Calendar

BEGINNER BIRD WALK FIELD TRIPS
FOREST PARK VISITOR CENTER AT 5595 GRAND DRIVE
1ST SATURDAY MOST MONTHS; 8:30 AM TO 10 AM, MEET 8:15 AM
For info contact Amy at birding@forestparkforever.org.

WILDFLOWER CONCERT SERIES – PAGE 4
SHAW NATURE RESERVE
SATURDAYS IN JUNE; 6 PM TO 8 PM

BIRDING FIELD TRIP - PAGE 4
BLUE GROSBEAK AND LOST VALLEY
SATURDAY JUNE 8TH AT 6:30 AM

WOMEN IN THE WILD – PAGE 4
SAINT LOUIS ZOO
WEDNESDAY JUNE 12TH; 7 PM TO 8:30 PM

BEGINNER BIRD WALK – PAGE 4
ST. VINCENT PARK
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH AT 8 AM

YOUNG BIRDERS FIELD TRIP – PAGE 4
CENTRAL MISSOURI FIELD TRIP
BIG MUDDY JAMESON ISLAND & ARROW ROCK STATE PARK
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH AT 9:00 AM

YOUNG BIRDERS FIELD TRIP – PAGE 4
KANSAS CITY AREA FIELD TRIP
WESTON BEND STATE PARK
SATURDAY JUNE 15TH AT 9:00 AM

BIRDS: FANTASTIC FRIDAYS – PAGE 4
POWDER VALLEY CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST; 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER OPEN HOUSE
WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER IN BALLWIN, MO
SUNDAY JULY 7TH AT 10 AM TO 4 PM

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Second Annual Birdathon  By Bill Rowe

Last year, SLAS initiated a May Birdathon, for fun and for fundraising—but our planning started late, and we promised ourselves that next time we would start much earlier. So in February our working group had the first of three meetings to get a much better jump on this project. Besides myself, the group included President Fechter, Program Director Leachman, Operations Director Weeks, Field Trip Coordinator Grant, WGNSS Ornithology Chairman David Becher, and Audubon Center Director Ken Buchholz (my title was "Member"). Working with us by phone and email was the indispensible Webmaster Chuck Kirkpatrick.

A Birdathon is not exactly like a marathon, where everyone is striving for the same extreme goal of running 26.2 miles. We continued this year with the idea of allowing everyone to figure out their own plan and their own goals, from finding the most bird species they could within one calendar day (a "Big Day"), to covering only part of a day, to taking a walk in the park with or without the kids, to staying home and watching their feeder. It could be done individually or as a team. And since May is the best month for the greatest diversity of birds, with the warblers and other neotropical migrants coming through, we allowed for birding any day of that month, or even multiple days. We emphasized inclusion and de-emphasized competition.

Continued on page 3
Board Meetings
Open to All. 2nd Tuesday of Even Months at 7 pm at the Sunset Hills Community Center at 3915 S. Lindbergh Boulevard.

Board recruitment is an ongoing process and combines your interest and our need. If you have considered serving in such a way, stop by or call one of us.

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Newsletter
Tale Feathers is published monthly. For submissions, comments or corrections, contact Amy Weeks as noted above.

Budding Birders
by SLAS Member, Jennifer Ward

As folks who appreciate and enjoy birds, many of us may recall that specific moment when an experience with birds triggered our fascination. Perhaps it was an experience shared by a family member, friend or loved one? Or maybe while observing an interesting behavior or species never noticed before? Or something experienced as a child? Each of us has a unique and personal “aha!” moment that, from that point on, intertwined our lives with the lives of birds.

I love birds, in the sense that the windows in my home are riddled with binoculars and I spend most days distracted by avian activity outside. But those words are also the title of my newest book, “I Love Birds! 52 Ways to Wonder, Wander and Explore Birds with Kids,” a companion to my book, “I Love Dirt! 52 Activities to Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature”, both published by Roost Books.

