



"Promoting appreciation and the understanding of nature and supporting the conservation of natural resources."

<http://sciencespot.net/eas>
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

Emiquon Audubon Society

A Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society
A Friends Group with the National Wildlife Refuge Association

NOTE:
2ND Thursday!!

EAS MEETING January 8, 2009 7:00 PM, Havana Public Library

"The River Landing: A Weblog with Stories, Scenes, and Reflections on River Life in Illinois and Elsewhere."
Presented by Tom Lerczak

The River Landing weblog contains nature- and travel-related articles - many of which were previously published in Illinois Audubon magazine - memoirs, short essays, and photographs of river scenes, with the Illinois River at Havana as common backdrop. During this program, Tom will describe The River Landing, explain the motivation behind its creation, read several short selections from The River Landing, and show a series of Illinois River photographs from the weblog that cover the entire river, from near the Chicago area to the Mississippi River.

The River Landing can be found at
<http://theriverlanding.typepad.com>

In this Issue of the EAS Newsletter:

- Welcome from our NEW President, Nancy Glick
- A word from our PAST President, Cindy McGrew
- Eagle Day Festival Lineup & Levee Auto Tour Information
- Great Backyard Bird Count Information
- 2008 List of Members
- 2009 EAS Calendar of Events

Eagle Day Festival February 7, 2009



The Eagle Day Festival returns again this year to Dickson Mounds Museum. The Illinois Raptor Center will perform for two shows, 10:30 am and 2:30 pm in the auditorium, while Wildlife Prairie Park will present their programs in the second floor activity room. In addition, the Eagle Day Art and Poetry Competition entries will be on display along with an Illinois Nature Photography exhibit.

Additional features for the day include a showing of the movie Raptor Force, "Enhancing the Backyard Birding Experience," presented by Dr. David Horn, Milliken University and a tasty menu of food available for purchase from the Mason and Fulton County Arts Councils. Youth activities will be organized and sponsored by EAS. A complete schedule is listed on page 4.

Eagle watching on the riverfront in Havana will be enhanced by volunteer spotters with scopes in the morning. Please check out the list of volunteer needs for this event and plan on helping to make this event a success. We need you !

Volunteers Needed for Bald Eagle Festival

Eagle Watching at the Riverfront, 8AM to Noon – Eagle spotting at Riverfront Park. 2 shifts with 2 people per shift. 8-10am and 10-Noon.

Dickson Mounds Museum, 8:30am to 2:00pm – Hand out tickets to the Raptor Show. 2 shifts with 2 people per shift. 8:30am to 11:30am and 11:30am to 2:00pm.

Eagle Inspired Kid's Activities 10:00am to 2:00pm. EAS will sponsor several tables featuring simple activities and crafts for the younger visitors. 2 shifts with 3 people per shift. 9:30am to 12pm and 12pm to 2:30pm. (some time for helping with setup and cleanup included)

To volunteer, contact Jo at (309) 338-0070 or joskog@gmail.com

Letter from the President

Nancy I. Glick

The holiday season for me is always a time for reflection. 2009—we're almost at the end of the first decade of the new century. In the past ten years as an organization we have grown from a handful of interested folks to over 90 members! We plan and execute a varied and excellent group of programs and field trips. We incorporate volunteers for many local events and agencies. Just think of all that we have accomplished together in the past 10 years.

How can we observe our local area in a different way? We can celebrate the natural world whether watching young Stilts from the view of a kayak in Thompson Lake, or a Bald Eagle from the car on a lunch break, or Canada Geese out at Chautauqua, or a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers on Bellrose Island. I find myself wondering how can I grow as a person, as a researcher, as an observer? I want to be more "serious" about bird identification, not just a watcher, but to grow in the skill of identifying not only by sight, but also by sound. What resolutions will you make for the new year?

The planning team has worked hard to put together a varied calendar of events and programs for the coming year. I thank them all for their commitment and devotion to our organization. Let us know what you think as the year progresses.

May you enjoy this season with family & friends. Merry Christmas and a happy & blessed new year full of hope & discovery.

Nancy I.

"Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties of the earth are never alone or weary in life. Whatever the vexations or concerns of their personal lives, their thoughts can find paths that lead to inner contentment and to renewed excitement in living. Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

--Rachel Carson, "Help your child to wonder," Woman's Home Companion, July, 1956

Minutes by Rebecca

November 2008 EAS Meeting
by Rebecca Janus

The Emiquon Audubon Society met on November 6, 2008, at the Havana Public Library. There were 17 members present. Cindy McGrew presided over the meeting. It was the tenth anniversary of the Emiquon Audubon Society's first meeting.

