrontamphitheater.com/earthtones/)

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 4

CARLYLE LAKE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH & 18TH AT 7A

TWO ALL DAY TRIPS IN SEARCH OF WATERBIRDS AND FALL MIGRANTS. SUNDAY TRIP REQUIRES REGISTRATION.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY AND OTHER SITES IN MO & IL

SATURDAY SEP 24TH

VISIT [HTTP://WWW.PUBLICLANDSDAY.ORG/](http://www.publiclandsday.org/) FOR DETAILS

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6

CUIVRE RIVER STATE PARK

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1ST FROM 9A TO 1P

BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3

TWO RIVERS NWR & RIVERLANDS BIRD SANCTUARY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 730A

HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAY—PAGE 6

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

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National Wilderness Month

On September 1st, President Obama declared September National Wilderness Month. The proclamation reads, in part:

As we continue our country's proud journey and explore new opportunities in the 21st century, the importance of maintaining our wilderness has only grown. Protecting our wilderness areas and their riches -- clean water, stretches of undisturbed land, thriving wildlife, and healthy ecosystems -- is critical to the health of our environment and our communities. Today, wilderness areas serve as places for us to roam, hunt, fish, and find solitude. They are also strong engines of local economies, providing tourism and recreation revenue for communities.

From our earliest days, America's identity has been tied to the powerful waterfalls, soaring peaks, and vast plains of its land. As a people, we are defined by its diversity and empowered by its richness. This month, we honor this land that we love, and commit to ensuring our wilderness remains a place where all can experience the spirit that has shaped America. During National Wilderness Month, let each of us embrace our Nation's legacy of protecting and preserving our vast wilderness for generations to come.

I invite all Americans to visit and enjoy our wilderness areas, to learn about their vast history, and to aid in the protection of our precious national treasures. ◆

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.

Our Unknown 15 Minutes of Fame

By Lynne Breakstone

Our son lives in San Francisco, so we visit there regularly. An excellent nature guide, Eddie Bartley and his partner Noreen Weeden, introduced us to a small and little-known wetlands and bird refuge in the Bay Area called Heron's Head Park (<http://www.sf-port.org/index.aspx?page=210>).

Eddie got quite excited our first time there in 2010 when we saw a solitary Clapper Rail. On August 7th, a month ago, we were also quite excited to see three Clapper Rails in the same part of the park. We were returning the next day to St. Louis, so we called and told Noreen about our sighting. She said she would check with the Heron's Head regular birders to confirm what we saw. To our great delight she later informed us that we were "likely the first to see and recognize more than one California Clapper Rail and chick at Heron's Head Park."

The San Francisco Chronicle wrote an article about the chicks: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/08/19/BA681KP2NP.DTL>. To explain the title of this article, the Chronicle says that it was Dominik Mosur who "discovered" the chicks on Aug 8, but my husband and I know the truth!!

A few pictures of the chicks can be seen at Dominik's Flickr page, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dominikmosur/>. ♦

The Clapper Rail is a saltwater marsh specialist. The King Rail, seen here with a juvenile at Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge, is a close cousin and inhabitant of freshwater marshes. Nearly all marsh and wetland bird populations are at-risk due to habitat destruction. The California Clapper Rail seen by Lynne at Heron's Head is a western subspecies and is endangered.

Photo by Al Smith



From the Director

By Mitch Leachman

We need your help! Funding for wildlife and the environment has come under attack in Washington. The debt and deficit debate has allowed some lobbyists and politicians to pursue personal agendas that have included zeroing out some programs, eliminating the authority to administer other programs and cutting deeply into many others. With Congress returning from their summer break, that process will continue and your elected representatives need to hear from you.

First, a few facts. Environment and natural resource funding is a tiny part of the federal budget—just 1.1% of the President's 2012 request. About \$32 billion was included in that request—a big number for sure. Yet, that covers the entire Interior Department, the Forest Service and the EPA. Interior includes the National Park Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and more. Even if you consider only the non-defense discretionary spending of the federal budget, excluding entitlements like social security, the same \$32 billion represents only about 5%.

Looks like a bargain to me. Clean air, clean water, awesome recreational spaces, wildlife habitat restoration, endangered species protection, and lots more. Personally, I feel that \$32 billion is a shoestring, given the great responsibilities. I would like to see much greater resources available for these missions. Protecting our part of the planet and our own health and well-being with a nickel out of every dollar seems impossible.

However, I know now is not the time to make that pitch. Instead, we simply ask that any cuts to the federal budget be applied fairly and equally. No singling out the EPA, migratory birds or state wildlife grants for elimination or a dramatic cut. If 10% is needed off the top, then let it be applied across all departments at the same rate. Please contact your representatives and tell them so. Visit <http://www.teaming.com/funding/> or <http://www.lcv.org/act/> for details including direct communication tools to your elected officials.

Finally, consider one more thing. Many federal wildlife programs are extremely efficient; their funds are often matched one or more times by state, local or other organization funding. For example, the State Wildlife Grants Program in Missouri, funded by the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, has received \$14.5 million since 2002. Those funds produced nearly \$46 million in conservation activity through 636 separate fish, forest and wildlife projects. Over \$3 put to work for every \$1 invested—another bargain! For more details about this particular program, visit <http://moteaming.org/SWG.aspx>.

Protecting our environment and our health is not “wasteful government spending.” As always, thanks for your support and interest in the birds! ◆

Field Trips, Etc.

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. Contact Pat Lueders with general questions at (314) 359-9364.

Carlyle Lake Birding Trips–September 17 & 18

This year St. Louis Audubon is again offering a full weekend of birding at the peak of fall migration at Carlyle Lake! Come for one or both days. The pelagic boat ride is Sunday only and requires a reservation.

