



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

April 2014 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 44, No. 2 | ISSN 0162-8186

Upcoming Events

- **Camp Atterbury with Doug Gray**
April 26, 8:00 AM
- **Spring Birding Festival**
May 2-4
- **Kirtland's Warbler Tour**
June 13-15



White Pelican photo by Scott Arvin



MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY SPRING FESTIVAL, MAY 2-4



FRIDAY EVENING 8:00 - READY, SET, RESPLENDENT QUETZAL!

DO-IT-YOURSELF COSTA RICA: HOW TO PLAN A PRODUCTIVE, SAFE, AND ECONOMICAL BIRDING TRIP EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT AN EXPERT!

PRESENTER: ANN OLIVER

What county has more than 880 species of birds, is smaller than West Virginia, has stunning scenery ranging from lush rain forests to dry deserts, and is just a half-day plane trip away? Costa Rica of course!

Staggering biodiversity makes Costa Rica a dream destination for a birder, containing almost ten percent of the world's species of birds. But how do you plan a trip? One way is to travel with one of the outstanding birding tour companies offering guided trips to Costa Rica including Field Guides, MGNature, Tropical Birding, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Wildside Nature Tours, or Wings. You won't have to worry about many details other than packing and studying ahead of time.

But what if you want to do-it-yourself? Ann Oliver did just that and will share her "lessons learned" on planning and enjoying a Costa Rican birding adventure! A few of the travel hints include flying into the less congested international airport in Liberia (in NW Costa Rica), getting a GPS for your vehicle, and using the Barrett Lawson book "A Bird-Finding Guide to Costa Rica".

SATURDAY MORNING 7:30 AM - A LONG BIRD WALK WITH ALAN BRUNER - WARBLERS ARE HERE!

A Spring Festival would never be the same without getting up early for the Sunday morning Bird Walk! Last year we tallied over 105 species of birds during the weekend and we'll see if we can top that number. Your trip leader has a special knack for finding target birds.

9:00 AM THE BIG SIT

Bird watching at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary is such an enjoyable event, but sometimes it's nice to catch up with long lost friends that we haven't seen lately. Hence, the Big Sit! The goal will be to list what birds are seen from the front porch, bird blind, around Brooks Hall, and at the Sanctuary while folks catch up for the year.

11:00 AM - SHARING YOUR BIRDING PASSION WITH OTHERS, OR WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME THE "BIRD LADY" (OR GUY) OF YOUR COMMUNITY DR. BARB LUCAS

Barb will show how she has shared her love of birding with others throughout northwest Indiana. She uses her own photos in a fun and engaging power point presentation to inspire others to get involved in birding and nature conservation. She has become the "Bird Lady" of her home town and hopes you will do the same in your community.

12:00 PM - LUNCH

Join us at noon or beyond for a great lunch! The lunch is provided by the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Committee and comes to you for FREE! It's included in your cost to attend the weekend

1:30 PM BIRD BEHAVIOR PRESENTER: JACK BERNINGER

We all enjoy finding and looking at the beautiful birds that we see - this session takes bird watching a step further! Come listen to Jack, a retired biology teacher, explore the anthropomorphic behavior of our feathered friends.

3:00 PM - TOXIC EFFECTS OF NON-NATIVE LANDSCAPING - HOW THEY AFFECT THE BIRDS AND HUMANS PRESENTER: DAWN SLACK

Invasive plants do more than just take over your garden. They have a negative impact on the ecology of an area. Did you know English ivy is mildly toxic to birds and a skin irritant to humans? Did you know lantana is toxic to dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, cattle and other animals? Did you know heavenly bamboo contains cyanide and was determined the cause of death of Cedar Waxwings? Did you know tree-of-heaven is toxic enough to cause heart attacks? Join us for a discussion of the toxic effects of some common non-native landscape plants. You may be surprised to learn you have a few of these growing in your garden.



4:00 PM - BATS OF INDIANA

PRESENTER: RYAN SLACK

Learn more about the flying creatures of the night in this informative presentation focusing on bat species in our own backyards. A myriad of topics will be covered about bats including myths and why they're not true, specialized adaptations, anatomy and classification, habitats, conservation, white nose syndrome, the latest in the study of bat calls, the truth about bats and rabies, and an in-depth look at the 12 species of bats found in Indiana. We will even attempt to capture some bats after sunset for a close-up look at some of the species in the presentation.

