



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL



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Upcoming Events

- Fall Festival, Clarion Inn & Conference Center, Evansville
October 3 - 5



Great Blue Heron photo by Cypress Arvin

Indiana Audubon Society Fall Festival October 3-5

Clarion Inn & Conference Center, 4101 US Hwy
41 North, Evansville, IN 47711, (812) 424-6400

Schedule of events (all times are local, Central time) (All programs
will be held in the Terrace Room next to the indoor pool)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

All times are Central Time (CST)

5-8p.m. Festival Registration

7:30-8:30p.m., "Population decline of the American Kestrel"

Terrace room next to indoor pool

Join IAS Vice-President Jeff Canada for a presentation about the population decline of the smallest Falcon in North America, the American Kestrel. Jeff will discuss a project that everyone can participate in called the "American Kestrel Partnership". The purpose of this project is to help Scientists gather data as they attempt to discover why the American Kestrel population is in decline in North America.

There will be a live American Kestrel at the presentation

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

7-11a.m., Wesselman Woods/ Eagle Slough/Howell Wetlands

Meet in the lobby of the Clarion Inn hotel at 6:30am

Tim Griffith will take us for a hike through some of the local Birding hotspots in search of fall migrants and other local birds of interest. Tim leads weekly hikes at one or more of these locations and knows these properties well. Tim will decide which properties to bird according to recent sightings and the group will visit as many of the locations as time allows. These properties each have different habitats and should allow for a nice variety of birds!

7-11a.m., Somerville Mine & Columbia Mine areas

Meet in the lobby of the Clarion Inn hotel at 6:30am

Join Evan Speck for a birding tour of some of the local mining areas. Evan is a local resident and birds these areas on a regular basis. These properties cover a very large area and attract a wide variety of birds, including many Raptors. Somerville mine was host to a Ferruginous Hawk - a raptor normally found in the open country of Western North America - this past winter.



photo by Dr. Delano Arvin, M.D.

12:00-1:30p.m., Lunch on your own

12:00-1:00p.m., IAS Board Meeting (open to all members)

1:30-2:15p.m., Landon Neumann's Big Year

Terrace room next to indoor pool

Listen to IN Young Birders Club member Landon Neumann as he discusses his record-setting 2013 Cass County Big Year. Landon found 16 new county records during the year according to Ken Brock's database. Some of the highlights included Red-necked Phalarope, Barn Owl, Red Crossbill, and Spotted Towhee. 220 species in one year is now the highest year total for any birder ever for Cass Co.

2:30-3:15p.m. "Birdscaping" with Sharon Sorensen

Terrace room next to indoor pool

Local author and wildlife expert Sharon Sorensen will share a few of her secrets about how you can make your property more "bird friendly". "Birdscaping" is an up-and-coming term used to describe landscaping

for birds. Attracting birds to the yard goes way beyond feeders and feed. Since birds depend entirely on the vegetation around them for food, shelter, nest sites, and nesting materials, birdscaping makes all the difference. Learn what you can do in your own yard--large or small--to draw 'em in.

Sharon will have copies of her book "Birds in the yard month by month" for sale

3:30-4:15p.m., "Birding by time of year" with Dan Collins

Terrace room next to indoor pool

Hear local birder Dan Collins discuss some of the hard-to-find species of birds that visit the Evansville and surrounding areas at different times of the year. South West Indiana is host to a large variety of birds throughout the year and Dan will share some of the more elusive species that can be seen in the area at different times of the year. Dan has extensive knowledge of the area and will share some of the local hotspots as well.

6:00-9:00p.m., Dinner, Awards, Silent Auction & Keynote presentation

(cash bar available)

Kirby's Private Dining, 1119 Parrett St., Evansville, IN 47713

Keynote Speaker: Michael Hutchins, Ph.D., National Coordinator, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign, American Bird Conservancy

Wind Energy Development and Birds: Are They Compatible?

Wind energy, along with solar energy, have become the darlings of the so-called "green" revolution. Renewable energy, including wind, is touted as the solution to anthropogenic climate change, a major emerging threat to wildlife conservation. But, is wind energy truly the savior that it is made out to be? Does it deserve its green reputation? Michael will review the current status of wind energy development in the United States and will also review its record, particularly with regard to its impact on native bird and bat populations. In addition, Michael will fully explain the American Bird Conservancy's (ABC's) policy on wind energy development, as well as its justification. The example of Camp Perry, OH will be given

to illustrate the weaknesses of the current voluntary permitting system for wind energy projects. Lastly, Michael will provide a brief overview of where ABC believes wind energy development needs to go in the future.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

7-11a.m., Wesselman Woods/ Eagle Slough/Howell Wetlands

Meet in the lobby of the Clarion Inn hotel at 6:30am

Tim Griffith will take us for a hike through some of the local Birding hotspots in search of fall migrants and other local birds of interest. Tim leads weekly hikes at one or more of these locations and knows these properties well. Tim will decide which properties to bird according to recent sightings and the group will visit as many of the locations as time allows. These properties each have different habitats and should allow for a nice variety of birds!

7:00a.m.- 12:00p.m., John James Audubon State Park (KY)

Meet in the lobby of the Clarion Inn hotel at 6:30am

IAS Board member Chuck Mills has arranged for us to get a tour of the J.J.A.S.P. museum as well as a bird hike led by a park guide.

The museum interprets Audubon's life through his art and personal memorabilia, framed within a timeline of world events. This should be a very interesting tour!

We look forward to seeing you at the IAS Spring Festival at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in May 2015!

