Pollinators Celebration at Goodenow Grove

Once again, please join us at Goodenow Grove on August 18th for the annual celebration of pollinators where the spotlight will be on hummingbirds, bees, bugs and butterflies. Enjoy presentations, artisans, and vendors selling nature-related items and food.

Sign up to watch as the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders and volunteers capture and band hummingbirds. You can also adopt one through the association. The bird-banding activity is sponsored by Thorn Creek Audubon Society.

Enjoy our sanctuary for birds and butterflies or participate in free family activities including slacklining, tree climbing, bike riding, face painting, and an interactive LEGO exhibit. You will also be able to ask question and get answers regarding beekeeping. There will experts on hand and a live bee exhibit. Come dressed in your best winged costume, make a bird feeder craft, or play in Spot’s Clubhouse playground.

This program is free and open to all ages and no registration is required. For further information please check the website at www.reconnectwithnature.org or call 708-946-2216. Plum Creek Nature Center’s address is 27064 Dutton Road, Beecher.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird at a recent bird banding.
2018 ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE

A variety of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses were offered during the 2018 TCAS Native Plant Sale. Pre-order forms were mailed in early January and the plant pick-up was on May 19th at Izaak Walton Nature Preserve in Homewood. On pick-up day, plants were also available for sale to the general public.

Plants were chosen that are native to this area of Illinois. For example, a popular native plant is the purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), but it is not specifically native to the Chicago area. The pale purple coneflower (Echinacea pallida), however, is native to this area and so was chosen for our sale.

Plants were also chosen to be appropriate for many settings and tastes: short and tall plants, a variety of colors, forbs and grasses, sun and shade loving and different bloom times. Because oak trees support more wildlife than any other tree, every year an oak is offered. Shrubs are chosen that bloom and have fruit. Also, milkweed varieties are offered yearly as they support the Monarch butterflies.

Native plants can also be mixed in with your annuals, in the vegetable garden and with perennials. Native plants do not need fertilizer and once established they do not need to be watered.

Our goals for the sale were to raise funds and to encourage native plantings; native plants support native wildlife including butterflies and birds. This year, 568 native plants were sold and over $1100.00 was raised for TCAS educational and conservational projects.

As always, TCAS volunteers sorted plants the Friday prior to the sale and then distributed on the Saturday of the sale. TCAS volunteers are very reliable and enthusiastic. I thank them for their hard work and for being tremendous fun.

Further and detailed information on Illinois native plants can be obtained through the University of Illinois Master Gardener Extension Program website: m.extension.illinois.edu/wildflowers

If you have any suggestions or questions concerning our sale, feel free to contact me: TCASPlants@gmail.com

Judy Johnson
STAMPS HELP SAVE BIRDS

The Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders (LLABB) is a not-for-profit organization. The mission of the society is to perform sound scientific studies and educational services to monitor, protect and enhance the population of Illinois' native birds and their unique environments.

Vernon Kleen, familiar to Thorn Creek Audubon Society for his programs and hummingbird banding demonstrations, has taken over the stamp collection program once sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS). IAS dropped the project due in part to budget and staff restrictions. Funds from the sale of stamps will benefit the operations and programs of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders. Here is a list of what stamps should be saved:

- Canceled commemoratives
- Airmail stamps
- Express mail stamps
- Foreign stamps
- Duck stamps
- State conservation stamps
- High denomination stamps
- Picture postcard stamps (new or used)
- Unused stamps no matter how old
- Stamp collections

You can get more information on this program at www.gardenclubsofillinois.org.
Stamp donations should be sent to the above association c/o of Vernon Kleen, P.O. Box 13442, Springfield, Illinois, 62791-3442. E-mail for Vernon Kleen is vkleen@comcast.net.

Kathy Bader

LOCAL BEAT:

There are many things to do and see outdoors at this time of the year, for adults and kids alike.

Here is a small example:
Goodenow Grove, July 1st, BIG DAY – BIRD HIKE CHALLENGE, 12 – 4 pm, free.
Thorn Creek Woods, July 15th, FIREFLIES NIGHT HIKE, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, free.
Thorn Creek Woods, July 28th, SOUNDS OF INSECTS NIGHT HIKE, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, free.

For more information on activities and programs go to www.reconnectwithnature.org. Go to the events calendar, pick the month and place you wish to visit and many options will be listed. This site is a mine of information.

SOMETHING NEW...

Please check our website, www.thorncreekaudubonsociety.org for information on “pop-up” activities that were not scheduled in our 2017-1018 field trip list. There may be a bird hike, a wildflower hike, or perhaps a combination hike/picnic could be listed.

Mary Bernat
FIELD NOTES

If you leave a message please leave a phone number where you can be reached.