6:00 PM - BIRDING SOUTH TEXAS: A BIRTHDAY FOR THE BIRDS PRESENTERS:

CHAD & CETH WILLIAMS

For Ceth's 13th birthday, he wanted to bird south Texas with his dad. And that he did. From San Antonio to Corpus Christi and from South Padre to Harlingen, Chad and Ceth Williams spent an entire week birding and bonding in one of the most popular birding destinations in the United States.

8:00 PM - THE ECHOES OF THEIR WINGS: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JOEL GREENBERG

The passenger pigeon was unlike any other bird. It probably numbered in the billions, making it the most abundant bird in North America if not the world. But this huge population was neither evenly distributed across the landscape nor was it any way cryptic: the species often formed aggregations so vast they are difficult for us to imagine. As just two examples, John James Audubon described a flight that darkened the sky for three days, and a nesting in 1871 spread across 850 square miles of central Wisconsin. But despite that abundance, a single flight around 1860 probably exceeded a billion birds and maybe three billion, exploitation for food and recreation destroyed the species in the wild by the first few years of the twentieth century. On September 1, 1914, Martha, the last of the species, died in the Cincinnati Zoo. This talk explores the story of the bird and highlights the important lessons that it presents to those of us in the 21st century.

SUNRISE - BIRD WALK WITH RYAN SLACK

A Spring Festival would never be the same without getting up early for the Sunday morning Bird Walk! Last year we tallied over 105 species of birds during the weekend and we'll see if we can top that number. Your trip leader has a special knack for finding target birds.

9:00 AM - THE BIG SIT - DAY 2

Join Amy Wilms at Brooks Hall to count the number of birds surrounding us. It's a great time to catch up with dear friends!

10:00 AM - ON THE TRAIL FOR INVASIVES

Presenter and Field Trip Leader: Dawn Slack

How Many Invasive Plants Can You ID at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary? Join us for a walk through the Sanctuary to ID, and see the effects of non-native and invasive plants. We'll see if we can spot some of the toxic invasive species discussed during the power point presentation.

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Young Birders activities at the Spring Festival

Bird Banding with Brad

Millions of birds are currently funneling through Indiana and the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Take a break from your birding to see these amazing migrants up close. Learn tricks banders use to identify, age, and sex these birds. Many are new techniques you can even use in the field.

Take a Walk in the Creek!

What could be more fun than taking a hike in a creek to learn about the geology of Mary Gray? Jack Berninger will help our Young Birders explore the wonders of

the water that flows throughout the property. **Special Note to Parents – The kids will get wet! Please consider bringing some creek shoes or boots and some dry clothes.

Let's Go Fishing!

Fishing at the Sanctuary is an enjoyable event – especially when you have a great chance to catch a lot of fish. Join Chad and Ceth Williams and Trevor Abernathy for a great time fishing in one of our four ponds on the property. Bait and poles will be available.

Young Birders Meet Joel Greenberg

Joel Greenberg has been an avid birdwatcher since the age of 12! Meet an author and take a walk with him around the main ponds – an event you won't want to miss!

BATS at Mary Gray

Have you ever seen a bat up close? Join Ryan and Dawn for an exciting late night adventure. This program will follow the Saturday evening presentation around 9:30 PM. Everyone is invited.

Owl Crafting

Youth are invited to join Terri Gorney before dinner to make an owl bookmark! This will surely come in handy when reading.

Passenger Pigeon Origami

Join us during the weekend to participate in the Fold the Flock initiative in Brooks Hall! Participants fold origami Passenger Pigeons (supplies supplied) to add their birds to the ever-growing virtual flock. The origami pigeons symbolically recreate the great flocks of 100 years ago. Find out more at foldtheflock.org.

Letha's Fund

Spread the Word, and Let's Get Into Nature!

INPAWS' Youth Outreach team

Knowledge Is Power

Where nature is concerned lack of knowledge can be dangerous, leading to mistakes that harm us or other living entities. Good information allows us to make intelligent decisions and lights our way, but it is not always easy to obtain, especially in a world increasingly disconnected from nature.

An essential INPAWS role is teaching our youth the value of our natural world, and

connecting them to nature. Our members understand how nourishing it is to watch the sun rise and set, to set your hand in a riffle and watch water course downstream, to witness a flower blossom, or glimpse a dragonfly skimming the water's surface. We understand that experiencing nature enhances our ability to reason and solve problems. We know how being immersed in nature relieves our stress and energizes us. We need our youth to understand these things too.

