

Springfield Audubon Society

S U M M E R 2 0 1 3

Chapter Business

President's Message



29 May 2013
June through August 2013

Wow!! Now that the spring migration has been completed (and I hope all of you were able to observe many of the spring migrants) it's time for birds to build their nests and raise their families and for nature to reproduce itself so that future generations remain strong and healthy.

Let's also hope the birds can successfully survive the heavy downpours and flooding and the rash of wind storms and tornadoes; they all certainly have a daily challenge just to survive.

Many thanks to all of you who attended the monthly programs; those programs will resume in September. Should you have particular topics you think would be of interest to the membership, please let us know so we can arrange to have such programs.

The Chapter's board met in May and will meet again in July, September and November; we'd appreciate hearing from you about ideas you may have to enhance the Chapter. Also, if you have an interest in helping on any of Chapter's committees (program, field trip, membership, publicity, refreshments, and budget), —cont. on page 2—

SPRINGFIELD AUDUBON SOCIETY

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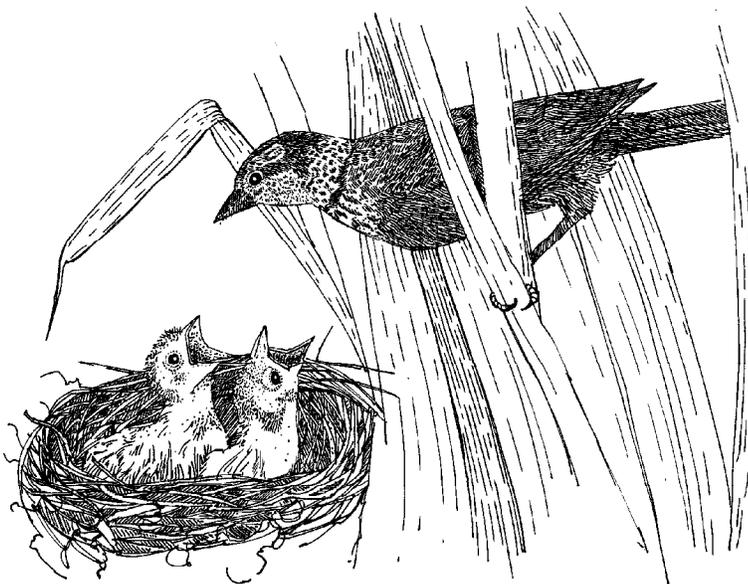
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CHAIRS

Membership—
Susan Shaw

Field Trips-
Nicholas Klobu-
char

Newsletter-
Greta Myers

cont. from page 1—
please let us know – you’d cer-
tainly be welcomed.

In addition, please mark your cal-
endars for Saturday, Sep. 28th; S.A.S. will
be holding an “OPEN HOUSE” that day at
the Adams Sanctuary. Sue Doubet
(reachable at s.ubet@comcast.net) is co-
ordinating that effort and would appreci-
ate your suggestions for activities as well
as assistance in preparing for it.

Website:

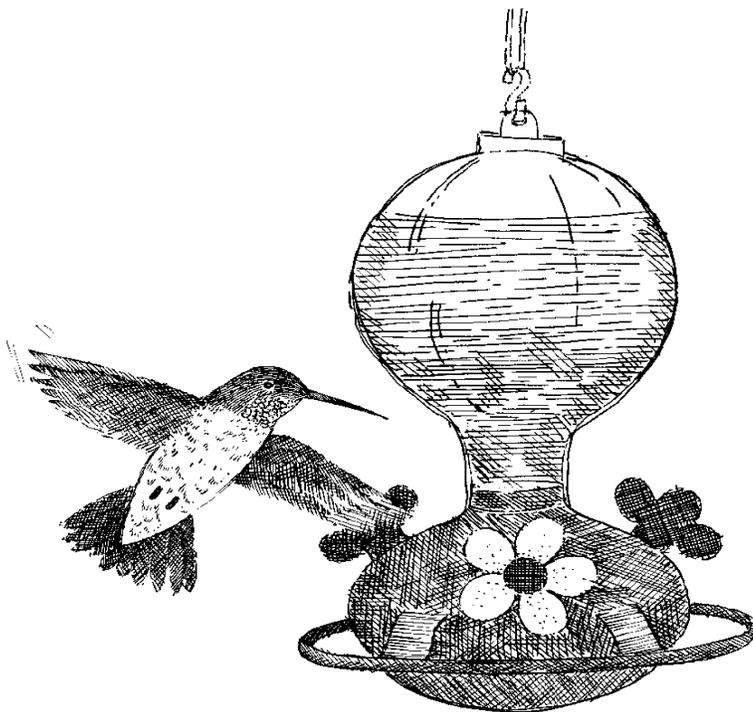
Please take a look at the Chap-
ter’s Website at
www.springfieldaudubon.org. Bill Nicol

Refreshment Committee:

Lisa Beam is “chairperson” of
this committee and has done a great
job of making sure (occasionally by her-
self) that “goodies” are available after
the monthly programs. Many thanks,
also, to those of you who have assisted
her. I do believe, though, that she
would like a few more volunteers for
some of the upcoming monthly pro-
grams.

