Calendar

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS**

**FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER AT 5595 GRAND DRIVE**  
1ST SATURDAY MOST MONTHS; 830 AM TO 10 AM, MEET 815 AM  
For info contact Amy at birding@forestparkforever.org.

**AUDUBON SOCIAL**

**AUDUBON CENTER AT RIVERLANDS**  
SUNDAY JANUARY 27TH FROM 3P TO 6P  
HTTP://RIVERLANDS.AUDUBON.ORG/

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

**Baldwin Lake, Illinois**  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2ND AT 9A

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM—PAGE 5**

**WEBSTER GROVES LIBRARY**  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 6 AT 7P

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

**CLARENCE CANNON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH AT 9 AM.

**BEGINNER BIRD WALK—PAGE 3**

**Mallard Lake at Creve Coeur Park**  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16TH AT 8 AM

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

**Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary**  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16TH AT 8 AM

**MINGLE WITH THE NATIVE PLANT PROFESSIONALS**

**SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY MARCH 8TH FROM 5 PM**  
DETAILS TBD, BUT FORMAL PROGRAM BY NANCY LAWSON  
HTTPS://WWW.HUMANE GARDENER.COM/  
POWDER VALLEY nature CENTER

**BIRDING FIELD TRIP—PAGE 3**

**Woodcock Walk & Owl Prowl**  
BUSCH MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA  
SATURDAY MARCH 9TH AT 5 PM

**CONFLUENCE TRASH BASH WATERSHED CLEANUP**

**VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND ST. LOUIS COUNTY & CITY**  
SATURDAY MARCH 23RD FROM 830 TO 12 NOON  
HTTPS://BEHRMANN.WUFOO.COM/FORMS/R1RBTN2V17OTK0P/

**MARCH PROGRAM—PAGE 5**

**LOCATION TBD**  
THURSDAY MARCH 28TH AT 7P

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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Global Warming  
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February & March programs  
Native Landscaping Workshop  
Birdathon Save the Month

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**Great Backyard Bird Count**

February 15–18, 2019

Count birds as community scientists to help researchers in the US and Canada study bird migrations. This project occurs every year and is sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada. Just visit www.birdcount.org for all the details. The rules are flexible as to where you can count birds.

Count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the GBBC. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days.

Submit a separate checklist for each new day, for each new location, or for the same location if you counted at a different time of day. Estimate the number of individuals of each species you saw during your count period.

Most importantly, HAVE FUN!

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Northern Flicker. Al Smith photo
St. Louis Audubon Strategic Planning

By Dennis Martin

Last fall St. Louis Audubon President Katy Fechter appointed a small working group to begin the process of updating the organization’s five-year plan. The “core group” as it’s come to be known is composed of Katy, Director of Programs Mitch Leachman, Director of Operations Amy Weeks, and Board members Stacey Ludlum and Dennis Martin. Dennis has been organizing the effort.

The group began with a review of the previous plan, which covers the 2013–18 timeframe and then developed an outline for the new process. An update was presented at the October 9, 2018 Board meeting and a series of discussions were organized with Board members and other leaders around four subject areas: Finance and Membership, Conservation, Education/Outreach and the Board itself. Sessions were held in November to review the mission and goals for each area and to develop a comprehensive analysis on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). Reports were compiled, shared with participants, further edited and now form the basis for a deeper consideration of St. Louis Audubon’s priorities and goals going forward.

This deeper dive will be the focus of a planning summit to be held with Board members and other leaders on February 9th. Our purpose at the all-day session will be to build upon previous planning discussions to identify our top priorities. The group will discuss major questions and themes emerging from the SWOT analysis mentioned above.

Next steps? The core group will continue its work after the planning summit to include a benchmarking analysis to learn what we can from similar Audubon chapters. We plan to meet with leaders from partner organizations to get their perspectives on SLAS. Finally, as work begins on drafting the new five-year plan we intend to seek input from the membership at large in the directions being considered for our future.

The goal is to have the planning process completed in April/May and to begin implementing the strategies we’ve identified as our priorities.

Lots of work lies ahead, but in the meantime, we welcome your ideas and comments. Please feel free to contact Dennis Martin and/or Katy Fechter with your thoughts on this important project.