Directions from the Clarion Inn to Kirby's Private Dining, 1119 Parrett St., Evansville, IN 47713

Go right onto Lynch Rd. out of the Hotel parking lot and then turn left onto US Hwy 41

Go South onto US Hwy 41 and go approx. 3.6 miles

Turn right onto Washington Ave. and go approx. 1.3 miles

At the T, turn left onto SE 2nd St and go about 500 ft.

Veer to the right onto Parrett St.

Kirby's Private Dining will be on your right and parking is next to the building (left side of building when looking at building)

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DISCOVER

"FIDDLES, COWBIRDS, TICS & SKEETERS!" by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

I hope to begin a series of expressions that reveal aspects of life as a resident of Indiana Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. By sharing these notes I hope to connect IAS members to their property that I am privileged to maintain and bolster with the collaborations of the Abernathy's and the Sanctuary Committee. There are many IAS members I have not met and thus conclude they may have never set foot on this glorious property. So, by relaying some of my experiences here, I hope to offer some connection from Mary Gray to members who identify with the events I relay, or gain an appreciation for my interactions with nature which are frequently take place within a maintenance relationship.

July 22nd brought predictions of rain showers for today, July 23rd. This weather pattern is optimal for resurfacing the entrance lane because a gentle rain helps settle the gravel once it has been disturbed. So, I found my gloves, showered in Deep Woods Off®, and went to the maintenance shed to attach the blade to the tractor.

First, I was going to give attention to the hillside on the service lane that leads up to the wetland area - where the Tulip Poplar Trail meets the lane. You may know the spot as the Paw-paw/Walnut valley. The June rains had cut quite a gully in the lane. The gravel had been washed down the hillside. . I use

the tractor's front-loader to re-arrange the gravel from the bottom of the hill, to various locations uphill. I then use the blade to smooth out the gravel with a slight drainage gutter on the southern side of the lane.

Things were progressing nicely. This means that the drive tires of the tractor were NOT spinning in the mud/gravel and I was NOT making a mess greater than my contribution. Benefits were exceeding costs! I was feeling in the groove as a rhythm developed as the forward and back of the tractor, and the ups and downs of the front loader synergized. My vision of what needed to be accomplished was becoming a reality. With my last pass, the fluid dancing with the gears was interrupted with a startling "SNAP" and an instant loss of gear control. The clutch linkage had broken. The tractor was now motionless. I said, "Fiddles, Cowbirds, Tics & Skeeters!"

After some head scratching and deer-fly swatting, I found it fortunate that the tractor's transmission was in the lowest drive setting. This meant I could engage first gear (while the engine was idling at its lowest speed) without too much resistance or gear grinding. I was therefore able to race back to the maintenance shed at a whopping 1.5 mph. I did take advantage of the poky progress to get a good peek at the prairie flowers that were seducing butterflies for the July butterfly count.

Back at the shed, a quick dismantling of the linkage, followed by the unexpected trip to town (to visit my brother-in-law-welder), re-assembly, and the tractor was again fluidly shifting gears. I was now able to turn my attention to rearranging gravel on the entrance lane.

Let me share a bit of the Zen of lane maintenance. The entrance lane needs to have gutters cut into it so flowing water is told where to go. Leaves and sticks need to be removed from this gutter so that they don't form dams that redirect the water causing water to cut across the roadway. Large rocks need to be extracted so that the tractor's blade can lovingly lift and spread the gravel; not bounce recklessly over the terrain. In order to ensure tranquil arrivals of visitors to Mary Gray, Denzel Barricklow had carefully explained his thoughtful methodology of redistributing the gravel on the lane. He said something like, "Ya' pile it all up in the middle and then smooth it out like icing on a cake."

I will forever pursue the smooth, buttery, surface for the lane. I now think of the Sanctuary's entrance as a rather coarse, Zen, sand-garden. This maintenance adventure was anticipated to take about 3 hours of the day. Ha! How about 5! The day provided another lesson in the continuing interaction between maintenance and nature.



photo by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

MARY GRAY HAS RARE VISITORS

by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

Early on the morning of August 9th, a commotion arose in the Sanctuary parking lot. Investigation revealed a Model T club taking a break from its tour of the region. Over 10 Model T's were present. The drivers were a curious group and several enjoyed the 14 hummingbird feeders on the front porch of the #2 residence. After several trips to the local latrine, the drivers' engines sputtered to life and their trip resumed. Many indicated they would return to make a closer inspection of the Sanctuary.



photo by Kyle Arvin

NEW RECORD ESTABLISHED FOR RTHB

by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

During her training for banding ruby throated hummingbirds in W. Virginia, Amy Wilms processed a RTHB that was banded earlier in its life. The bird's capture established a new record for longevity for RTHB. Nine years and two months!



photo by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

MAPS VOLUNTEERS SERENADED

by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

During our last MAPS banding weekend a young broad-winged hawk serenaded us almost continuously. The bird remained in the area and even posed for a photo op.



photo by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

MARY GRAY WEDDING

by Dr. Carl Wilms, Ph.D.

Several weddings take place a MGBS every year. Special events such as these help fund MGBS operations. During one event this summer, the bride arrived with her father on horseback.

MEMORIALS

Nancy Forsyth. Memorial contributions to be made to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

Suzanne Belcher. Donations can be made to IAS



On August 23, The 2nd annual Indiana Young Birders Conference took place at Cool Creek Nature Center. Presentations were given by Alexandra Forsythe, Ceth Williams, Scarlett Arvin, Olivia Bouler, Jeff Canada and Lynnanne Fager. Landon Neumann did a great job as MC and also won Young Birder of the Year. Fledgling of the year awards went to Carlynn Elizabeth Berners and Juan and Catalina Velasquez.

