

KVAS Summer 2009



Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Illinois Audubon Society

Volume 14, issue 2

Saw-Whet Owl Trip Plans

The Illinois Audubon Society's annual trip to see Saw-whet owls at Linwood Springs Research Station at Stevens Point, WI will take place the weekend of October 10-12. Our first birding experience will be on Saturday in the beautiful Vermilion River Valley with Marilyn Campbell, a co-leader on the trip, as our guide. The next day we will then travel on to the "Birds in Art" exhibit at the Leigh-Yawkey Art Museum at Wausau, WI. That evening we will be visiting the banding station to observe the banding of Saw-whet Owls. It will be at the height of the fall migration and on this night three years ago, while we were there, a record was set with seventy-four birds netted. The next morning we will travel to Necedah Wildlife Refuge to see the Whooping cranes as they are being trained to migrate to Florida by fol-

lowing an ultra light airplane.

The trip will start in Belleville and you can join us along the way as we make our way north to Wisconsin. The cost of the trip is \$260, based on double occupancy, which includes transportation, two nights in motels, and all entrance fees. For more information or to secure a place on this trip call Thomas May at 618-475-2790 or samtum@att.net

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Officers:

- President: Susan Harbaugh 618-282-2914
- Vice-president: Debbie Neumann
- Treasurer: Tim Dever
- Secretary: OPEN
- IAS Liaison: Tom May
- Board Members at Large: Carol Dougherty, Ralph Buettner, Krista Olson
- Past President: Carolyn Wright

Committee Chairs:

- Programs: Debbie Neumann 684-4799
- Field Trips: Marty Kemper 345-4444
- Newsletter & website: Krista Olson 473-3229 kmo6978@yahoo.com
- Membership: Tim Dever 475-2366

Help Wanted for Nature Festival. Also, fans and tents needed. Bring lots of water. Wear a yellow shirt to represent KVAS. Contact Tim Dever. Be there July 25



We Nurture Nature

HELP KVAS RAISE FUNDS



ONLINE:

Help KVAS

raise funds. Please use
www.goodsearch.com

SHOPPING: eScrip

Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society (KVAS) continues to reap

the benefits of the eScrip program. The Schnucks eScrip Community Card Program simply requires a shopper to register a card and then to present it to the cashier each time when checking out at the store. Schnucks in turn makes a donation to KVAS. If you would like to participate in this pro-

gram or know of a relative or friend you could pass a card to, contact Susan Harbaugh (harbaugh@htc.net or phone 282-2914). Or simply pick up some cards at the service counter next time you are at Schnucks. Card activation is as easy as calling 1-800-931-6258 or by visiting www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp.

WANTED:

KVAS members to run for Board Officer positions for 2010. Requirements: Interest in upholding the KVAS purpose of "to promote appreciation and increase knowledge of wild bird life, plants, animals and the environment that

supports them, and to further the conservation of natural resources." Salary and Benefits package: priceless. The Board Members at Large (Carol Dougherty, Krista Olson and Ralph Buettner) will be looking for/building a

candidate slate late in 2009. If you are interested, please pass your name and desired position along to one of them. – S Harbaugh

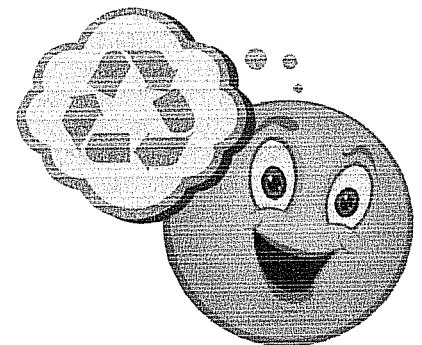
Call For T-Shirts...

I am collecting slightly used (and still in good condition) tee-shirts to give to a migrant worker program. (My sister's church sponsors a clothing program for them each year.) Last year, I took about 25 tee shirts, and they were scooped up by grateful people in about 5 minutes!! I know many of us accumulate many shirts, and some are little or never worn. The migrants do not care if the

shirt depicts a bird, participation in an event, etc. Of course, it goes without saying that they should not have any questionable "statements." Members can bring them to me at the Board meeting, or at the spring gathering. Also, maybe Chapter Reps could pass the word in their local groups. I will see that the shirts all get a new home -- recycling at its best!!!

Marilyn

(Tom May has agreed to collect shirts at our meetings and transport them to Marilyn as needed.)



Global Warming at the State Level

Current trend: Northern portion of the Midwest has warmed by almost 4°F, while southern portion along Ohio River valley has cooled about 1°F. Increase in annual precipitation by as much as 10–20%, including significant increase in number of days with heavy precipitation events.