Cindy began the meeting by announcing our new executive officers and reading a thank you note from the Illinois Audubon Society for the gift from EAS to the new building fund. The new executive officers for EAS will be: Nancy Glick, President; Sara Mathis, Vice-President; Ken Kedzior, Treasurer and Rebecca Janus, Secretary. Members-at-Large will be Bill Branson, Jayne Miller and Jim Miller. Jo Skoglund will continue to serve as the EAS Representative on the IAS Board and also as the newsletter editor. Tracy Trimpe and Dawn Kedzior will also continue in their previous rolls with EAS.

Treasurer, Ken Kedzior reported the balance at \$2,586.17.

Julie Lerkzak baked a delicious cake for the occasion. The meeting adjourned for the mic and pie portion of the evening.

*Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Janus, Secretary*

Emiquon Audubon Society
PO Box 502, Havana, IL 62644
<http://sciencespot.net/eas/>

Nancy Glick, President
nglick@havana.lib.il.us
Sara Mathis, Vice President
Ken Kedzior, Treasurer
Rebecca Janus, Secretary
Cindy McGrew, Education/Programming
Jo Skoglund, Membership & Newsletter
Jo Skoglund, IAS Representative
Tracy Trimpe, Website Coordinator
Dawn Kedzior, Hospitality Chair

Members at Large: Bill Branson, Jayne Miller,
Jim Miller

The **EAS Newsletter** is published six times a year. Comments, suggestions and articles for submission may be sent to jskoglund@illinoisaudubon.org. The EAS executive board reserves the right to submit or reject information submitted based on content and timeliness.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

February 13-16, 2009

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009.

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 13-16, 2009. You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.

2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time. You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number of each species you see on this checklist.

3. When you're finished, enter your results through our web page. You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count (February 13, 2009). It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on March 1, 2009.

Greetings EAS members!

Yes, it's me again---your past EAS President, Cindy McGrew . . .

As many of you know, I have a passion for environmental education and how it helps people of all ages learn more about the world around them. So, I am very happy to put on a new hat for the Emiquon Audubon Society as the EAS Education/Program Chair.

Just what does an Education/Program Chair do? The Education/Program Chair sets the direction for, and oversees, the Chapter's education programs, making sure they fit the Chapter's mission and adhere to the Chapter's goals; In addition, the Education Chair partners with other organizations to share resources and reach a wider audience. Finally, the Education Chair also serves as an Emiquon Audubon representative to the Illinois Audubon Education Committee.

The creation of this new position demonstrates the society's commitment to educating the public on the importance of conservation of habitat, land ethics and stewardship. It is absolutely true that people will only conserve what they love and understand, so it is very important that we, as members of the EAS, help teach others so they might understand. I am very excited about this new responsibility and look forward to promoting EAS as an important local educational resource for learners of all ages. *Happy Trails!*

*"In the end we will
conserve only what
we love. We love
only what we
understand. We
will understand
only what we are
taught."*

Baba Dioum



Eagle Day Festival

February 7, 2009

All Events at Dickson Mounds Museum unless otherwise noted

8:00 am - Noon	Eagle Viewing at Havana's River Front (Emiquon Audubon Society)
8:30 am - 5:00 pm	Eagle Art/Poetry & Adult Nature Photography Exhibits
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Children's Activities (Emiquon Audubon Society)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Wild Birds up Close (Wildlife Prairie Park)
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Local bird watching information displays
10:30 am	Live Raptor program, Illinois Raptor Center*
11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Lunch available at Snack Bar (<i>Proceeds benefit Mason & Fulton Co. Arts Councils</i>)
12:15 pm	Movie - <i>Raptor Force</i>
1:30 pm	Dr. David Horn, Millikin University " <i>Enhancing the Backyard Birding Experience</i> "
2:30 pm	Live Raptor program, Illinois Raptor Center*

*Free Admission with ticket. Tickets will be available that day starting at 8:30am.

Enhancing the Backyard Birding Experience

A featured speaker at the 2009 Eagle Day Festival this year will be Dr. David Horn, Assistant Professor of Biology at Millikin University. Dr. Horn will present "Enhancing the Backyard Birding Experience."

Dr. Horn is the Director of Research for Wild Bird Centers of America, Inc., and Principal Investigator for PROJECT WILDBIRD, a study of seed and feeder preferences of wild birds in the US and Canada.

In his presentation, Dr. Horn will discuss ways to enhance the backyard birding experience by describing research on attracting birds to the backyard and making the backyard safer for birds. Bird feeding is the second most popular hobby in the United States and has resulted in increased scientific research on wild bird food and feeder preferences. PROJECT WILDBIRD is being conducted to examine seed and feeder preferences of wild birds in the United States and Canada.

