



MISSISSIPPI CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Quad City Audubon Society



UPCOMING QCAS EVENTS

Vol. 30, No 5

September-October 2019

Monthly meetings will be on the second Thursday September, October and December of 2019 at 7:00 pm, Butterworth Center, 1105 8th Street, Moline, IL.

September 7, Saturday ~ Blackhawk State Park Field Trip. Meet at Singing Bird Lodge, Rock Island, IL at 8:00 a.m. Half day field trip. Fall migration!

September 12, Thursday - Monthly Meeting - Martha Smith, a horticulturist with the Rock Island County Extension Service, will present a program on "Pollinator Pockets". Come and get ideas on new plants for your home garden next year.

October 10, Thursday - Monthly Meeting - Jon Stravers, Director of Driftless Area Bird Conservation in McGregor, Iowa, will present a program updating us on his surveys on the Cerulean Warbler and Red-Shouldered Hawk in the Driftless Area. QCAS has provided financial support for these projects the past several years; this is a chance to hear this entertaining speaker share his experiences and results.

October 12, Saturday – Illiniwek Forest Preserve, Lock and Dam 14, and Dorrance Park. Meet at Illiniwek Forest Preserve, Hampton, IL at the south parking lot along the river bluffs, 8:00 am. Half day field trip.

November 16, Saturday – Lock and Dam 13 and Spring Lake. Meet at Brothers Restaurant, Rapids City, IL at 7:00 a.m.

December 12, Thursday - Monthly Meeting - One of our own members, Janet Moline, a retired biologist, will present a program entitled "Penguins---brrr". She will share photos and information from her trips to New Zealand and South Africa. Plus, this is also our annual pie night, so after the program, we will adjourn to the dining room for pie; if possible, bring your favorite pie to share.



Audubon

The Quad City Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society

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Newsletter

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Conservation

Vacant

Publicity

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From the President ~ Jody Millar

My hummingbird feeders are buzzing with activity right now. Like so many of you, I love to watch these tiny birds zooming about the yard.



Sometimes, I need to duck! I am guessing the increased activity is due to the young ones taking their place in the yard. It takes about 35 days for one to three young to emerge, from egg-laying to fledging the nest. I have planted quite a few flowers around my house, but next year, I will try to pick out more red and orange tubular-type flowers that the hummingbirds favor. From the Audubon website, I

found out that 85% of a hummingbird's diet is made up of insects. And - they like to eat spiders! It is a bit of a chore cleaning and refilling the feeders. I have two feeders and clean and change the fluid (1/2 cup sugar to 2 cups water) every other day.

However, keeping up with the hummingbird feeders is not nearly as frustrating as trying to keep the squirrels out of my sunflower bird feeder. They are willing to hang upside down and crawl any which way to get at the bird seed. They are also becoming less frightened of me. It takes quite a few antics and noise to make them scatter. But...I have a new weapon. I have taught my dog, Daisy (a goldendoodle) a new word – SQUIRREL! I don't even have to yell it anymore. I can just walk up to the dog and whisper "squirrel", point in the general direction, and off she dashes. Of course, she never catches the little guy, but she does chase him away – for a while!



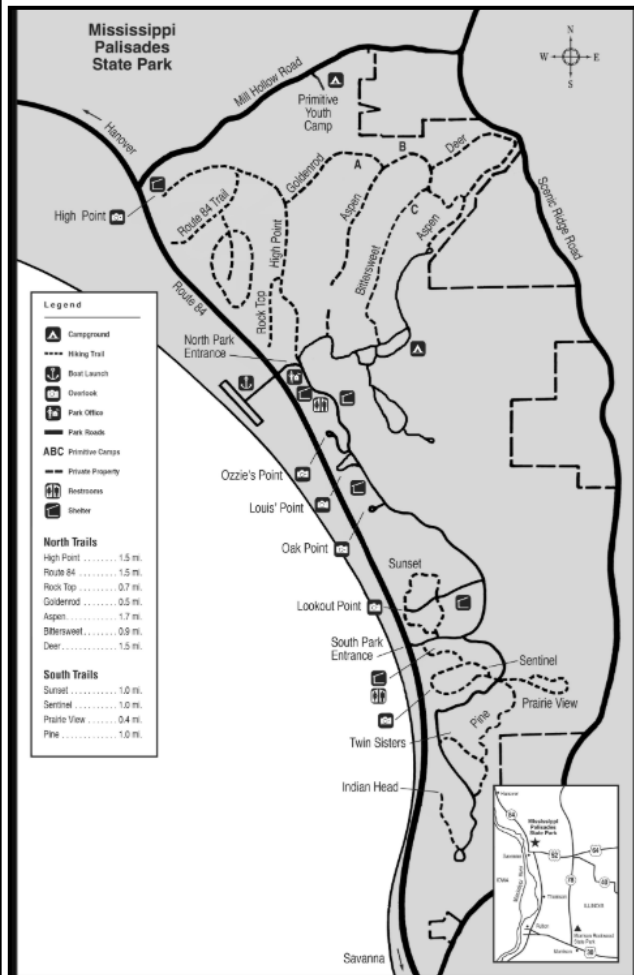
I hope you all are enjoying the last rites of summer. Be sure and try to catch one of our upcoming field trips. There is always something interesting to see and many more eyes to find it with!