Projected changes: Temperatures will increase throughout the Midwest, particularly in the northern region, which could see average temperatures rise by 5–10°F by 2100. Average minimum temperature likely to increase 1–2°F more than the maximum. Precipitation also likely to continue upward trend, but increased temperatures

will lead to increased evaporation and more drought-like conditions across much of the region.

A majority of IL will increase 1 hardiness zone. If this happens, Illinois' state tree and flower will shift out of the state. **White oak** (*Quercus alba*) **Purple violet** (*genus Viola*)

****NWF gardener's Guide**

Spring Bird Count

On May 10, 2009 ten bird-watchers, in six teams canvassed Monroe County with the task to count every bird that they saw. Thanks go to Carl & Pen Daubach, Paul Feldker, Dennis Jacobsen & Tish Turner, Tom May & Krista Olson, Carolyn Wright and Dennis & Mary Regan for participating in the 2009 Spring Bird Count in Monroe County.

Annually on a Saturday in early May birders throughout Illinois count the birds in their county.

The Illinois Spring Bird Count was initiated by Vern Kleen when with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in 1975. The participants record all birds seen or heard, along with the number of hours they spend "owling" (pre-dawn

hours), the number of hours spent looking for birds during the day, the number of miles driven in a car, and the number of miles walked. These results are tabulated by Vern in conjunction with the Illinois Natural History Survey and results of the past 30 years can be accessed through the Illinois Natural History Survey website at www.inhs.uiuc.edu/databases/sbc.

Observers in Monroe County this year tallied 158 bird species and 10,293 individual birds.

Red-winged blackbirds "won" the prize for the most counted bird with 2382 seen. Bobolinks were seen in at least three areas of the county. Twenty eight species of warblers were counted.

Looking back over the records of the past eleven years that I have compiled the data for Monroe County shows some interesting numbers. Sixty-nine species were observed in all eleven years, twenty-two species were observed in only one of the eleven years. In 2009, forty-six of the species counted were high counts when compared with the previous eleven years. White-crowned sparrows showed much larger numbers than previous years with 221 birds.

Anyone interested in participating in the Spring Bird Count in Monroe, Randolph or St. Clair County next year contact Mary Regan or Tim Dever for information.



KVAS

www.e-kvas.org

KVAS 2009 CALENDAR - PROGRAMS

All meetings will be held at 7pm at Southwestern Illinois College, Redbud Campus in the auditorium. For More Information contact Program Chairman, Debbie Newman at 618-684-4799 or skink@globaleyes.net.

July 25 — 8am-noon KAVANA. KVAS Nature Festival. Hanft Park, New Athens.

September 17 – **Richard Day** will give a program on **Polar Bears**. Richard has been leading trips for 8 years to Churchill Manitoba and will take us along on this journey though his photos and stories. Richard is a professional nature photographer whose credits include National Geographic, Audubon, Birder's World, and National Wildlife among others.

October 15 – Marilyn Campbell, former Executive Director of the Illinois Audubon Society will talk to us about **Woodpeckers: Nature's Cavity Makers**. Marilyn will talk about North American woodpeckers including all Illinois species, focusing on their overall biology, adaptations, and identification.

November 19 – Debbie Newman, Natural Areas Preservation Specialist with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (and long-time KVAS member), will give us a program on **Southern Flatwoods: Southwestern Illinois' Rare Natural Community**. This natural community once covered several million acres of southern and south-central Illinois. Today, only about 650 acres of high-quality southern flatwoods remain, all right here in our area.

December 11— Christmas party.

KVAS 2009 CALENDAR - FIELD TRIPS

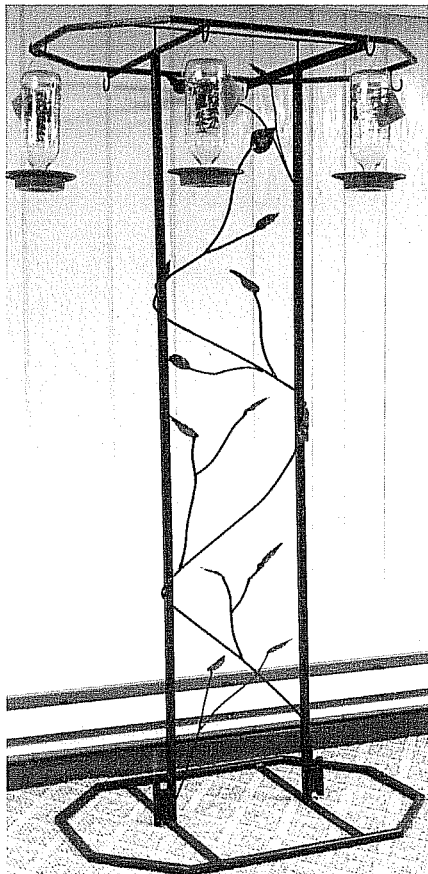
August 22 — On this day we will tour the new IAS headquarters, historic Margaret Adams House, and search for birds in a 40 acre urban woodland - all at the IAS Adams sanctuary in Springfield. We will carpool from SW Illinois and arrive in Springfield at 9:30AM for this approximately 3 hour visit to enjoy IAS's new showcase in the Land of Lincoln. After lunch, some members will want to visit the Lincoln Library and help celebrate the 200th birthday of "honest Abe."