Today, more than ever, kids need a reason to unplug and connect to nature. And today, more than ever, birds need kids – their awareness, understanding and stewardship – now and in the future. I Love Birds! offers 52 creative, quick and simple activities for kids that awaken the senses and explore STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math). No matter the location – from a small patch of green in the city, to a patch of countryside or wild, or even through a window – each activity is meant to promote exploration, stimulate imagination and heighten a child’s sense of wonder about birds. It’s a book that I hope triggers many “aha!” moments for children and the adults who bird with them. What better hope do birds have for generations to come than the bond that may form with our children today?

Jennifer Ward is a freelance writer and the award-winning author of 25 books for children, most of which explore nature and science.

Visit her on the web: JenniferWardBooks.com
From the Director

By Amy Weeks

About a year and a half ago, the biggest and best surprise I could have imagined happened in my life—the arrival of my son Benjamin. It has been non-stop excitement (and exhaustion) ever since. One of the best things about this new adventure is getting to introduce Benjamin to all of the wonderful things nature and the outdoors has to offer. Being outside is his favorite place to be (big grin)! Unfortunately, this spring didn’t provide too many favorable days to be able to play and explore outside for a one year old. But, that didn’t stop Ben and I from watching and learning about birds. Thanks to technology and a few brave souls willing to climb high above the ground to install nest cams, we were able to observe the intimate everyday lives of birds building nests, laying and incubating eggs, and feeding and fledging their young.

Nest cams gained popularity in 2012, when Cornell Lab of Ornithology staffers saw the campus’s resident pair of red-tailed hawks, Big Red and Ezra, building their nest on a light pole above the university’s athletic fields, and came up with the idea of installing a camera at the nest site.

Now there are nest cams all over the world, for species including bald eagles, peregrine falcons, great-horned owls, barred owls, ospreys, California condors, and of course, red-tailed hawks. In addition to video, many include audio, details about the species and the nest site, video archives, social media feeds, and hosted live chats with volunteer moderators.

I love that nest cams provide us with an opportunity to watch the next generation of birds come to life, and I love it even more that I get to share this with my son, who represents the future and the next generation of bird enthusiasts!

To find out more about nest cam viewing sites, visit the websites of: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology (cams.allaboutbirds.org/); Raptor Resource Project (raptorresource.org); Wild Birds Unlimited (www.wbu.com/live-cam/) and explore.org.

Still needing to buy a gift for Father’s Day?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Remember to visit AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and choose St. Louis Audubon Society as your charitable organization.
Field Trips & Events

**June 8th at Blue Grosbeak and Lost Valley:**
This half day trip includes moderate hiking over some rough terrain. Meet at 6:30 am. From Hwy 40, take Hwy 94 south, ¾ mile to the lot on the left.

**June 15th Beginner Bird Walk at St. Vincent Park:**
St. Vincent Park is located at 7335 St. Charles Rock Road, Saint Louis, MO 63133. This 2-hour trip includes easy walking. Meet at 8 am. From the park entrance, go north 0.5 miles to the first right. Continue to the parking lot at greenway and picnic shelter. Bring your binoculars, if you have them; loaners are available.

**June 15 Young Birders Trip, Central MO:**
Join the MO Young Birders Club for a fun morning of birding along the Big Muddy Jameson Island Unit trail and around Arrow Rock State Historic site. Event is free and family friendly. Meet at the Visitors Center. Event is from 9 am – 11 am.

**June 15 Young Birders Trip, Kansas City:**
Join the MO Young Birders Club at Weston Bend State park from 9 am to 11 am to look for summer bird activity, butterflies, and other wildlife. Bring a lunch and stay for a group picnic after the walk.

**Wildflower Concert Series: Saturdays in June**
Located at Shaw Nature Reserve. Local bands will perform on the Bascom House Lawn. Visitors are invited to bring their chairs and blankets and can purchase food, wine, beer and spirits from local vendors. Concert included in regular admission.

**Women in the Wild: June 12, 7–8:30 pm**
Located at the St. Louis Zoo Anheuser-Busch Theater. Free admission. No reservations needed. Featured speaker--Stephanie Arne, host of the online version of the "Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom."

**Birds: Fantastic Fridays: June 21, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**
Take a closer look at a bird’s wings, feet, and beak. Learn how these body parts and other adaptations are essential for a bird to survive in the wild. Families, Scout, and camp groups are welcome. Activities will be indoors and outdoors. For groups of more than 20, please call for a reservation.