We Save Only What We Love

Our youth have little opportunity to bond with nature. Bombarded with technology that, sadly, discourages outdoor activities,

they need encouragement and assistance getting outside.

In 2013 Letha's Fund granted requests that enabled almost 2,000 youth to visit natural areas or participate in outdoor experiences. And over the past five years Letha's Fund has facilitated approximately 6,800 youth to learn about our amazing natural world. Wow! This would not have been possible without your generous gifts and support. Thank you!

Help Us Empower More Youth

Help us invest in a healthy future for our environment, one full of diversity and natural splendor, understood and loved by its future caretakers. Take a moment to learn about Letha's Fund, and

spread the word about such a wonderful program that is possible because of your aid.

Learn about Letha's Fund on our website or send us your questions at lethasfund@inpaws.org or call us. Remember, knowledge is power. So pass it along, and help us help the next generation get into nature.

Northern Michigan Field Trip

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to offer another trip to Northern Michigan this summer in search of the one of the rarest warblers in North America. The trip will be a car pool tour from June 13-15, 2014, led by IAS President, Brad Bumgardner. Indiana participants wishing to caravan together will meet at the main office parking lot

for Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN at noon (EDT) on June 13. Much of Saturday will consist of birding the northern Michigan forests and scrubland, including a private group tour of the Kirtland's Warbler breeding area by USFWS as well as a visit to Hartwick Pines, Michigan's 5th largest state park. Some casual birding will occur Sunday morning before returning back to Indiana. Other anticipated specialty species include Upland Sandpiper, Common Raven, Hermit Thrush, Clay-colored

Sparrows, and Evening Grosbeaks. There is a \$20 registration fee for this workshop. Registration holds your spot and includes all guide time. It does not cover lodging, food, or transportation costs. A list of all participants will be provided beforehand to encourage car pooling. The workshop will be limited to 15 participants. Registration deadline is Friday, May 31. Registration is online at indianaaudubon.org or by contacting Brad at president@indianaaudubon.org.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival

This years Ohio Valley Birding Festival, sponsored by the Evansville Audubon Society, will be held April 25-27, 2014. **For more information go to ohiovalleybirdingfestival.org/**



Spring Festival Registration

Please consider filling out your registration form and paying with PayPal by going to: www.indianaaudubon.org and clicking on the Spring Festival link under activities. Otherwise, please fill out this form and follow the instructions below.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

Who else are you registering? Please provide first and last names (print please)

Guest 1: _____ Guest 2: _____
 Guest 3: _____ Guest 4: _____

Member Registration (Before April 30th.)

How many adult IAS Members will be attending? # ___ X \$25 each _____
 How many children will be attending? # ___ X FREE! _____

Member Registration (after April 30)

How many adult IAS Members will be attending? # ___ X \$35 each _____
 How many children will be attending? # ___ X FREE _____

Non Member Registration (includes an individual adult membership if registering an adult)

How many adult IAS Non-Members will be attending? # ___ X \$65 each _____
 How many children Non-Members will be attending? (Under 16) # ___ X FREE _____

Meals - Additional Options (Please see prices)

Saturday Breakfast (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 16) # ___ X \$6/\$2 each _____
 Saturday Lunch (no charge) # ___ X No charge \$0.00 _____
 Saturday Dinner (\$15 each adults - \$7 each children under 16) # ___ X \$15/\$7 each _____
 Sunday Breakfast (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 16) # ___ X \$6/\$2 each _____
 Sunday Lunch (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 16) # ___ X \$6/\$2 each _____

* I would like a vegetarian meal # _____ **Total** _____

Payment Instructions: Payment may be made by mailing a check or registering online. Registrations must be received to Amy Wilms before **May 1, 2014**. If you know you are coming and prefer to pay at the Festival, send an email to Amy Wilms (wilmsab@indianaaudubon.org). Be sure to let her know how many you are registering and the number of meals you will purchase.

Checks

Please make your check out to Indiana Audubon Society and mail to:

Indiana Audubon Society, C/O Amy Wilms
 3499 S Bird Sanctuary Rd
 Connersville, IN 47331

My check is enclosed for \$ _____



SPEAKERS & FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Jack Berninger

Jack is a retired biology teacher and continues to still be involved in many educational lectures and field trips both in Mid-west and Florida. He is currently doing field research on rare ferns found in Fakahatchee State Park in Florida and is a member and program presenter for many scientific organizations. Jack and his wife Elaine were the recipients of the James H. Mason Service award in 2012. The award is presented to members of the Indiana Audubon Society who have dedicated themselves through service to the society.