Dennis: djm7475@gmail.com
Katy: stlaudubonpresident@gmail.com
From the Director  

Global warming. It’s a hard subject, and it didn’t get any easier by calling it “climate change.” Chicken Little was right. The sky is falling, and we’re killing the planet! How do you sell that? In our sound-bite society and culture of avoidance, how do we keep the conversation focused long enough to get to the solutions?

How about sound bites for the planet? Climate Science in 12 words: It’s warming; It’s us; We’re sure; It’s bad; We can fix it. Courtesy of Dr. Kim Nicholas. https://twitter.com/KA_Nicholas.

It turns out that in spite of politics and misinformation, the U.S. Government agrees in the Fourth National Climate Assessment that was released November 23, 2018: https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/ This was just weeks after the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report emphasized the need for urgent action to limit the worst of the effects of global warming. https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/


The abuses we inflict on our environment are numerous: chemical pollution, poaching, overfishing, habitat destruction, and on and on. Global warming is so much more challenging in part because it is so less visible, and yet so much more pervasive. Like any problem, it cannot be solved by ignoring it, and unlike any other problem, this one’s about our life support system—the only planet we have. It won’t fix itself.

We are change agents! So, make daily decisions with the planet in mind. Upgrade your light bulbs to LED. Wash the clothes with cold water. Use a drying rack, instead of the dryer. Eat less red meat. Eat more plants. Weatherproof your house. Plan family errands to drive less. Carpool. You get the idea.

AND advocate for the planet by demanding climate action from your elected officials. The Citizens Climate Lobby is a great place to start. Let’s take our heads out of the sand and act; our future depends on it! ■

Field Trips, Etc.

**Feb 2nd 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 9th to Clarence Cannon Wildlife Refuge:** All day trip that meets at 9:00 am. From Hwy 79 in Annada, MO, take county road H the Paynesville Rd 1 mile east to the visitor center.

**Feb 16th 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.

**Feb 16th to Riverlands 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.

**March 9th at Busch Memorial Conservation Area:** Meet at 5 p.m. (note the time) for this evening Woodcock and Owl Prowl. 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.

All field trips are FREE. Reservations not required, unless noted—consult our website for details. For questions, contact Mike Grant at mikecurlew@att.net.
Riverlands January 5th Trip Report

By Mike Grant

On a beautiful day for January (temps 40–50 degrees, sunshine and only a mild breeze) the group of 22 gathered at Teal Pond. The best birds at the pond were a single male Hooded Merganser and 2 Herring Gulls.

With the plan to bird with that bright sun at our backs we drove to the dam. That served only as a turnaround as there wasn’t anything there other than a couple of Ring-billed Gulls. We drove back on Riverlands Way and stopped at a vantage point to scan the swans. I put the number at 175 Trumpeter Swans, but I wasn’t able to find any Tundras. The swans were actively feeding and often had a ring of mud on the ends of their bills. The group enjoyed watching a Bald Eagle sitting on a stationary snag as another one floated past on a log.

Moving closer to Heron Pond we worked that body of water. It held a large number of Greater White-Fronted Geese and Mallards with lesser numbers of Snow Geese (both phases) Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback and Redheads. A Red-tailed Hawk was spotted soaring then perched in the distance. Walking over to the Ellis Bay side we had better views of Bufflehead and a few Ruddy Ducks.

Moving to the parking lot with the pavilion and vault toilets, we scoped Common Mergansers and a single Common Goldeneye.

The Audubon Center was a zoo of people as our trip coincided with the Alton Audubon Eagle Ice Festival and it was a very nice day which prompted many people to come to the center. We had to park about a quarter of a mile away, but the walk on the sidewalk added White-crowned, Song and Eurasian Tree Sparrows. A Kestrel zoomed by as we walked near the water.

A few of us drove to Lincoln Shields, which was a waste of time as only Ring-billed Gulls were there.

https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S51340443

Before the official start time Dick P. reported a Tundra Swan and I saw a Northern Harrier, but neither are on the checklist. And a few people reported a Great Blue Heron well after it was seen by them (not me) so that also is not on the checklist. Happy New Birding Year!
Bird Conservation in the Pacific Islands

Wednesday, February 6th at 7 p.m.
Webster Groves Library

Accidentally introduced on Guam on the Pacific Islands after World War II, the brown tree snake was the first land predator that birds living on this island had ever faced, and they had no natural defenses to protect themselves, their nests, their eggs and their young. In just a few short decades, the invasive brown tree snake devastated the island’s forest bird species. Only two species of Guam’s forest birds, the Micronesian kingfisher and the Guam rail, survive today, and only in the care of zoos.