During the first two years of this three-year study, 129 citizen scientists from 33 states and 2 Canadian provinces have recorded 411,617 bird visits of 94 species during 22,347 45-minute observations at feeders.

The results of PROJECT WILDBIRD, and how they can be used to create a better backyard feeding program will be discussed.

—Auto Levee Tour— Eagle Viewing at Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge

Chautauqua Refuge staff plans to open the auto tour for a look at winter wildlife.

The auto tour route will be open from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

This tour will provide an opportunity for visitors to see eagles, commonly viewed from the back side of the lake, as well as coyotes, beaver, deer and other wintering wildlife.

The tour will begin at Eagle Bluff Access Area and finish at the headquarters building.

Please be aware that high water, snow or ice will force cancellation of the event. The refuge would once again appreciate the help of any EAS volunteers who are available for this event.

Emiquon Audubon Society



"Promoting appreciation and the understanding of nature and supporting the conservation of natural resources."

2009 EAS Calendar of Events

January 8 <i>NOTE: NOT HELD THE FIRST THURSDAY DUE TO HOLIDAY</i>	EAS Meeting, Havana Public Library Program: The River Landing: A Weblog with Stories, Scenes, and Reflections on River Life in Illinois and Elsewhere. Presented by Tom Lerczak
February 7	Eagle Day Festival at Dickson Mounds Museum
February 13-16	Great Backyard Bird Count (see www.birdsource.org)
March 5	EAS Meeting, Dickson Mounds Museum Program: Deep Views of the Past. Presented by Alan Harn, Dickson Mounds Museum
March (date TBA)	EAS Special Presentation, UIS Emiquon Field Station Program: The Bluebird Trail. Presented by Cindy McGrew
April	Field Trip (TBA)
May 1-3	IAS Spring Gathering (Southern Illinois)
May 7	EAS Meeting, UIS Emiquon Field Station Program: Migratory Waterfowl and the Illinois River. Presented by Josh Stafford, Illinois Natural History Survey
May 9	Spring Bird Count
Month of May	International Migratory Bird Day: Celebrating Birds in Culture
June/July (date TBA)	Field Trip: Cindy McGrew's Bluebird Trail & EAS Summer Potluck
September 3	EAS Meeting, Havana Public Library Program: Mic & Pie Night
September 11-13	IAS Fall Gathering (Northeast Illinois)
October 11-17	National Wildlife Refuge Week
October 18	Field Trip: Smithfield, Ken & Dawn Kedzior hosts
November 5	EAS Annual Meeting, Havana Public Library Program: Eagles & their Friends. Presented by Jim Miller.
December 14-January 5	Christmas Bird Counts

Emiquon Audubon Society
PO Box 502, Havana, IL 62644
<http://sciencespot.net/eas>

Emiquon Audubon Society
PO Box 502
Havana, IL 62644

Interested in receiving the EAS
Newsletter by e-mail? Help save
postage, printing, and paper. E-
mail Jo at joskog@gmail.com and
let her know you would like to be
placed on the e-newsletter list.

Happy Holidays



EAS 2008 Membership List

Cheryl Abernathy
Bill Atwood
Russ and Connie Baugher
John & Lynette Belcher
Ron and Sandra Bellrose
Susie Bidney
Richard Bjorklund
Barbara L. Blake-Paton
Vicki & Jeff Bonnett
Kris M. Boudreau
William Branson
Chris Brown
Deane and Ann Doolen
Charlene Falco
Rhonda and Mark Ferree
Jim Fox
Helen Gasdorf
Merle Glick
Nancy Glick
Miriam Greene
Jeanne Handy

Dave Hedrick
Vicki Hedrick
Marcia Heitz
Lindsey Heitz
Ruth Herring
Dixie and Wes Hilst
Mary M. Howerter
Durinda Hulett
Beverly Irving
Cathy Janus
Rebecca Janus
Ken & Dawn Kedzior
John and Jenny Kinsella
Joann and Dick Kirchgessner
Phyllis Kneeder
Mike Lemke
Tom & Julie Lerczak
Adela Lerczak
Sara Mathis
Roger and Cindy McGrew

Kevin & Brenda McGuire
Marcia McHarry
Wendy Martin
Jim and Jayne Miller
Richard Moss
Rita Potter
Mr. & Mrs. L. H. Princen
Carrie Rock
Carol Schmidt
Ron & Doris Simmons
Mary Simpson
Jo and Bob Skoglund
Rita Smith
James and Nancy Sondag
Jenny Trimpe
Jan Turner
Patrick Ward
Diana Waren
Robert Worner
Kurt, Lisa & Matthew Wrage
John and Linda Zimmermann

REMINDER: Membership dues expire March 31