



SPRINGFIELD AUDUBON SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

STEWARDS OF ADAMS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



SAS stewards clear a fallen tree from the trail. Photo: Mike Holinga

WE DO NOT OFTEN THINK ABOUT the hard work of the Springfield Audubon Society volunteer stewards as we go on hikes or attend events at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. We may not consider, as we walk the superbly maintained trails, the amount of time spent by the stewards laying mulch and removing obstacles such as trees that fall and block the way. We can admire the woodland and prairie without ever thinking of the efforts necessary to control the smothering invasive species, which allows our beneficial native plants and their associated species to flourish.

CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS ARE NECESSARY for the Illinois Audubon Society to maintain and restore their many sanctuaries. The upcoming fall issue of *Illinois Audubon* magazine will take note of the dedication of the Springfield Audubon Society volunteer crew, which makes Adams Wildlife Sanctuary a welcoming place where people can gather for events such as the Firefly Walk held in June. And it is a place where a record 280 children could visit from April to mid-July alone to attend nature programs and hikes developed and overseen by another group of fantastic volunteers, the SAS educators.



A record number of children have visited the sanctuary for nature programs and hikes. Photo: Mary Grundel



The large group attending the firefly walk in June enjoyed walking the trails maintained by the SAS stewards. Photo: Marilyn Robins

SO AS YOU READ ABOUT THE upcoming sanctuary happenings in this newsletter, spare some thought for our volunteer stewards. Perhaps the next time you are at an event or out on the trails of Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, you can think of the stewards at work two mornings a week, making it possible for us to comfortably spend time in the varied habitats. If you see SAS volunteers on the job, be sure to thank them. And, while you're at it, consider volunteering to become part of the crew! See more on page 2 about volunteer opportunities.

Springfield Audubon Society works to foster connections between people, birds and natural habitats.

HABITAT

THE PRAIRIE HIKES LED BY Illinois Audubon Society's Director of Land Stewardship, Jamie Arntzen, will continue this fall. During this time of year there are a variety of late-blooming wildflowers like asters and goldenrod, which are crucial food sources for pollinators such as bees and monarch butterflies. The grasses take on a fall color palette and seed heads offer even more interest to this landscape. Of course, Jamie will also be on the lookout for resident and migratory birds that find food and shelter in the prairie. Don't miss the opportunity to take a fascinating walk on a crisp fall morning! *Photos: Tom Handy and Jeanne Handy*

PRAIRIE HIKE SCHEDULE

Join Jamie for the final two guided hikes of the year through the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary prairie.

Dates: September 24, October 29

Time: 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Free and open to the public. Meet in the sanctuary parking lot.

VOLUNTEER

SPEND TIME IN NATURE WHILE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! As stewards of Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Springfield Audubon Society offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. These include:

- Assisting the sanctuary crew. Workday activities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings can include trail maintenance, prairie and woodland management, invasive plant removal and maintenance of gardens.
- Assisting with children's educational programs.
- Participating in citizen science projects.
- Organizing programs and events.

No experience necessary. No set number of hours required. Come out when you can! You may volunteer or get more information by contacting Mike at

mjholinga@icloud.com



IAS's Jamie Arntzen shares her prairie plant knowledge.



The AWS milkweed has hosted many monarch caterpillars.



The late-blooming ironweed is sought by butterflies.



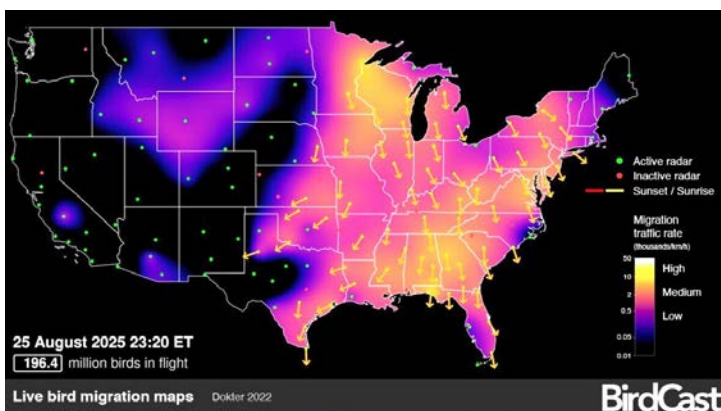
The SAS Volunteers Have Many Talents!

Even a fallen tree is put to good use at the sanctuary, with volunteer Randy Speck crafting a lovely walnut bench. Do you have talents? Please consider using them as an SAS volunteer.

BIRDING NEWS

GET READY FOR FALL MIGRATION! BirdCast is an amazing tool when preparing for fall migration. Using the BirdCast website it is possible to access: [Forecast Maps](#) for predicted nocturnal migration; the [Migration Dashboard](#) for nightly migration data in your region, including the total number of birds migrating, their directions, speeds, and altitudes; and the [Live Migration Bird Maps](#) for real-time analysis maps showing the intensity of actual nocturnal bird migration as detected by the U.S. weather surveillance radar network (see image below). In addition, sign up for [Local Migration Alerts](#) to receive advance notice about birds that are passing overhead near your city. With this information, you can also consider doing your part during high-activity nights to reduce light pollution, which can disorient migrating birds. See BirdCast's [Lights Out](#) initiative to learn more.

