



PrairieWind

John Wesley Powell Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon
An Illinois Audubon Affiliate

Volume 47, Issue 1

Oct-Nov 2022

John Wesley Powell Audubon

2022

PROGRAM

RAILS

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Dr. Auriel Fournier

Rallidae (Rails): Uncovering the
migration habits of secretive birds

Illinois Wesleyan University

Center for Natural Sciences, Rm C101



Given Harper, Programs

Rails are a group of wetland birds known for their secretive behavior, which brings challenges in studying their migration and other aspects of their natural history. Dr. Fournier will present her research to better understand the migratory patterns of rails, what habitats they use, which will help us better understand how wetlands across their annual cycle can be managed to meet their needs, as well as for other wetland bird species. Dr. Fournier, an Assistant Research Scientist at the Illinois Natural History Survey, is the Director of the Forbes Biological Station in Havana, Illinois. In addition to her roles as researcher and field station director, she has also established an impressive leadership stature at national and international levels. Dr. Fournier is the recipient of a 2022 Early Career Investigator Award from the Prairie Research Institute. As Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network Coordination



Dr. Auriel Fournier *credit Justin Lehman*

Committee, she is a major contributor on two important reports on state-of-the-art approaches to monitoring and managing bird populations in the northern Gulf of Mexico. This year, the Gulf of Mexico Avian Monitoring Network was recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a Regional Director's Honor Award.

Parking is available at 201 E. Beecher St., just to the north of the Center for Natural Sciences.



On Saturday, September 24, Michael Retter led the Fall Migration Bird Walk at Hidden Creek Sanctuary. We saw many Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.
Photo by Bill Davison



JWP member and high school student Bode Thompson birding this fall with Colin Dobson.
Photo by David Thompson, t-shirt by JWP ©

Fall BIRD WALKS

The 2022 Fall Migration Bird Walks were well attended this year. Special thanks to JWP Field Trips Director, Bill Davison, for lining up such stellar leaders that included Michael Retter, Pirmin Nietlisbach, Given Harper, Angelo Capparella and Bill and Mercy Davison. Spring Bird Walks will be scheduled from the end of April through May 2023. Check our FB and website for dates/times and news on winter field trips, TBD.



Angelo Capparella, Conservation

This year marks the 123rd annual [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](https://www.audubon.org/audubon-christmas-bird-count) (CBC), the longest running citizen science project in the world. Our area is one of over 2000 Count Circles from many countries in the western hemisphere that participate each year. This year's John Wesley Powell CBC will be held on **Saturday, December 17, 2022.**



If you would like more information about how to participate please contact Dr. Capparella at apcapp@ilstu.edu. Dr. Capparella organizes teams of birders to target habitats in the McLean County region and teams gather at the end of the day to tally numbers and compile a report.

Welcome to the Board

The John Wesley Audubon Chapter welcomes to our board as Treasurer **Wayne Hochstetler**, a longtime member of JWP and skilled birder. Wayne replaces Les Allen who served for many years and stepped down in 2021. Thank you to Les for the years of commitment and service to JWP.

Also joining the board this fall is **Christina Schulz**. After steering the board through Strategic Planning sessions last spring, she takes over our Membership Director position to help us better organize and maintain our member directory and communications.

Welcome Wayne and Christina!



THE BIRDS of EWING

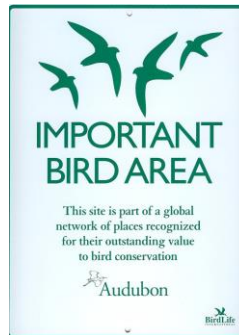


Photo by **Bill Davison**, Field Trips



Great Horned Owls have nested at Ewing for years. Go at twilight and hear them hoot!

Did you know that Ewing Park's Hedgeapple Woods was awarded designation as an IBA in 2015?

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are key sites for the conservation of bird species, identified through the BirdLife International IBA program. These sites are small enough to be conserved in their entirety, often form part of a protected-area network, and are, as far as possible, different in character or habitat or ornithological importance from the surrounding area.

John Wesley Powell Audubon, led by Angelo Capparella, Matt Winks, and JWP volunteers, spent several years documenting the birds of Ewing to illustrate the rich habitat not only for migratory birds but this resident Great Horned Owl that nests in its woods. JWP offers Spring Bird Walks in Ewing's Hedgeapple Woods in April and May, peak migratory times, to the Bloomington Normal community. Check our spring newsletter or our website for times and dates.



Patricia Carlson, Secretary/Editor

Letter from the Editor

Dear JWP Members,

In the spring of 2022 JWP retained Christina Schulz to lead us in Strategic Planning. This year we are working through reorganization and a board restructuring that will set us on course to implement long term goals for our Chapter. We ask for your patience this year as we work out the kinks.

We should be back on track soon with our communications to you via newsletter and email. Our JWP PrairieWind is published five times a year, twice in the fall, twice in the spring, and a May newsletter informing you of our summer activities and members only May Annual Meeting.

We would like to move our publications and communications with you online and ask that you submit your email to us at jwpaudubon1@gmail.com. We will also publish the newsletter on our website, www.jwpaudubon.com, for your easy reference.

We look forward to seeing you on the trail and at our fall program, see page 1.

Patricia Carlson, JWP Editor

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

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Publicity

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Anandhi Ramalingam

Young Birders

Vacant

On The Wing

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

John Muir



**Nov 29
Tues**

PROGRAM: RAILS 7:00 p.m. Dr. Auriel Fournier
Rallidae (Rails): Uncovering the migration
habits of secretive birds. Illinois Wesleyan University
Center for Natural Sciences, Rm C101. Parking off Emerson at
lot on corner of N. East St. and E. Beecher St., Bloomington, IL

**Dec 17
Sat**

**Christmas Bird Count – This year marks the 123rd annual
[Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#) (CBC), the longest running
citizen science project in the world. Our area is one of over
2000 Count Circles from many countries in the western
hemisphere that participate each year. This year's John
Wesley Powell CBC will be held on Sat., December 17, 2022**

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