

SPRINGFIELD AUDUBON SOCIETY ADAMS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

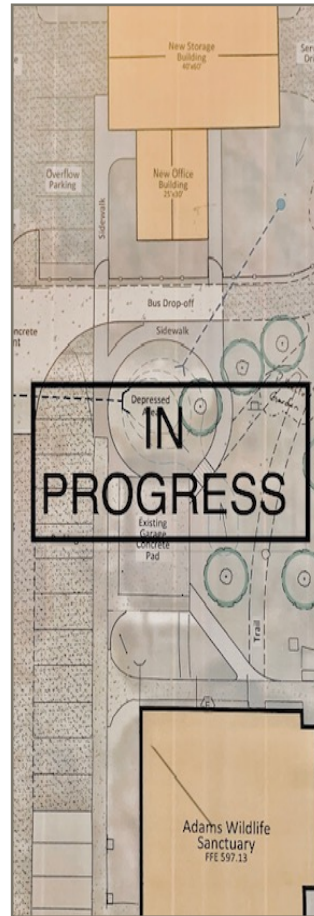
NEWS

SPRINGFIELD AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESIDENT Mike Holinga reports that planning is entering the final stages for a sanctuary project that will create new storage, land steward office space, increased parking, a bus drop-off area, and a covered pavilion located near the Margery Adams House. Creation of new native landscape features, which will be both attractive and educational, are included in this project and will augment existing habitats of interest near the house such as the pollinator and shade gardens, which were installed and are maintained by sanctuary volunteers.



Volunteers replace damaged trail signs. *Photo by Mary Grundel*

Other recent volunteer projects at Adams include the replacement of damaged trail signs and firebreak work around the prairie in preparation for a controlled burn this spring. The volunteer stewards also received advanced chainsaw instruction from IAS Land Steward, Kaleb Baker, to facilitate the removal of leaning trees. A redesign of the garden around the IAS/Adams Wildlife Sanctuary sign has also been completed.



Pollinator garden with bee houses. *Photo by Jeanne Handy*



Shade garden with newly installed edging. *Photo by Mike Holinga*



Greater Prairie-Chicken. *Photo by Joe Norton*

ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNOUNCED in January that they have purchased 75 acres situated within the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, located five miles southwest of Newton in Jasper county. Adjacent to the Robert Ridgway Grassland and adjoining IDNR lands, this tract provides continuity of grassland cover crucial to many grassland species. This acreage lies within the only area east of the Mississippi River where the Greater Prairie-Chicken can be found. The property will be restored, permanently protected, and eventually open for bird watching.

EVENTS

THE NEW YEAR BEGAN WITH PARTICIPATION on January 4th in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which is the nation’s longest-running citizen science bird project. SAS members joined IAS Executive Director, Jo Fessett and Assistant to the Executive Director, Matt Hayes, to seek and compile information about bird species present at the sanctuary. The CBC began in 1901, and the data collected over the past century have allowed Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, and wildlife agencies to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America.



IAS’s Matt Hayes records the bird species present at the sanctuary for the CBC. Photo by Jo Fessett

Sightings at Adams included numerous woodpecker species, Red-tailed hawks and a Barred owl. Other SAS members added to the count with a variety of species spotted near the sanctuary’s Margery Adams House. This information has been submitted to the National Audubon Society to be included with data collected from across the U.S. and Canada as well as locations in the Caribbean, Latin America, and Pacific Islands. “Annual Summaries of the Christmas Bird Count, 1901-Present” can be found on the [National Audubon Society website](https://www.audubon.org/learn/annual-summaries-of-the-christmas-bird-count-1901-present).



A sanctuary hike preceded the 2023 annual meeting. Photo courtesy of WICS News

SAS’s ANNUAL MEETING in January was preceded by a sanctuary hike, which was featured in a local television news report. Board member and officer elections were held followed by a potluck meal and a presentation by Tony Rothering. SAS members learned about Tony’s work with the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders (LLABB) and how knowledge obtained through bird banding assists with conservation efforts. Banding can provide long-term information about habitats utilized by various species, bird longevity and diversity, stopover locations and wintering grounds, and it assists our understanding of changes in bird populations. SAS donated \$460 to LLABB for the purchase of four new nets to assist their efforts.



All SAS officers and board members were in attendance. Photo by Jim Grundel

SAS members learned about *3 Billion Birds Gone*, a website that provides information related to the startling bird losses that have occurred since 1970 and how we can help: <https://www.3billionbirds.org/>



Tony Rothering explained how banding provides long-term information crucial to bird conservation efforts. Photo by Jeanne Handy

EDUCATION

SAS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS will be hosting a group of Grant Middle School students at the Margery Adams House in March. After receiving a request from the students' teacher who sought a nature-based experience for the children, the education volunteers set to work creating a program for them. The students

"I'm trying to teach them the value of nature."

GINA ROMER / GRANT MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

will first learn beginning bird identification, with a focus on common backyard birds. They will then record the number of different bird species featured in pictures placed around the indoor space as well as live birds seen on the outdoor feeders. After



discussing the names and number of each species seen, the students will conclude their outing by making a pinecone feeder to hang either at their own homes or in their school yard.



ON THURSDAY, MAY 4TH (rain date May 16th), SAS volunteer educators will participate in Earth Stewardship Day, an annual event held at the Illinois State Fairgrounds to help educate students about the importance of protecting, restoring and recycling our natural resources. Students will learn about possible situations birds face while migrating and will play The Bird Migration Game. They will "migrate" to 15 stations where they will encounter obstacles and beneficial situations to determine whether or not they will survive their trip.

