



PrairieWind



A Chapter of National Audubon

An Illinois Audubon Affiliate

Volume 47, Issue 2

Feb-Mar 2023

John Wesley Powell Audubon

SPRING 2023 - PROGRAMS

Dr. Given Harper, Programs

JWP Audubon will co-sponsor two presentations in the spring of 2023. Both presentations will be held in room C101 of the Center for Natural Sciences (CNS), Illinois Wesleyan University, 201 Beecher Street, Bloomington, IL 61701. Parking is available in the lot north of the CNS.



On March 23 at 7 p.m., Dr. Ebony Murrell, an alum of both Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University, will give a talk on "New roots for fallowed ground: developing sustainable perennial grains agriculture." Cereal grains provide approximately half of the calories we consume worldwide. About 12% of land on Earth is devoted to cereal grain production, most of which exists in what were once highly diverse, perennial grasslands. Annual tillage and replanting have led to soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and reduction in ecosystem services. How can we rebuild soils and ecological systems in these farmlands while also feeding humans? For more than forty years The Land Institute, a nonprofit organization in Kansas, has embarked on the mission to develop diverse, perennial grains systems. Join Dr. Ebony Murrell, a Crop Protection Ecologist at The Land Institute, as she provides an overview of the research conducted by the Land Institute and global partners on perennial grains systems, and give updates on new and upcoming commercial perennial grains such as Kernza®, perennial rice, and sainfoin grain.

On April 6, at 7 p.m., Jennifer Kuroda, the founder of the Illinois Bobcat Foundation, will give a talk on "The Bobcat - Illinois' Native Cat." Bobcats, named for their short, bobbed tail, are about twice the size of a common house cat and use their keen sight and hearing to hunt rabbits, squirrels, small rodents, and birds. They are mostly nocturnal, reclusive animals that prefer forested or wooded areas. Once hunted almost to extinction in the Midwestern U.S., bobcats have been making a comeback over the past 40 years. The program will cover many facets of these native cats, including historical data, bobcat biology, human predator perception, bobcat management, and information about the ongoing bobcat population studies in Illinois.

www.jwpaudubon.com

jwpaudubon1@gmail.com

Facebook: JWP Audubon



Bill Davison, Field Trips

Bird Walk at Merwin

Saturday, March 4, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Dr. Pirmin Nietlisbach

ParkLands' Preserve - Merwin North Gate (.6 miles east of the intersection of 1925E and Clarksville Rd)

Dress for the weather and join us for a hike through the Merwin Preserve, where we should see winter residents such as the red-headed woodpecker! The trails are well-maintained, but there are some hills and a bit of terrain. We will bring a few sets of loaner binoculars. JWP bird walks are great for birdwatchers of all skill levels, so don't be shy. Come on out!



Mercy Davison, Publicity

People Flock to the Bird Photo Exhibit Opening Reception

The second annual bird photography exhibit is underway at the Normal Public Library, with 30 photos on display through the end of February. The photo exhibit kicked off with an opening reception on Wednesday, January 11. Approximately 125 people cycled through the event that evening, with at least 75 staying to watch the presentation by the Miller Park Zoo. The bird handler from the zoo brought a barred owl and a red-tailed hawk, both of whom put on quite the display with some hooting from the former and some flapping by the latter.

Most of the photos are for sale throughout the exhibit, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit JWP Audubon and the Normal Public Library Foundation. If interested in making a purchase, talk to the librarians at the check-out desk. All photos were taken by local photographers at locations across McLean County.

Miller Park Zoo brought a Barred Owl and Red-tailed Hawk to the 2023 JWP Audubon Photo Exhibit



Patricia Carlson, Secretary/Editor

Letter from the Editor

Dear JWP Members,

This is the last hard copy newsletter we are mailing out to all our members for whom we have emails, including those who provided an email to National Audubon when they became a member and those who joined JWP through our website. If you wish to receive a hard copy, please email us at jwpaudubon1@gmail.com. Given this switch to a digital format, you may want to check your email more closely in April to make sure your newsletter is not going to spam.

