

Letter from the Editor

Blitzing in Southern Illinois

What activity allows you to wear your sloppiest clothes and get away with it, imbibe sugar and caffeine and other not-so-good-for-you stuff all day long, celebrate with wine, beer or whatever at the end of the day and experience unforgettable birding moments?

Birding big days in spring, of course. This year, I had the pleasure and honor of birding with Susan Kaley, Jeff Smith and IOS Vice-President Jenny Vogt from dawn until dusk in southern Illinois during the joint IOS Annual meeting and Southernmost Birding Blitz and Festival.

Highlights follow:

We began the day with Whip-poor-will and ended it with Chuck-will's widow.

The forecasted rain didn't occur until near the end of the day.

Despite warning from a turkey hunter we encountered that the gobblers were hiding from the high water situation in the south, Jeff spotted a flock of Wild Turkeys, while driving down a road. We gobbled with joy!

We finally added Louisisana Waterthrush near dusk – We were worried that this common southern Illinois species already building nests, was to evade us all day. But at Fern Clyffe State Park at the end of the day, we heard the waterthrush's sweet song from a creek, and got great looks at male and presumably, female.

Jeff added several new lifers to his list including Black-necked Stilt, while Susan and I added a new state species, Glossy Ibis, to ours. (Jenny already had the ibis for the state!)

Worm-eating, Hooded, Kentucky and Cerulean Warblers were singing – and we got good looks at them, too.

American Redstarts sang all of their varied songs and then some. When redstarts become the trash bird of the day, then that's a good day birding.

The flowering dogwoods and redbuds added gorgeous backdrops to the colorful spring migrants and breeders.

We made it through the end of the day with no bee stings, snake bites, poison ivy or other outdoor-related ills. (Alas, I did have a couple of mosquito bites.)

Thanks to my DuPage County birding friends for a great day in southern Illinois. What I like best about birding besides the birds, of course, is getting to know some great people while sharing a passion. IOS makes that possible!

Sheryl DeVore

MEADOWLARK

A JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS BIRDS

Volume 16, Number 4 - 2007

ISSN 1065-2043

Visit Our Website at: <http://www.illinoisbirds.org>

Articles

Calls, captures and collisions: Triangulating three census methods to better understand nightly passage of songbird migrants through the Chicago region during May 122

– Melissa Schramm, Jacqueline Fiala, Terese Noe, Paul Sweet, Annette Prince, Caleb Gordon

Summer Tanager visits jelly feeder in DuPage County 130

– Melinda Born Chapman

Departments

The 2007 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count 131

– Vernon M. Kleen

Field Notes: 2007 spring migration season 141

– Travis A. Mahan

Note: The Index to Meadowlark Volume 16 will be published as an addendum or in a future issue.

About Our Cover:

Cover drawing of Lazuli Bunting by Peter Olson.

Peter Olson is the Assistant Director of the NIU Art Museum in DeKalb. He has been watching and drawing Illinois birds for more than 10 years. Other images, and a list of exhibitions and events can be found at www.peterolsonbirds.com.

Copyright© by the Illinois Ornithological Society. No part of this journal may be reproduced without the written permission of IOS and the chief editor, except brief passages of a paragraph or less in which attribution is made to the journal and author.