According to BirdCast, **peak fall migration is expected between September 18th and October 17th** in the Springfield, IL area.



"My view of seasons no longer follows the Earth's spin axis. Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter have been replaced by Spring Migration, Nesting Season, Fledging Season, and Fall Migration."

~Amy Tan, from *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*



Don't Miss Them!

Fall migration begins early for Baltimore Orioles, with many birds departing in July and August to seek their wintering sites, primarily in the tropics. ~National Audubon



FORM YOUR OWN TEAM for the Illinois Big Sit Competition or join the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary team, the "Adams Species Spotters," on September 27th as we remain seated in a "count circle" to watch and listen for birds at the sanctuary. You need not be a member of Springfield Audubon Society or an expert birdwatcher to join us. For more information and to register, click the link below. Those who sign up for the sanctuary's team will receive additional information at a later date about the exact location within the sanctuary and the times available. <https://illinoisaudubon.org/illinois-big-sit/>

THE LINCOLN LAND ASSOCIATION OF BIRD BANDERS will return to Adams Wildlife Sanctuary for a banding demonstration. Stop by anytime throughout the morning to get a close look at various bird species as they are banded and learn how banding assists our bird populations.



Ovenbird ready for release. Photo: LLABB

Date: September 13th, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

BIRD MONITORING ORGANIZATIONS such as Audubon and Cornell Lab note that tracking the health of the world's 10,000 bird species is an immense challenge - and they ask for our help! Scientists need hundreds of thousands of people acting as "citizen scientists," alone or in organized groups, to report birds seen in backyards, neighborhoods, and wild places. Illinois Audubon Society Executive Director Jo Fessett has compiled a list of some of the ongoing citizen science opportunities. Participate once a year or once a day. Be part of something bigger!

Scan the QR codes or click the images or photo captions for more information.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Photos: Jo Fessett.



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT participants from around the globe, including these locations in Nigeria, the U.S., and Nicaragua. Photo: GBBC



PROJECT FEEDERWATCH volunteers observing birds at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo: Mike Holinga.



Feathered Fun: Citizen Science Birdwatching Adventures



Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

The CBC began in 1900 and continues today as a vital source of information for long-term studies. Counts take place each year between December 14 and January 5 in designated "circles" which are 15 miles in diameter. Each circle has a coordinator - find a circle in your area or explore some place new.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

GBBC occurs in mid-February and covers four days. Simply find a spot and keep track of all the birds observed for 15 minutes. Do one day or four. Your backyard, a nature center, local park - the choice is yours. In 2024, GBBC reported 643,000 birds in 20 countries around the world. Join in and contribute to this yearly "snapshot" of bird populations



FeederWatch

FeederWatch involves a few more protocols and data are collected through a series of counts during the fall and winter at bird feeders. Consistency is the key with this count to produce data for long-term analysis. Like GBBC, the location is determined by participants, but must remain the same throughout the count and ideally is conducted for several years.

Spring Bird Count (CBC)

The CBC began in Illinois in 1972. Teams gather on a designated Saturday in May to count as many birds as they can observe within 24 hours within county boundaries. There are coordinators in almost every county who serve as points of contact for those interested.



eBird

The eBird app is produced and maintained by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. eBird enables you to keep track of what you observe and allows you to submit those records into their database where they use this data to analyze population fluctuations, migration and countless other studies. Contribute to this powerful citizen science project whenever you bird.

eBird



EDUCATION

SPRINGFIELD AUDUBON SOCIETY VOLUNTEER educators have reached several hundred young people with nature education programs so far this year. Nearly 300 students have had an opportunity to connect with nature through programs at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary and another 100 students were reached at other sites



SAS educators helped children create a pollinator garden at the Father's House International After School Program location.

where nature education programs have been presented by SAS educators. The following groups of young people have visited AWS to learn nature basics and enjoy time outdoors this spring and summer: Compass for Kids, the YMCA Summer Camp, the Cub Scouts, Park's Place Child Care Center, and Father's House International After School Program. Programs and activities for these groups included Identifying Backyard Birds, crafts, stories, hikes, Pond Exploration, and an Introduction to Bird Banding. For many of the children, these

programs and hikes were a rare opportunity to spend time in nature, a fact made obvious by the inability of one child to identify a dandelion.



Children from Park's Place Child Care Center enjoyed activities at stations scattered across the sanctuary.

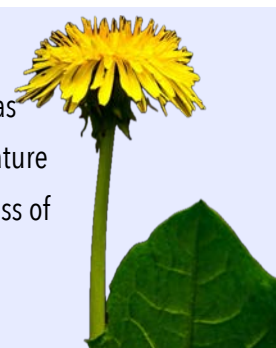


Several Compass for Kids groups enjoyed programs and hikes at the sanctuary.