Sept 5 — Start the Labor Day weekend with some Posen Woods Fun and join us at 8:00AM for the Posen Woods walk. Posen Woods is 40 acre state nature preserve adjacent to Washington County Conservation Area located 5 miles south of Nashville, Illinois. Posen Woods has a small walking trail through this unique habitat that once was widespread in the Southern Till Plain of south-central Illinois. Flatwoods are good habitats for red-headed woodpeckers. Time permitting; we will also observe the fascinating and beneficial effects of prescribed fire now used as a management tool in select oak woodlands at Washington County Conservation Area. With luck we will see little ladies' tresses orchids and southern-blazing star in bloom.

December 11— Christmas party. Locations to be determined. Contact Board member w/ suggestions.

December 19 — Christmas Bird Count for the Baldwin L/Kaskaskia Valley count will occur on Saturday, December 19th, weather permitting of course. The postpone date will be Saturday, December 26th. VOLUNTEER! Contact Tim Dever

Raffle



KVAS has a wonderful wrought iron hummingbird feeder stand that will be raffled off as the Grand Prize at our Wildlife Festival on July 25th. It will hold six hanging feeders with pegs to drive in the ground or bolts to attach it to your deck. It was designed and made by Burr Oak Specialty Metals of Freeburg.

Additionally, Kathy and Pat O'Neil, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited in Swansea, are donating a first place prize of a beautiful hummingbird door mat and a second prize of a hummingbird gift basket.

The tickets are being sold at Ten tickets for \$5.00 Please contact Tom May if you would like more information.

KVAS sponsored a table at the recent Festival of the Bluffs. Thank you to all who participated,



Website feature => Cornell Ornithology Lab

www.allaboutbirds.org

Today we launched a new version of our All About Birds website. We've put a huge amount of work into updating the site, expanding information, adding sound and video from our Macaulay Library archives, inventing new tools, and incorporating photos and ID tips. The new site is bigger and more informative. To help you better understand, here's another example:

Dear Birding Friend,

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/>

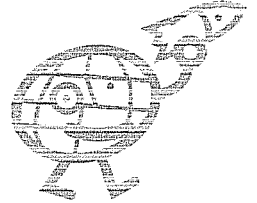
You find them in hanging flower baskets...an old boot...a garage shelf...or under a bridge...birds build nests in the strangest places! That's the theme for the newest environmental challenge from our Celebrate Urban Birds project:

Funky Nests in Funky Places! As you may know, Celebrate Urban Birds is a free, year-round citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, focused on birds in neighborhood settings.

For the Funky Nests in Funky Places challenge, we want you to take photos, do a painting, write a story, or shoot a video showing a bird's nest built in some out-of-the-way or out-of-this-world place. When observing nests please be sure to avoid touching them or disturbing the birds.

This one's going to be fun, I think. We usually receive hundreds of entries for each of our challenges, and I can't wait to see what you sent us this time and where birds have chosen to build their funky nests! **We have some great prizes**, including a Leica C-LUX 3 compact camera, bird feeders, shrubs for planting, and more. The first 50 entrants will receive a copy of the "Doves and Pigeons" poster by Julie Zickefoose and we'll post selected

images and videos on the Celebrate Urban Birds website.



Here's how to enter:

1. Email your entry to urban-birds@cornell.edu. Links are acceptable for videos.
2. Write "Funky Nests" in the subject line.
3. Include your name and mailing address.
4. Explain why you submitted your entry--what's the story behind it?
5. One entry per person, please.

Deadline for entries is July 31, 2009

Visit the Celebrate Urban Birds website for more information and to read the terms of agreement regarding all entries.

Thanks for taking the challenge!