All photos by Jody Millar

June 1, 2019 ~ Field Trip from Janelle Swanberg

QCAS kicked off the summer with a June 1 field trip to Mississippi Palisades Park north of Savanna and the Fulton sand prairie just north of Fulton, both in Illinois. The day was pleasant although the bugs were somewhat bothersome - but where there are bugs, there are birds! This trip is usually productive for local nesting warblers, and we were very successful in that regard, missing only the hooded warbler of those expected. The Indian Head picnic area gave us good looks at summer tanagers, as well as cerulean, Kentucky, yellow-throated, and pine warblers. An ovenbird was heard here as well as in other areas in the park. At the lower area just inside the south entrance, a prothonotary was a surprise visitor, although suitable habitat is nearby next to the road. Most got a look at a white-eyed vireo that sang for a good while but moved around a lot as well. Susa and Forrest Stonedahl brought along their wonderful photographic equipment; it really enhanced our enjoyment of the outing to have them confirm many of our sightings with a shot showing distinctive markings of the bird we had just seen. The white-eyed vireo was such a bird, with the white eye ring being very visible in Susa's photo. Louisiana waterthrush were heard then seen in a couple of the lower areas next to the streams in the park. Other warblers seen or heard were Northern parula, common yellowthroat, American redstart, and yellow warbler, for a total of 11 warblers for the day. We searched for hooded in areas where they have been found in recent years, to no avail. Other good birds at Palisades included pileated woodpecker, wood thrush, yellow-billed cuckoo, ruby-throated hummingbirds, cedar waxwing, scarlet tanager, and yellow-throated vireo. The ethereal song of the veery was heard in a couple of areas.



After a stop in Savanna at Subway for lunch, we headed south on Highway 84 to the Fulton sand prairie, where common nighthawks were diving as we arrived. Many dickcissels were present, along with Eastern kingbirds and grasshopper, field, and lark sparrows. Several brown thrashers sang, and Bell's vireo were found in a couple of spots. Blue grosbeak and orchard oriole were elusive at first, although Susa and Forrest located those species after some members had departed.

We had a total of 76 species for the day.

Source: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Parks/Pages/MississippiPalisades.aspx>
Mississippi Palisades website.



Membership Application

I would like to join/renew as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter. Please send me *Audubon Magazine*, *Mississippi Currents*, and my membership card. Enclosed is my check for \$20 payable to National Audubon Society. (include **Chapter #C4ZH630Z** on your check)

OR

I would like to join/renew only as a member of Quad City Audubon in lieu of National Audubon. Please send me *Mississippi Currents*. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to Quad City Audubon.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send to: Quad City Audubon Society
P.O. Box 81
Bettendorf, IA 52722
www.quadcityaudubon.org

Mission Statement

The Quad City Audubon Society is dedicated to the enjoyment of birds; a better understanding of the natural world; stewardship of natural areas and habitats; fellowship; improvement of community awareness of environmental issues; and education of youth for the benefit of future generations.

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the *Mississippi Currents*. The next deadline is October 15, 2019. Submissions are gladly accepted. Send to:

Claudia Scharf, OSB
cscharf@smmsisters.org

Visit us online at:
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