IT IS HARD TO EVALUATE THE WORTH of these programs to the children involved, but a comment by a young participant stays in the mind of one of the educators. She recalls that although a student was scuffling with a friend at the beginning of a nature hike, the two left the sanctuary with arms around each other saying, "It's hard to stay mad at anybody in nature." *Article by Susan Allen; Photos by Donna Holinga, Grace Norris, Monica Millburg*

Research Finds a Loss of Connection with Nature

A study in the journal *Earth* found that people's connection to nature has declined by more than 60% since 1800. The study tracked the loss of nature from people's lives over 220 years by using data on urbanization, the loss of wildlife in neighborhoods, and crucially, parents no longer passing on engagement with nature to their children.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Third Thursday Program: "Thirty Years of Enjoying Illinois Biodiversity and Natural History Through the Lens" presented by Michael Redmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist and Nature Photographer

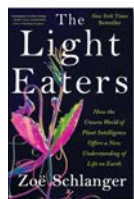
Michael Redmer will discuss how his interest in biodiversity has led to a personal quest to photograph animals, plants, and their habitats. He will display photos of species (and some habitats) portraying their many forms, colors, and functions and will reveal how his quest to portray MORE species in imagery – and in new and different ways – has never slowed down. He hopes to help fuel your interest in species you appreciate. *Photo: Michael Redmer*

Date: September 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.



NATURE BOOK CLUB

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary & Lincoln Memorial Garden host a book club perfect for nature enthusiasts. Locations for quarterly group discussions alternate between AWS and LMG. The club is open to anyone who would like to participate. Join us!



November 4, 2025

Lincoln Memorial Garden, 10:00 a.m.
The Light Eaters by Zoe Schlanger



February 3, 2026

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, 10:00 a.m.
The Garden Against Time
by Olivia Laing

Owl Prowl Returns in October!

The popular Owl Prowl event returns to Adams Wildlife Sanctuary for our Third Thursday program in October. This is a ticketed event and space will be limited. Watch the SAS Facebook page or website for additional information about the program and how to reserve your tickets.



Third Thursday Program: "Collaborative Conservation" presented by Emily Hodapp, US Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Biologist

Emily Hodapp will provide a brief overview of USFWS's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and furnish examples of the work they are doing in Illinois. Learn how State, Federal, and Non-Governmental Organization partners in Illinois are collaborating to restore high-quality habitat.

Date: November 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.



Wetlands projects in east-central Illinois. Photo courtesy Emily Hodapp.

ADAMS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY EVENT CALENDAR

September 13, 2025

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Bird Banding Demonstration

presented by the Lincoln Land
Association of Bird Banders

Third Thursday Programs

Doors open at 5:30. Program at 6:00. Check the Springfield Audubon Society Facebook page or website for additional program details.

September 18, 2025

"Thirty Years of Enjoying Illinois Biodiversity and Natural History Through the Lens" presented by Michael Redmer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist and Nature Photographer

October 16, 2025

"Owl Prowl" presented by the Illinois Raptor Center. Ticketed event.

November 20, 2025

"Collaborative Conservation" presented by Emily Hodapp, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Biologist

September 24, October 29

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Prairie Hikes

Illinois Audubon Society's Jamie Arntzen will describe the plant communities and dependent species during guided walks on the trails of the AWS prairie.

September 26-28, 2025

Illinois Big Sit Competition sponsored by Illinois Audubon Society. Join the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary team, the "Adams Species Spotters," on September 27th at the sanctuary or create your own "count circle" at a location of your choice to watch and listen for birds. Register at:
<https://illinoisaudubon.org/illinois-big-sit/>

All events except the Owl Prowl are free and all are open to the public.

SAS Officers

Marilyn Robins President
Debbie Bruce Vice President
Rhetta Jack Secretary
Monica Millburg Treasurer

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Susan Allen
Martha Armour
Joe Gardner
Jeanne Handy
Vernon Kleen
Susan Nelson
Grace Norris
Matt Hayes Ex Officio



Springfield Wild Birds Unlimited

Remember to inform
your Springfield Wild
Birds Unlimited



cashier that you are a Springfield Audubon Society member. Our chapter receives a percentage of purchases made by members.

As always, we thank Springfield's WBU for continuing to supply all bird feed and feeders for Adams Wildlife Sanctuary.



For Springfield Audubon Society news and updates, follow us on Facebook or check our website at <https://springfieldaudubon.org/>

Springfield Audubon Society

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary
P.O. Box 984
Springfield, IL 62705



Visit the Sanctuary

2315 Clear Lake Avenue
Springfield, IL
Open every day dawn to dusk



Fred Zwicky

JOIN US!

To join us, become a member of Illinois Audubon Society and select Springfield Audubon Society as your chapter. You can join or renew online at illinoisaudubon.org or scan the QR code.