On Saturday, meet at the McDonalds in Carlyle, on highway 127 near highway 50 at 7:30 am. We will spend the morning watching for abundant migrant land birds in Hazlett State Park and will search the lake for Sabine's Gull, Jaegers and other rarities from shore in the afternoon, with further possibilities for shorebirding.

On Sunday morning, we will meet at 7:00 am at the McDonalds and will bird Hazlett State Park until about 10:30 am before heading to the marina to begin our annual pelagic trip. The boat ride runs from 11:00 am–2:00 pm, but you must arrive by 10:45 am to board the boat. Sabine's Gull is often seen on this trip and we've had a great run with Red Phalarope in recent years, often seeing this great pelagic bird as close as 25 feet! Another highlight (not seen every year) is the Black-throated Blue Warbler. The extra 50 miles to the east makes this bird just a little more likely! Day lists will likely run around 100 species. The land-based portions of the trip are free as always.

The Pelagic Trip is \$25 per person. Make your reservation for the Pelagic by sending an e-mail to joseph.w.eades@monsanto.com. Your reservation will be confirmed once your check is received. Send your check, made payable to Joe Eades at 517 Willow Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, snacks, insect repellent (if you desire), and comfortable walking shoes. We also need as much popcorn as we can get our hands on! This really brings the gulls in around the boat for great views. Expect several hours of walking each day. Confirmed trip participants will receive further information as the trip draws near. Trip Leaders: Joe Eades (joseph.w.eades@monsanto.com) and Pat Lueders (plueders479@aol.com).

The following nearby hotels may have rooms available. A block was reserved under St. Louis Audubon, but to be released on September 1st. The rates may also have changed.

Mariner's Village (at the lake), 1-877-451-7666----10 rooms, non-smoking, 2 queen beds, \$73.79 + tax

Super 8 (across from McDonald's), 1-618-594-8888----10 rooms, non-smoking, 2 beds, \$67.00 + tax ◆



Herring Gull (left) and Juvenile Sabine's Gull from the 2010 trip

Photos by Al Smith

Feds Announce Urban Bird Treaty Funding

Press Release

Washington D.C. – The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced today that 10 U.S. cities will receive \$650,000 in funding as part of the Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds (Urban Bird Treaty) grant program.

The Urban Bird Treaty program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), brings together private citizens, as well as federal, state, and municipal agencies and non-governmental organizations to conserve migratory birds through education programs, participation in citizen science, conservation and habitat improvement strategies, and reducing hazards to birds in urban/suburban areas.

“For the vast majority of people, birds represent their most frequent contact with wildlife. By taking steps to conserve birds and their habitat, we can also make our communities better places to live,” said Service Director Dan Ashe. “This program not only promotes actions that connect people and nature, but it also increases awareness and encourages youth to get involved in learning about birds and the role they play in our environment and urban settings.”

The cities of Phoenix, Arizona; Kennedale, Texas; Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; Indianapolis, Indiana; Opelika, Alabama; Hartford, Connecticut; Ogden, Utah; Lewistown, Montana; San Francisco, California; and Washington D.C. have been named new Urban Bird Treaty Cities. These cities each will receive a challenge grant of up to a \$70,000 from the Service. In addition, each existing Urban Bird Treaty city (Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Portland, Oregon; **St. Louis, Missouri**; Nashville Tennessee; Anchorage, Alaska; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York, New York) will receive a grant of \$10,000.00.

The Urban Bird Treaty cities and their partners develop and implement bird conservation projects and provide matching dollars and in-kind support. The Service provides the challenge grants and technical assistance. The cities and their partners also work to increase awareness of the value of migratory birds and their habitats, especially for their intrinsic, ecological, recreational, and economic significance. The wide variety of native birds thriving in urban areas underscores the importance of these urban/suburban habitats to the survival of many bird populations.

“Birds are a critical component of every ecosystem and serve as an excellent indicator of the overall health of the environment,” said Jerome Ford, the Service’s Assistant Director for Migratory Birds. “Creating green space in urban environments, landscaping with native plants in backyards and parks, adopting architecture and lighting systems that reduce collisions and keeping pets indoors can provide great benefits to birds, while also creating more livable communities.”

The Urban Conservation Treaty Program started in 1999 when New Orleans became the first city to establish an Urban Conservation Treaty. New Urban Bird Treaty cities are joining a program with already more than 200 partners in nine cities committed to conserving, protecting and restoring habitat, and educating urban residents on the importance of migratory birds.

Visit <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Partnerships/UrbanTreaty/urbantreaty.html> for more information about the Urban Bird Treaty Program.

Editor’s Note: The funds designated for St. Louis will support habitat projects in Maryland Heights, Tower Grove Park and University City. Tower Grove Park staff will administer the grant with support from the USF&WS Columbia Field Office. ◆

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.



St. Louis Audubon Society Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, November 4th



Sponsors: St. Louis Audubon Society and the Maryland Heights Residents for Responsible Growth

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.

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

8/11

St. Louis Audubon Society Chapter-Supporting Membership Form

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

Your Chapter-Supporting membership runs concurrently with your National Audubon membership, if you choose to maintain the latter. To continue to receive the *Audubon* magazine, you must maintain your National membership.

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

** Memberships of \$50, or above, will receive a copy of Dr. Stephen Kress' *North American Birdfeeder Guide*, a \$15 value, as our gift. This 220 page book covers feeding and observing tips and includes common species profiles.

100% of your dues stay in St. Louis supporting our local efforts. All our programs are free. Thank you very much!

If already a Chapter-Supporting member, you need do nothing but accept our thanks!

**Memberships are Tax Deductible
Less the \$15 Cost of the Book**

St. Louis Audubon Society
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**Customer Name
Street Address
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