It was soon clear to conservationists that island species are particularly susceptible to introduced species because they have evolved in an environment in which they face fewer threats. Saving these beautiful animals is behind the establishment of the Saint Louis Zoo’s WildCare Institute’s newest center—the Center for Avian Conservation in the Pacific Islands.

Anne Tieber, Curator of Birds at the Zoo, will describe their efforts to prevent the current island birds from disappearing as the birds on Guam did. Since 2004, the Mariana Fruit Dove, Guam Kingfisher, Golden White-eye, and White-throated Ground Dove have been bred at the Saint Louis Zoo.

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, call (314) 599-7390 or mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.

Sharing a Passion for Missouri Birds & Moths

March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at TBD Location

Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren were called to return to the wild in 2009 when their love affair with birds first began. For the last five years, they have been bird-loving by day while mothing by night, and as of last year, they had photographically documented over 1,000 moth species in Missouri. They delight in sharing their photos and stories of the birds and moths and what it’s like to share these joys as a couple. They will also share how the birds led them back to loving their own species in a time when it is so easy to be disparaging of, and saddened by, human activities.

Andy & Chrissy share a mutual passion for the wild that surpasses all other callings in their lives. In the presence of moths, birds, trees, the land, clouds, a sunset or crescent moon, they experience awe and wonder they never thought possible. They strive to give back by sharing their love in creative ways through writing, drawing, photography, video and a continuous stream of gushing with whoever they encounter.

This is our annual joint program with the Eastern Missouri Group of the Sierra Club. Watch our website, FB page and this newsletter for the location. For questions, call (314) 599-7390 or mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.
NATIVE LANDSCAPING RECEPTION & WORKSHOP

featuring LARRY WEANER author of Garden Revolution

Reception and Lecture | FRI MAR 29 | 5:30 - 9pm
Homeowners Workshop | SAT MAR 30 | 9am - 4pm

at Danforth Plant Science Center

Educational Sessions & Resources
Gardening for Wildlife | Design | Maintenance | Rainscaping Features
Find Conservation Organizations | Purchase Native Plants
Meet Other Gardeners

Registration Opens January 31st
www.stlouisaudubon.org/PNL2019

Presented by The Partners for Native Landscaping:
Maine’s Hog Island Camp Registration Open for 2019

“I have been teaching for 25 years and have never experienced a more well-rounded and useful program than that offered to educators on Hog Island. It is nothing short of out of this world! The scope, variety and depth of material we learned was extensive, exciting and so much fun. The people were top notch and the food will make you sorry you have to go home!” That’s just one person’s reaction to a Hog Island experience.

The Camp has classes on raptors and puffins, art and birding, teens and families and much more. Of course, they also have programs especially suited for educators. If you’re a teacher, checkout their detailed listings at http://hogisland.audubon.org/programs. Should you be interested, but not sure you can swing all the expenses, you might be eligible for one of their many scholarships. A number of St. Louis Audubon volunteers have attended the Camp over the years. Each of them returned with a wealth of knowledge and lots of fond memories. Perhaps you will, too! ■

Save the date...
May 2019

Birdathon 2019
Join us for a fun and interactive bird-watching event!

What Is a Birdathon?
A Birdathon is similar to a walk-a-thon, but instead of counting miles, you count birds! You’ll have the opportunity to go on one-of-a-kind field trips and learn about local birds while raising money that helps connect people with nature and conserve habitats for birds and other wildlife!

Birders of all skill levels are welcome—expert birders, casual birdwatchers, beginners, kids, families and teams.

Registration opens in March. Information will be posted on www.stlouisaudubon.org as soon as it becomes available.

Together we can make a difference for St. Louis’s native birds and wildlife. Start forming a team now!

Our mission is to create a community connection to nature through education and conservation.
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 more may choose from these gifts:
Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy
Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern & Central North America

Please indicate your choice.

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

Memberships are Tax Deductible
Less the $15 Cost of the Gift