Brad Bumgardner

Brad Bumgardner is the Interpretive Naturalist at Indiana Dunes State Park and President of the Indiana Audubon Society. Brad has a Bachelors in Science from Purdue University and is also a member of the National Association for Interpretation. Brad manages the very popular Saw-whet Owl banding program in the Dunes, which hosts more public opportunities than any other station in the lower Great Lakes Region. Brad also coordinates the Longshore Flight Count from the southern rim of Lake Michigan.

Joel Greenberg, Research Associate, Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and Field Museum

Joel Greenberg is a Research Associate of both the Chicago Academy of Sciences Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and the Field Museum. He has taught courses on natural history for the Morton Arboretum, Brookfield Zoo, and Chicago Botanical Gardens, and is the author of *Of Prairie, Woods, and Waters: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing*; *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*; and *A Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region* (with Lynne Carpenter). His articles or reviews have been published in *Science*, *Birder's World*, and *Environmental History*, and he is a featured blogger on the national web site *Birdzilla.com*. He co-hosted a radio show on the out of doors on WKCC. A retired member of the Illinois Bar, Greenberg has received the Protector of the Environment Award (1997, Chicago Audubon Society) and Environmental Leadership Award (2004, Institute for Environmental Science and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago).

Beyond writing *A Feathered River Across the Sky*, Greenberg is working with David Mrazek on creating a documentary on passenger pigeons and extinction that is called "Message from Martha." These projects are all major elements of Project Passenger Pigeon, an international effort which Greenberg helped bring about.

An avid birder since the age of twelve, Greenberg, his wife, and their passenger pigeon Heinrich reside in the Chicago area.

Dr. Barb Lucas

Birding enthusiast for decades. Bird photographer for 3 years. Former elementary school teacher & principal. Wife, mother & grandmother. Live near Rensselaer, IN.

Ann Oliver

Ann Oliver is the former President of Cincinnati Bird Club and former Executive Secretary of the Ohio Ornithological Society. A birder for nearly 20 years, she enjoys birding trips in the US as well as explorations in China, Borneo, England, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Chile, and Guatemala. Ann and her husband Mike spent two weeks in Costa Rica in March '12 and February '14.

Dawn R. Slack

Dawn is a biologist and works at Camp Atterbury where she manages the flora and fauna to include the rare, threatened and endangered species, of the installation. Her thesis work included acid seep inventories and a three year study of the invasive species in Polk County, TN along US Hwy 64. She and her husband, Ryan, moved to Brown County, Indiana last year. Although they love winter and the beauty snow brings to their woods, they are especially looking forward to spring this year and a break shoveling snow off their long, hilly, gravel driveway.

Ryan Slack

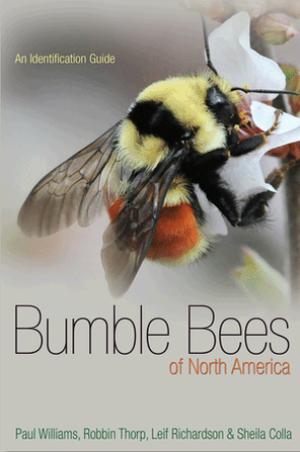
Ryan has a Wildlife Science Degree from Purdue University. He works for Civil and Environmental Consultants Inc. (CEC) in Indianapolis and has been conducting bat surveys for a living for the past 20 years, focusing on Federally-endangered Indiana bats throughout the eastern United States. Ryan has been birding at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary for over 30 years and participated in the 2013 MAPS research project. He resides in Brown County with his wife Dawn where they enjoy spending time outdoors in the snow.

Chad Williams

Chad Williams has had a passion for birds for more than 25 years. He is currently on the board of directors for the IAS and founder of the Indiana Young Birders Club. He enjoys sharing his passion for birds with his five children and is looking forward to sharing the joy of birding with his two new granddaughters.

Ceth Williams

Ceth Williams is one of the founding members of the Indiana Young Birders Club and enjoys birding alongside his dad. He recently started listing and is well over 200 birds! When not birding, Ceth enjoys fishing, playing basketball and soccer, and hunting frogs and salamanders.



Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide

Paul H. Williams, Robbin W. Thorp, Leif L. Richardson & Sheila R. Colla

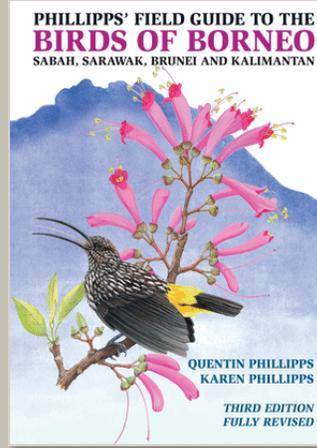
More than ever before, there is widespread interest in studying bumble bees and the critical role they play in our ecosystems. Bumble Bees of North America is the first comprehensive guide to North American bumble bees to be published in more than a century. Richly illustrated with color photographs, diagrams, range maps, and graphs of seasonal activity patterns, this guide allows amateur and professional naturalists

to identify all 46 bumble bee species found north of Mexico and to understand their ecology and changing geographic distributions.

The book draws on the latest molecular research, shows the enormous color variation within species, and guides readers through the many confusing convergences between species. It draws on a large repository of data from museum collections and presents state-of-the-art results on evolutionary relationships, distributions, and ecological roles. Illustrated keys allow identification of color morphs and social castes.

A landmark publication, Bumble Bees of North America sets the standard for guides and the study of these important insects.

- The best guide yet to the 46 recognized bumble bee species in North America north of Mexico
- Up-to-date taxonomy includes previously unpublished results
- Detailed distribution maps
- Extensive keys identify the many color patterns of species



Phillipps' Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo: Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, and Kalimantan

Quentin Phillipps & Karen Phillipps

This is the fully revised and updated third edition of an acclaimed field guide to the birds of Borneo, covering Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, and Kalimantan. The result is the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and user-friendly guide to the island's remarkably diverse birdlife. The book covers all 673 species living or reported on Borneo, including all 59 endemic species.

Each species is superbly illustrated in 141 color plates containing more than 2,000 full-color bird images, which provide multiple large views of each species, including most of the sexual variants and immature forms of polymorphic species. Each plate is accompanied by facing-page species descriptions covering taxonomy, size, call, range, distribution, habits, and status. Distribution is also shown with 567 detailed color thumbnail maps on facing pages. Other features include seven habitat plates, twelve regional maps showing Borneo's top 90 birding sites, fast-find identification plates to the birds of Kinabalu and other habitats, and a full overview of Borneo's vegetation, climate, and ecology. This is a guide that any outdoor visitor to the island will treasure.

Each species is superbly illustrated

- The most up-to-date, comprehensive, and user-friendly guide to the birds of Borneo
- Features handy, facing-page format
- Illustrates and describes all 673 species, including 59 endemics
- Contains more than 2,000 superb full-color images, providing multiple large views of each species, and 567 color maps
- Describes and maps Borneo's top 90 birding sites
- Includes fast-find identification plates to the birds of Kinabalu and other habitats
- Provides a full overview of Borneo's vegetation, climate, and ecology

Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area Field Trip

Saturday, April 26, 2014 8:00 AM

The Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area is located in Johnson County just west of Edinburg, Indiana. It consists of over 5000 acres of upland, woodland, and marsh habitat with running creeks and multiple shallow impoundments.

IAS has never sponsored a field trip to this location. The site has the potential for seeing many wonderful birds throughout its varied habitats. Come explore this site with us.

This trip will consist of light walking and caravanning to different locations on the property.

Doug Gray will be leading this trip.

Meet Doug at the parking lot on the north side of Pisgah Lake at 8 AM. The majority of the trip will be concluded by 11 AM. View an online map here. The map shows the northern parking lot.

Attendance is free for IAS members and youth. Non-members are \$15 each or can purchase a membership the day of the event and the fee will be waived.

Please email Doug (birdmangray@gmail.com) with questions or for preregistration.

Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) Bird Day 2014

June 7, 7 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. Visit the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) at Morgan-Monroe State Forest (MMSF) for an exciting day of birding and talks on managing forests for the birds!

A morning of birding led by local experts and HEE staff; the HEE is home to more than 115 bird species, including the Cerulean Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Wood Thrush and Yellow-breasted Chat, among many others

Birding demonstrations, including mist-netting, bird banding, bird photography and more

Presentations on bird ecology and conservation by researchers and resource managers from Purdue University, Ball State University, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy

For more information contact Andy Meier at meiera@purdue.edu or call (765) 494-1472



Photos from Goose Pond *photos by Scott and Severin Arvin*