Hummingbirds:

Hummingbirds are now present
in fairly large numbers. Because of the
cool weather, they were late
in arriving. Calls were re-
ceived from a few con-
cerned individuals in mid-
May because the birds they
did have at their feeders all
suddenly disappeared. Al-
though the exact cause(s)
for their disappearance may
vary from site to site, one
caller may have provided at
least one good answer – the
honeysuckle was in full
bloom at that time and was
more attractive to the birds
than the sugar water at the
feeders. I hope by now that
the birds have returned to
those sites that experienced
sudden withdrawals. The
next 3 months are
“hummingbird festival”



has done an outstanding job of not only
updating it, but, keeping it current. He is
particularly interested in getting photos
of Springfield Audubon activities, field
trips, interesting birds or other nature
related items for the website. He is also
responsible for Springfield Audubon’s
facebook. Please check these out – and
MANY THANKS, Bill.

months. Nearly 20 festivals have been
scheduled throughout the state. The
closest festival to Springfield is the one
at New Salem Park sponsored by the
Sangamon River Chapter on August
10th. It would be great if the Springfield
Chapter was able to sponsor a festival
of its own – so, if anyone is aware of a
location in the Springfield area that
attracts a lot birds to feeders, and that

is also willing to accommodate a lot of visitors to see the birds, PLEASE LET ME KNOW! Thanks.

Bird Banding:

The spring bird banding season at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC), following last fall's season, provided an ideal opportunity as a research and education-oriented banding station. The season, scheduled to begin on March 24th, was delayed until April 1st because of the "17 inches" of snow on the 24th. The final season tally was 1083 birds of 70 species banded in 40 banding days for an average of 27 birds per day. Many college students (who earned extra credit) and entire classes were regular visitors to the station, five persons were daily or near-daily assistants, and dozens of other visitors were welcome participants. For the fall season the station will be in operation (weather permitting) from dawn until near noon on weekday and several Saturday mornings from late August through mid November. All visitors are welcome.

Bird Seed and Feeders Arrangement!

Please remember our "arrangement" with Wild Birds Unlimited! Be sure to do your shopping for bird seed and nature-related items at Wild Birds Unlimited and to tell Wade (or the cashier) that you are a member of Springfield Audubon so that Audubon benefits from your purchases (50-cents for each bag of seed and a 10% discount on other items). This is one of our Chapter's chief sources of income. Wade also has SAS membership forms and newsletters at the shop and promotes SAS on the WBU web site.

And, finally, be sure to take some time every day throughout the summer to enjoy nature (even if just a little bit).

Vernon Kleen

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM SUMMER PROGRAMS

Storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis will be presenting two different programs as John Adams Audubon at the Illinois State Museum this summer. Brian presented the program at the Springfield Audubon Annual Meeting several years ago.



Audubon's Adventures in Illinois

Friday June 7, 28; July 5, 19; August 2,9.; 11 am-noon

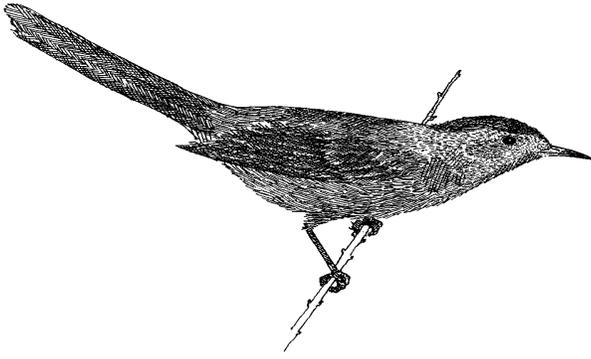
Spend an hour in the studio of one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists. Listen as storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis presents a first-person account of John James Audubon's travels and travails through our state.

Birding in the Museum

Friday June 7,28; July 5,19; August 2,9; 1-2 pm.

James Audubon is portrayed by Ellis, on unique bird watching adventures as he regales listeners with his in-depth observations of the species found in the *Changes* exhibition.

The Illinois State Museum is free and performances are suitable for all ages.



Springfield Audubon Society
PO Box 984
Springfield, IL 62705

Illinois Audubon Field Trips going on this Summer

June 15, Hackmatack Region Tour

Glacial Park, Four Seasons Nature Preserve, Gateway Park (stream sampling.) 8am to 3pm

Trip leader(s): Randy Schietzelt

Cost \$10 – includes water and plenty of snacks (lunch purchased at designated location or brown bag your own) Field trip will offer an interesting sweep of the area starting at Glacial Park, where we will look for grassland and wetland birds (restored habitat with common moorhens, sandhill cranes, black terns, yellow-headed blackbirds, bob-o-linkls, dickcissels, eastern meadowlarks, and usually Henslow's sparrows and northern harriers.) After lunch we will move to Four Seasons Nature Preserve, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (prairies, wetlands, savannas, and tamarack trees – all the Hackmatack habitats) with a drive past Peterkin Pond, which is a mini Jasper-Pulaski sandhill crane stopover spot in the fall. The day will conclude at Gateway Park, Harvard, Illinois, where we will participate in stream sampling for fish and invertebrates (dip nets & small seine.) The un-channelized headwater stream has 15 fish species including four of conservation concern, and a scud of conservation concern (*Gammarus lacustris*). Please dress for the weather and bring sun protection. Boots and waders recommended for the stream sampling activity.

July 20 Dragonfly Field Trip

Altamont Nature Center/Day Sanctuary. 9am to 4pm

Trip leader(s): Richard Day, John & Cindy McKee

Cost: \$45 – includes all meals and materials

The dragonfly workshop will begin at the Ballard Nature Center in Altamont. The workshop starts with an hour-long introduction to the dragonflies of the area presented by Richard Day. We will then proceed to the wetlands at Ballard to identify and learn about the dragonflies.

At noon we will break for lunch and then carpool to Richard and Susan Day's sanctuary to see the dragonflies that inhabit the wetlands, vernal ponds and creeks on their property. Depending upon the weather, we could see as many as 20-25 species throughout the day.

To register or for more information, visit www.illinoisaudubon.org

