

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society **CARDINAL**

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photo by John Cassidy



Upcoming Events

Eagle Trip to Upper Wabash River
February 26

Prairie Chicken Field Trip
April 9

WVAS/IAS Field Trip To Wabashiki FWA & Longspur Quest
April 9

Spring Festival at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary
April 29 & 30, May 1

High Migration Along the Indiana Dunes
May 21

Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area - Greene County
Spring Bird Migration
Saturday, May 28

For more information, go to IndianaAudubon.org



photo by John Cassidy



photo by John Cassidy

High Migration Along the Indiana Dunes. May 21. With Trip Leader: Brad Bumgardner

Enjoy a great day of birding at one of Indiana's premiere spring birding hotspots. This full day of birding will be timed with the latter half of peak songbird migration at Indiana Dunes State park and nearby Beverly Shores. This is the peak migration for the elusive Connecticut Warbler, and good numbers of later migrants like Mourning, Wilson's and Canada Warblers can be expected. Many flycatchers are peaking, and thrush migration continues to be excellent. The dunes offer a chance to see a convergence of more boreal species on territory with more southern species. These include territorial Blackburnian, Canada, and Black-throated Green Warblers alongside Prairie Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Summer Tanagers. In total, 30 warbler species in a day's birding is easily

possible. If weather conditions are optimal, some time will be spent logging longshore flight birds at the old "Green Tower" site.

Meeting Location: Indiana Dunes State Park, main entrance parking lot (next to main gate). 8 a.m. (eastern), 7 a.m. (central).

Participants should bring: a pack lunch and \$5/person entrance fee per vehicle (unless you have an Indiana State Park pass). The trip is free to IAS members and \$15/person for non-members.

Field Trip Leader: Brad Bumgardner, is the park interpretive naturalist at Indiana Dunes St. Park and Vice-President of the Indiana Audubon Society.

Though not required, those interested in staying overnight the day of or before the field trip may consider these recommended options nearby.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Campground. 219-926-7561 – \$15/night.

Indiana Dunes St. Park Campground
1-866-622-8746 – \$25/night.

Super 8 Motel, Portage.
866-538-1314 – \$62/night.

Best Western Indian Oaks, Chesterton.
866-539-0036 – \$79/night.

Hilton Garden Inn, Chesterton
866-573-4235 – \$98/night.

Dunes Walk Inn, Furnessville.
219-728-6393 – \$125-\$175/night.

We are sure you will benefit from Brad's knowledge and expertise associated with the birds and Dunes St. Park and hope you can participate.

Alan W. Bruner
IAS Field Trip Chair

In Memory of Mary Rankin Gough

The Indiana Audubon Society celebrates the full and productive life of Mary Rankin Gough who passed 8 January 2011. Mary accomplished a lot in her life as an active Christian, biology teacher for 31 years, amateur ornithologist, and environmental activist.

She was a life-long birder and a licensed bird bander and she was an integral part of the Indiana Audubon Society volunteering

countless hours to its mission. She held many IAS positions including President of the Society and worked tirelessly in the interest of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary along with her husband Clifford. She will be remembered by many as always being present at IAS board meetings and was the one who kept everyone in line by reminding us of the proper order of doing business. Little did we appreciate this until years after she was no longer able to attend and the Board was somewhat in disarray. Mary was editor of the *Cardinal Newsletter* from 1985 through 2000 and she tirelessly

solicited material from members, often without cooperation. But she always did the job. Mary was also responsible for arranging church services at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary during spring and fall IAS weekends which reflected another important aspect of her life. There are others who will be providing more eloquent witness of Mary's accomplishments and involvement in IAS and other elements of her life. But those today who love the Society can thank Mary and those like her for bringing it to this century intact and thriving.

Alan W. Bruner



Prairie Chicken Field Trip. April 9.

The Indiana Audubon Society has reserved the blinds at Prairie Ridge St. Natural Area at Newton, Illinois to view Greater Prairie Chickens on their booming grounds on Saturday 9 April 2011. Last year about 17 male birds were booming within a hundred feet of the blinds while Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers cruised by and Eastern Meadowlarks sang from the top of the blinds. The latter date this year gives us a better chance at Smith's Longspurs and the myriads of American Golden-Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers that pass through here. Loggerhead Shrikes are

almost as dependable as Greater Prairie-Chickens as four were spotted last year.

This trip was set up primarily for those who signed up last year but were unable to attend because the blinds were full. Therefore, openings are limited as most of the twelve spots are already filled. So notify me as soon as possible if you want to participate. If the response is great enough I will try to reserve another date for the blinds. Once the blinds are filled I will send final details and instructions.

If you have any questions at all please contact me at: abbird@att.net or 765-597-2459.

Alan W. Bruner
IAS field trip chair

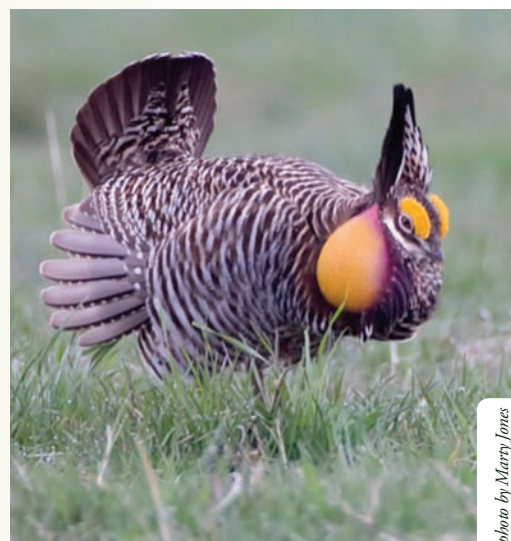


photo by Marty Jones

WVAS/IAS Field Trip To Wabashiki FWA & Longspur Quest. April 9.