By converting to an e-newsletter we can expand our newsletter and provide more resources and educational articles in each edition. Featured columns by Drs. Harper and Capparella and our nature writer Bill Davison are just a few of the offerings we'd like to regularly provide for our readers.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming programs featured on page 1, on the trail for our bird walks, and at our Special Event of the film *The Magic Stump*.

Patricia Carlson, JWP Editor



Anandhi Ramalingam, Special Projects

Upcoming Event:

FILM: Magic Stump

Cost: Free

Date: TBD

The film, **MAGIC STUMP**, by Bob Dolgan will be screened this spring. Dolgan is the filmmaker of "Monty and Rose" that was shown at the **NORMAL THEATER** in March 2022.

Mr. Dolgan will be attending the screening, will talk about making the documentary, and provide an opportunity for a question and answer period with the audience.

Please watch for additional details of the event! It will be posted on Facebook and JWP Audubon Society's website.



Dr. Angelo Capparella, Conservation

2022 Christmas Bird Count Results:

The Bloomington-Normal 17 December 2022 Christmas Bird Count resulted in 60 species found within the 15-mile diameter count circle that day. This is the lowest we have had since 2018 (59) despite having excellent coverage with 25 observers in 10 field parties and 3 feeders. 2010-2020 average: 69 and range: 58-78. Lack of waterfowl diversity despite open water and missed several land birds that are usual.

Significant finds were the following: 1 Black-bellied Whistling Duck (first ever for the count; only recently added to the county list; at Miller Park. Pictured below), 27 Bald Eagles (a new high; multiple parties), 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk (rare in winter), 1 Wilson's Snipe (rare this late), 111 Horned Larks (high number), and all three species of swans (Mute, Trumpeter, Tundra). Only two irruptive species this year: Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch.

Angelo Capparella, Compiler



JOHN WESLEY POWELL AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 142
NORMAL, IL 61761

www.jwpaudubon.com
jwpaudubon1@gmail.com

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 481
BLOOMINGTON, IL

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL
TO US TO RECEIVE THE
E-NEWSLETTER

Officers 2022-2023

Secretary

Patricia Carlson

Treasurer

Wayne Hochstetler



JWP Audubon Society is a Chapter
of National Audubon Society, Inc.

Committees

Conservation

Angelo Capparella, Chair
Bill Davison

Editor

Patricia Carlson

Field Trips

Bill Davison

Government Liaison

Gretchen Monti

Membership

Christina Schulz

Programs

Given Harper

Publicity

Mercy Davison

Special Projects

Anandhi Ramalingam

On The Wing

*I only went out for a walk, and finally con-
cluded to stay out till sundown, for going
out, I found, was really going in.*

John Muir



- Mar 4
Sat** **Bird Walk at Merwin, 8:30am. ParkLands' Preserve – Merwin North Gate (.6 miles east of the intersection of 1925E and Clarksville Rd). See Page 2 for details.**
- Mar 23
Thurs** **PROGRAM 7 p.m., Dr. Ebony Murrell, an alum of both Illinois Wesleyan University and Illinois State University, will give a talk on "New roots for fallowed ground: developing sustainable perennial grains agriculture." IWU, CNS, C101. See page 1 for details and parking.**
- Apr 6
Thurs** **PROGRAM 7 p.m., Jennifer Kuroda, the founder of the Illinois Bobcat Foundation, will give a talk on "The Bobcat – Illinois' Native Cat. IWU, CNS, C101. See page 1 for details and parking.**

John Wesley Powell Audubon events are in bold print.

JWP Audubon board meetings are held from September to May, with the exception of December. There are many volunteer opportunities and members are always welcome and encouraged to join in a variety of committees – whatever amount of time you can give. To find out how to become more involved in your chapter contact any of the officers listed at the left of this page at jwpaudubon1@gmail.com