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**Second Annual Birdathon Continued...**

With all this variety of styles permitted, the whole thing was a bit complicated to explain to the public. Nevertheless, this year saw at least three full Big Day entries, with a top count of 148 species; we hope to see those numbers continue to grow.

Also complicated were the plans for the fundraising aspect. Chuck did a lot to clarify and streamline the procedures and the ways people could contribute. Basically, those who went birding on their own paid a flat rate to be part of the Birdathon (knowing it was all for a good cause, and knowing that it was to benefit WGNSS and the Audubon Center at Riverlands, as well as SLAS), while those who formed Big Day teams asked their friends and relatives, maybe even random strangers, to pledge whatever they wished, beyond a certain minimum, per bird species found.

Having advertised the Birdathon much earlier and more persistently this time, we hoped for better results, and we got them. At this writing, we are still some distance from a final tally—a number of donations have yet to be processed—but it will clearly be well above last year's. We'll publish the results next time.

All SLAS members, please mark your calendars for May 2020. Birdathon III is just around the corner!
What a beautiful morning we had with 15 walkers meeting up in the Schnucks-Loughborough parking lot. It was sunny, warm and even a touch windy as we headed into Carondolet Park.

One of our first sightings was a flycatcher, perched out in the open, over the trail. All 3 walk leaders tried to identify the small bird but without the bird song, we had to leave our ID as simply a flycatcher.

As we were about to cross Holly Hills Drive, a red-tailed hawk was spotted high in a large pine tree. We crossed the street and took a better look. We saw two small balls of fluff perched close to the edge of the nest. Towards the end of the walk, two adults were soaring over our heads. As we left, an adult brought fresh caught prey to the young hawks.

There were also good looks at Eastern Kingbirds and a Cooper’s Hawk being mobbed by Blue Jays and Common Grackles.

In a little over 2 and half hours, a total of 28 species of birds were seen by our intrepid bird walkers. I want to extend many thanks to the participants and to Karen Meyer & Sue Gustafson, for assisting on the walk.
Conservation Education Internship: Fall 2019

Announcement:
St. Louis Audubon Society is pleased to announce a newly developed Conservation Education Internship. This opportunity is a paid internship for the fall 2019 semester, approximately September through early December.

The application deadline is: August 15, 2019

Applicants should submit a resume that outlines relevant work and educational experiences and a cover letter stating their interest. Send to Amy Weeks, Director of Operations, St. Louis Audubon Society- operations.stlauudubon@gmail.com.

Job Title: Conservation Education Internship
Organization: St. Louis Audubon Society

Description: St. Louis Audubon Society works to create community connections to nature through education and conservation. We aim to foster an awareness and understanding of birds, other wildlife, and their natural habitats. We are seeking a student to teach day classes to elementary aged students. Classes focus on bird classification (what makes a bird a bird), adaptations (what helps them survive), and why we should care about birds. The Conservation Education Intern will be a key public face for our organization, spending the majority of their time facilitating programs for elementary students. Other duties will be assigned and may include: program development and/or evaluation, organizing and inventorying supplies, and creating social media posts.

The Conservation Education Intern will need reliable transportation to drive to and from school programs.

Skills Required:
- Minimum of 2 years of study in education, outdoor recreation, biology, ecology, or environmental studies
- Experience working with youth
- Knowledge of current environmental issues
- Confidence and ability to speak in front of a group
- Confidence in working individually as well as within a team

Compensation: $1,000 Stipend/5-10 hours per week for up to 12 weeks
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.

**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

□ $20 □ $30 □ $50** □ $100 □ Other________

If already a Chapter—Supporting member, you need do nothing but accept our thanks!
Feathers UI aims for buttery smooth 60 fps performance based on the philosophy that cross-platform UI kits shouldn't sacrifice one of the most important benefits of native development. Cross-platform GUIs. Build stunning, hardware-accelerated user interfaces on a variety of operating systems, including iOS, Android, Windows, and macOS. Find feather stock images in HD and millions of other royalty-free stock photos, illustrations and vectors in the Shutterstock collection. Thousands of new, high-quality pictures added every day.