AWS BIRD HIKES

FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE SANCTUARY, weekly bird hikes will be offered during spring migration on Thursday mornings during the months of April and May. IAS's Assistant to the Executive Director, Matt Hayes, will be leading the hikes to look not only for our resident birds but also migrants as they pass through the area. These hikes will be conducted both for the pleasure of spotting a variety of birds and also to seek and quantify as many species as possible for submission to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database. Currently, new "eBird Trends" maps are available for more than 550 species. Your sightings during the Thursday sanctuary hikes can help keep that number growing.

**SCHEDULE: Thursday mornings, April 6 through May 25
8:00 a.. to 9:00 a.m.**

Hikes begin at the parking lot of Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. They are free and open to the public.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
Drawing by Jeanne Handy

Submit your photos or drawings of bird species you have encountered for potential use in the pages of this newsletter and/or on our Facebook page. You may submit them to jthandy@comcast.net. Please include your name (optional), species name, and the general location of your sighting.

COLLABORATION

SAS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ON THE FRONTLINES in coordinating a major Earth Day event that will be held on April 20th at the Illinois State Museum in collaboration with the Illinois Audubon Society, Lincoln Memorial Garden, the Illinois Environmental Council, the Friends of the Sangamon Valley, the Illinois Native Plant Society as well as the museum. This event will feature a viewing of the film, *Jens Jensen: The Living Green*. Following the movie, participants will be joined via Zoom by the film’s director and co-producer, Carey Lundin, who will answer questions and relay her experiences with Jensen-inspired groups across the country in the years following the movie’s premiere.



Who was Jens Jensen? The movie follows Danish-born Jensen from his 1885 arrival in Chicago through his career as a visionary landscape architect. He believed that parks and diverse habitat need not be



exclusive of each other and planted the first native flowers in any park in the country. As an early conservationist, he worked to prevent the destruction of existing habitat and to help organize movements leading to the creation of the Illinois state park system.



Carey Lundin speaks to an audience of 3,000 at the Chicago premiere of *Jens Jensen: The Living Green*

Jensen understood, long before research would provide evidence, that people benefit from being in nature and felt everyone should have easy access to “the living green.” Near the end of his life, he traveled to Springfield to create plans for the Lincoln Memorial Garden, which is now a National Historic Landmark and a living testament to Jensen’s crucial concepts for landscape and people.

Images courtesy Carey Lundin



“We want to be able to inspire the next generation of conservation heroes.”

CAREY LUNDIN / DIRECTOR AND CO-PRODUCER

This event will take the place of SAS’s typical Third Thursday offering in April and will include a social hour preceding the film with food truck and bar service. Representatives from the collaborating organizations will be on hand at information tables to discuss goals, projects, and volunteer opportunities. A live, post-film Q&A session with Carey Lundin will conclude the evening. See “Upcoming Events” in this newsletter for event schedule and time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH: Dr. Amy McEuen, UIS Professor of Biology, will present “Wild Gardening: Our Role in Stopping a 6th Mass Extinction.” Dr. McEuen will discuss how we can play a pivotal role in slowing biodiversity loss. She wants us to consider: Can the metaphor of gardening help us cultivate a new, engaging conservation ethic? What would it mean to see ourselves as earth's gardeners? *Image courtesy of Amy McEuen*



March 16, 2023, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30.

APRIL: A special Earth Day event will be held at the Illinois State Museum with a screening of the film, *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* in collaboration with the Illinois Audubon Society, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Illinois Environmental Council, Illinois Native Plant Society, Friends of the Sangamon Valley and the museum. A social hour will precede the film with food truck and bar service. Following the 50-minute movie, there will be a live Q&A session via Zoom with the film’s creator, Carey Lundin. This event is free and open to the public.



April 20, 2023, Illinois State Museum, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Film begins at 6:30.

MAY: Illinois Audubon Society’s annual Chapter Big Day returns in May. Chapter Big Day is a competition between the IAS chapters for the most species observed in Illinois during a 24-hour period. Participants may observe for any desired length of time within this period. Watch for upcoming details and registration information on joining the SAS chapter team in this competition.

May 13, 2023, 12:00 a.m. - 11:59 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT AWS



Educational Programs: Assist with programs such as FeederWatch, Bird Detectives, and guided nature hikes

Third Thursday Events: Assist with set-up, tear-down, donate refreshments

Tuesdays and Thursdays with the Stewards: Assist with invasive plant removal, tree planting, trail and native garden maintenance, and other general stewardship tasks

No experience is necessary. Interested? Please contact Mike Holinga at mjholinga@icloud.com



For news and updates about Events and Volunteer Opportunities, follow Springfield Audubon Society on Facebook.

SAS Officers

Mike Holinga	President
Grace Norris	Vice President
Rhetta Jack	Secretary
Mary Grundel	Treasurer

SAS Board Members

Mike Bowers
Debbie Bruce
Joe Gardner
Jeanne Handy
Vernon Kleen
Rick Lanham
Marilyn Robins
Matt Hayes Ex Officio



To contact Springfield Audubon Society, email Mike Holinga at mjholinga@icloud.com

Springfield Wild Birds Unlimited Purchases

When purchasing items at Springfield Wild Birds Unlimited, remember to inform the cashier that you are a Springfield Audubon Society member. Our chapter receives a percentage of purchases made by members.

Thank you to Springfield's WBU for continuing to supply all bird feed and feeders for Adams Wildlife Sanctuary.

