



MCAS

February 2026

Established in 1961, the Morgan County Audubon Society was founded to provide interest in and education about birds and our natural environment. MCAS meetings are held beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the second Friday of the month from January through April and October through December at the First Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of College Ave. and Westminster Street in Jacksonville, Illinois. MCAS is a Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the MCAS will be on February 13, 2026, and the program will be ***Members' Slides and Stories.***

News and Upcoming Events

Bird Banding at Pat and Barb Ward's Happy Hollow home (2410 Ryan Lane, Murrayville, Illinois) on February 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Weather permitting, Pat and Barb will also demonstrate the art of making ***maple syrup*** at their home on February 14 and 21 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Call Pat (217-473-1355) with any questions about these events. Be sure to invite your friends and family to all MCAS activities. The Springfield Audubon Society (SAS) will be conducting ***Winter Tree Identification Hikes*** on February 3 (12:30 p.m.), February 25 (9:00 a.m.), and on March 25 (9:00 a.m.) at the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary (2315 Clear Lake Avenue). All are free and open to the public. Meet in the sanctuary parking lot prior to the start of the hike. At SAS's monthly meeting on February 19 (5:30 p.m.), the program will be *It's Always Sparrow Season*. To learn more, visit <https://springfieldaudubon.org>. ***Words to Ponder:*** "Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books." John Lubbock.

Hot springs in Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone is home to half the world's active geysers, including Old Faithful, as well as over 10,000 individual hydrothermal features. Hot springs are the most common hydrothermal features in Yellowstone. Beginning as rain at the surface, the water of a hot spring seeps through the bedrock underlying Yellowstone and becomes superheated by the Yellowstone magmatic system. An open plumbing system allows the hot water to rise back to the surface unimpeded. Convection currents constantly circulate the water, preventing it from getting hot enough to trigger an eruption. At times, fierce, boiling waters within a hot spring can explode and shoot water into the air, acting much like a geyser. Many of the bright colors found in Yellowstone's hydrothermal basins come from thermophiles—microorganisms that thrive in hot temperatures. An abundance of individual microorganisms grouped together appear as masses of color. (Source: <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/hydrothermal-features.htm#hot-springs>)



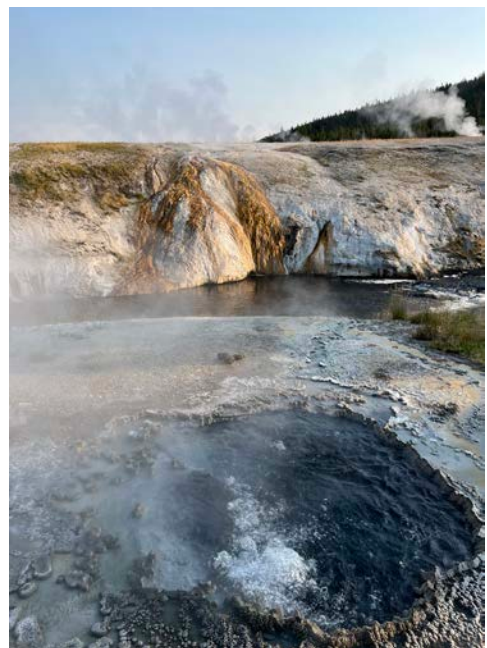
MCAS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Morgan County Audubon Society Schedule of Events

Next Meeting: February 13, 2026



Hot springs in Yellowstone National Park (Photographs by Allen Yow)