On 9 April 2011 the Wabash Valley Audubon Society (WVAS) and Indiana Audubon Society (IAS) will sponsor an all-day joint field trip to the Terre Haute area. Special emphasis will be the new Wabashiki FWA in West Terre Haute which consists of 7000 acres of riverbottom woodland and floodplain fields along the west shore of the Wabash River. Flooding by the river should produce large numbers of waterfowl, eagles, shorebirds, and more. Last summer, this area produced a flock of 123 American White Pelicans, with lots of shorebirds and up to 250 Great Egrets in September. We will spend much of the morning hours exploring this "new" area which has the potential to be Indiana's next big birding hotspot.

The quest part of the trip involves Smith's Longspurs. Though easily found in April at traditional spots in Parke, Montgomery, Benton, and Newton Co's and recently found in many areas between and to the east and south, there are no records for this species in Vigo, Vermillion, and Clay Co's. This is a chance for you to be a part of history and increase our knowledge of Indiana birds. As a group we will

work corn-stubble fields providing suitable habitat near Terre Haute with the goal of finding the first county records for the species.

As time allows we will visit one of the two local reclaimed mine areas, Universal or Chinook, to seek out such specialties as Upland Sandpiper, Ring-necked Pheasant, American Bittern, Harriers, early grassland passerines, and more.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. (Indianapolis time!) at Dewey Point which is located in West Terre Haute on the south side of U.S. 40 about one mile west of the Wabash River bridge. There is a small parking lot on the south side of the road and a Wabashiki FWA sign there.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following:

Marty Jones
WVAS Field Trip Chair
indth33@yahoo.com
(317) 696-6246

Alan W. Bruner
IAS Field Trip Chair
abbird@att.net
(765) 597-2459 or (765) 562-2741 cell

We hope to see you there. Let's make birding history together!
Alan W. Bruner

Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, Greene County

Spring Bird Migration Saturday, May 28, 2011

Leaders: Marty Williams and Rob Ripma

Join the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society and the Indiana Audubon Society on a field trip to Indiana birding hotspot Goose Pond FWA. Rob Ripma and Marty Williams will lead the group on a tour of this restored wetland in search of a variety of migrating and resident birds,

including specialties such as Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Henslow's Sparrow, Black-necked Stilt, herons, egrets, and bitterns. With this property's amazing potential for rarities you never know what we might find!

Meet at 6 a.m. EST at the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, 6256 Cambridge Way, Plainfield, IN 46168. To reach this location, take exit 66 from I-70 onto SR-267, just past the Indianapolis airport. We can carpool if needed and will drive from there to our first destination at the check-in station along SR-59 by 8 a.m. and bird the morning around Goose Pond FWA. If you would prefer to meet us at the check-in station at Goose Pond rather than the carpool

location, it is located on SR-59 south of Linton, IN. Driving from Linton, there is a big 'S' curve in the road, and the station is located on the left in the second curve. We will take a short break around noon for everyone to have lunch in Linton and will continue birding after eating. In the afternoon, we will bird any locations that we may have missed in the morning at Goose Pond and also at the Beehunter units.

Come out and enjoy one of the Midwest's best birding spots! Any questions regarding the trip can be directed to Rob Ripma (robert.ripma@yahoo.com or 317-748-4140) or to Marty Williams (317-366-6126).



IAS Fall Birding Festival Room Reservations Going on Now

by Brad Bumgardner

The 2011 Fall Birding Festival will be held at Pokagon State Park September 30-October 2, along the shores of beautiful Lake James. Indiana's 5th state park will provide a beautiful backdrop for a multitude of trip leaders and speakers. Folks staying for the weekend will enjoy the keynote presentation by famed birder and author Kenn Kaufman.

Other great programs are being lined up, including birding tours to Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site, Wing Haven Nature Preserve, and Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. Bring the kids, as an assortment of birding activities will be on hand for them as well. A complete list of activities will be online by early summer.

A special room rate is being held at the Potawatomi Inn. Ask for the IAS group rate when calling (877-LODGES-1). We hope to see you this October!



photos by Scott Arvin

Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarships Funds Available in 2011

by Brad Bumgardner

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to offer the Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarship Program in 2011. This program is for individuals and organizations that are seeking funding for activities related to Indiana's natural resources, particularly those related to Indiana's avifauna. In 2011, \$4,000 has been set aside for applicants in many categories, including, but not limited to: research, bird preservation, workshop attendance, and youth birding activities.

Applications for funding are due by April 1 and September 1, 2011, and are announced at the Spring Birding Meeting at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary and the Fall Birding Festival at Pokagon State Park. Applications and more information are on the Indiana Audubon Society website (www.indianaaudubon.org).

Return Service Requested

www.indianaaudubon.org

The Cardinal
3499 S. Bird Sanctuary Rd.
Connersville, IN 47331