Sincerely,
Karen Purcell, Project Leader
(607) 254-2455

Artist of the Month (from County Journal)

Chester resident Mildred Young (KVAS member), who is president of the Mississippi Valley Art Guild, was the artist of the month for April at the Chester Public Library.

Interested in art all her life, Young stayed busy as a wife, mother and nurse throughout early adulthood. Later, after

moving several places with her husband Reverend Ken Young, she decided to approach art and conquer it in her usual disciplined fashion.

She has always been a realist and her major pieces depict places and things in beautiful detail. Her nature is that of a person who never says no to a

challenge, and lately she has branched out to interpretational and modern art bursting with vivid color.

The library displayed her charming rendering of one of the steamships that formerly stopped at Chester.

Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society

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Phone: 618-282-2914
E-mail: harbaugh@htc.net

We're on the web

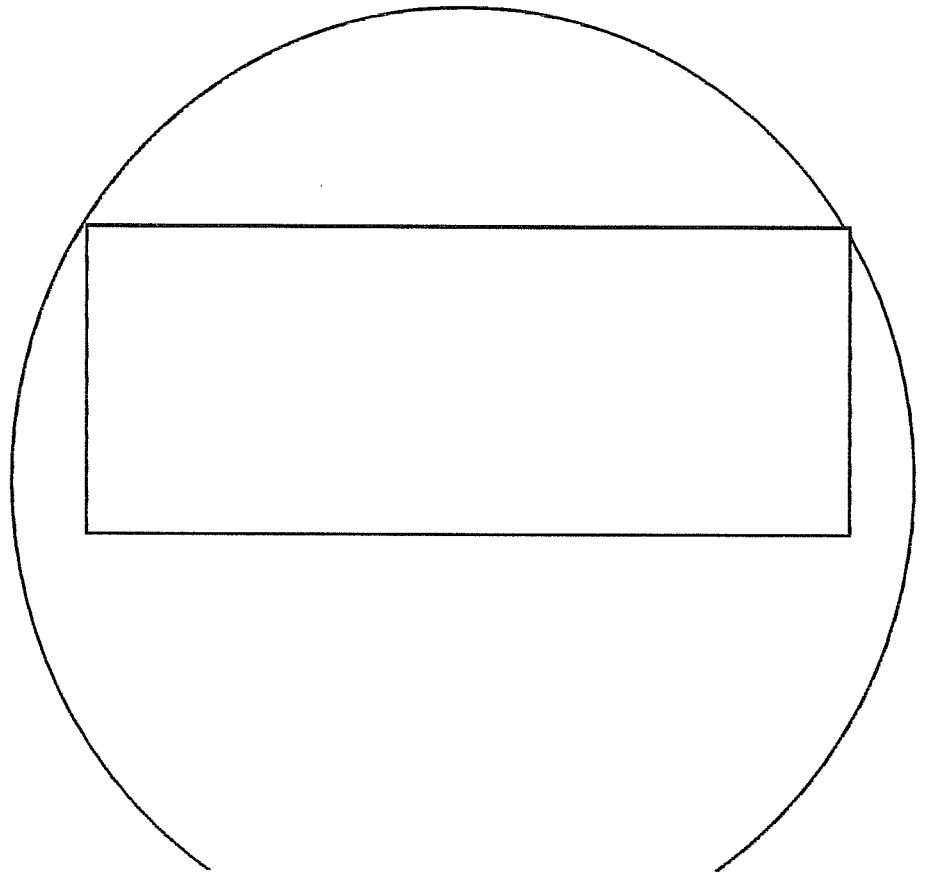
www.e-kvas.org



KVAS

www.e-kvas.org

We Nurture Nature



Mission: To promote appreciation and increase knowledge of wild bird life, plants, animals and other living organisms, and of the environment that supports them, and to further conservation of natural resources.

Meetings: Held at 7pm, 3rd Thursday of each month, SWIC Campus at Red Bud, 500 W. South 4th St. or as announced.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(information is not for publication)

Membership Class

Student: _____ \$6

Individual: _____ \$8

Family: _____ \$10

We are members of IAS at the _____ level.

Maintenance of chapter status within Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) requires that a minimum of 51% of our membership also be IAS members, with a minimum of 25 IAS members in our chapter. We encourage members to join IAS as well as KVAS. Membership in the IAS, at the family or above level, fulfills 2 memberships towards our IAS requirements.

Please fill out the application to the left and send it, with a check made out to:

Tim Dever

KVAS Treasurer

611 S. East ST.

New Athens, IL 62264.



To become an IAS member check out their website at:

www.illinoisaudubon.org

Or Call:(217)544-BIRD