APRIL
04/20 Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Red-Winged Blackbirds seen at Izaak Walton. **Vicki and Terry Jones**
04/21 5 or 6 Lesser Scaup and 2 pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers seen at Brookdale Retention Pond in Olympia Fields. **Anne Rosen**
04/24 2 pair of Bufflehead Ducks and 6 Greater Scaup seen at retention pond at Olympia Fields Hospital. **Anne Rosen**
04/19 A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers calling to each other in her yard. **Anne Rosen**
04/28 A Lark Sparrow was seen at Orland Grasslands. **Al Thomas**
04/30 2 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebe, male and female House Finches, Hermit Thrush, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Cardinals, Catbirds, White-breasted Nuthatch, Starlings, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, 2 Turkey Vultures, Brown Creeper, Chimney Swifts and our first Hummingbird were spotted from our yard. **Terrie Spillers**

MAY
05/01 3 White-throated Sparrows, 5 Chipping Sparrows, 1 Eastern Towhee and 6 cowbirds were seen under the feeders. **Anne Rosen**
05/01 17 Goldfinches, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at their feeders. **Vicki and Terry Jones**
05/01 A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen at the feeder in her yard and a Red-headed Woodpecker was also heard. **Georgiana Dodd**
05/02 5 Indigo Buntings, 3 White-crowned Sparrows, a pair of Eastern Towhees and a pair of Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks at the feeders in her rural yard along with her regular Goldfinches, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Cardinals, House Sparrows and Downy Woodpeckers. **Anne Rosen**
05/02 2 male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in her yard. **Georgiana Dodd**
05/03 2 female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2 Indigo Buntings were seen in her yard. **Georgiana Dodd**
05/04 5 male Indigo Buntings, 1 male Oriole eating peanut butter, a pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seen in her yard. Also, Bobolinks at Bartel Grassland. **Georgiana Dodd**
05/04 A dozen Indigo Buntings were seen on Cottage grove, Crete. **Anne Rosen**
05/04 First female Hummingbird arrived today **Vicki and Terry Jones**
05/07 2 Catbirds were seen enjoying the fresh oranges and grape jelly that had been set out for the Orioles in their yard. **Vicki and Terry Jones**
05/08 Chimney Swifts were seen flying around and the Wrens are now nesting at the bottom of the garden. **Terrie Spillers**
05/10 An Oriole, Catbirds and 2 Indigo Buntings were seen feeding at the Oriole feeder. Also, Woodpeckers of various kinds, Blue Jays, House Finches, Goldfinches, Hummingbirds and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visit the feeders regularly. **Vicki and Terry Jones**
Field Notes continued/....

05/13  A large flock of Cedar Waxwings were spotted in the apple tree in their front yard, a female Tanager was seen feeding on the fresh oranges, a male Oriole and a Cape May Warbler were also seen.

Vicki and Terry Jones

05/13 Cardinals, Hermit Thrush, Catbirds, Wrens, Turkey Vulture, Northern Flicker and Hummingbirds were seen in her garden.

Terrie Spillers

05/14  3 male and 2 female Orioles were seen at the feeder eating grape jelly at the 17th hole of Lincolnshire Country Club in Crete.

Richard Schultz

05/14 Once her Burr Oak flowered a Chipping Sparrow, 2 Indigo Bunting, 1 Scarlet Tanager, 2 pairs of Baltimore Orioles and 2 pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen.

Edith Turkington

JUNE

06/09  A Loggerhead Shrike and a Northern Mockingbird were seen at Oak Forest Heritage Preserve.

Mary Bernat

06/09  A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher also seen at Oak Forest Heritage Preserve.

Mary Bernat

THE GARDEN CORNER...

Life is full of surprises! On May 11th there was a bird in the garden that I never expected to see there, a Pileated Woodpecker. Well, needless to say my hubby and I were scrambling for our binoculars. While the bird was visiting the oak trees and poking about for grubs I made a mad dash for a camera. Why is the camera never ready or near by when one needs it? I did get a few pics, not really anything to write home about, but proof that I did see what I saw. I had heard the call the day before, but as much as I looked, I could not see the bird.

Well, as they say in astronomy, keep looking up! You never know what may pass by. I have however, noticed a lack of Warblers passing through this year. Once the oaks bloom, Warblers are usually plentiful. Did anyone else notice a difference this year?

We also use the garden occasionally for star gazing. This is not an easy task in the suburbs what with the Chicago glow, the suburban lights everywhere and trees. My hubby is an amateur astronomer and is often heard to exclaim, “why did I pick this hobby?” or “I need to live on a prairie”. We usually go to Indiana to sky watch and star gaze. We looked at Jupiter with four moons visible through a gap in the branches. What a sight on a clear night! The skies are full of so many lovely sights. So, don’t forget to look up once in a while on a clear night when you are out and about.

The garden is coming along, yellow lilies are blooming, the beards tongue is a riot of blossoms, also pink peonies, a few pink roses and pink dianthus, with so much more to come. Wrens are nesting at the bottom of the garden, Catbirds, Starlings and Robins are nesting nearby and enjoy visiting the bird bath. I have noticed that Robins and Starlings bathe with gusto. They really get in there. I hope you are enjoying your outdoor spaces. Did anyone start a pollinator patch? Feel free to write to me with news of your garden, my email address is on the back of this issue.

Terrie Spillers
THORN CREEK AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Editor: Terrie Spillers  Database: Sue Putnam

The mission of the Thorn Creek Audubon Society is to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of birds, to educate adults and children concerning our natural environment, to preserve, protect, and restore wildlife habitat, and to create awareness of local conservation issues.

The newsletter is the official publication of the Thorn Creek Audubon Society, an Illinois not-for-profit organization dedicated to conservation and environmental education. The opinions expressed herein are not necessary endorsed by the TCAS board or the National Audubon Society.

We welcome editorial proposals and submissions. Please direct all correspondence to: Terrie Spillers, Editor, P.O. Box 895, Park Forest, IL 60466 email hillbrit@comcast.net

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The Thorn Creek Audubon Society's website is thorncreekaudubonsociety.org