



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

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Upcoming Events

- Reduce Invasive Species
Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary
May 1-3
- IAS Spring Festival
Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3
- Indiana Dunes Birding Festival
May 7-10

Get more info at indianaudubon.org
or look for us on [facebook](#)



Pine Grosbeak photo by Pete Grube



INDIANA DUNES BIRDING FESTIVAL

Experience birding like never before...

on Lake Michigan's South Shore

MAY 7-10, 2015

Mark your calendars now for the first Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, May 7-10, 2015. Sponsored and hosted by the Indiana Audubon Society, this amazing event will celebrate the dunes area's rich biodiversity and bird watching opportunities to create a positive impact on the economic, conservation, and environmental education for visitors and residents to the Indiana Dunes region. Join us for a single day of birding or spend the entire four days, with amazing field trips, hands on activities, and more. You'll enjoy the festival's 2015 Keynote speaker, James Currie, producer and host of Nikon's Birding Adventures. Registration is coming soon at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com. Indiana Audubon Society members will get special early bird registration before the rest of the public, as this event is sure to sell out. You can also follow the event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/indunesbirdingfestival.



The Invasive species removal team standing in front of the very large pile of burning bushes they removed from the north facing slope on October 25, 2014.



The north facing slope adjacent to Lonicera Trail at MGBS on October 25, 2014 before removal efforts began.



The north facing slope adjacent to Lonicera trail approximately three hours after removal efforts began.

BURNING BUSH REMOVAL

by Dawn Slack

Habitat restoration has begun at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary (Sanctuary) and what a difference a small group of hard-working people can make. Much of the Sanctuary is covered with invasive species that are outcompeting the native species for resources (soil, sunlight, water) and altering/eliminating native habitat. Years of hard work lie ahead of us. However, we refuse to lie down and let our Sanctuary succumb to the invasion of non-native plants that have been brought (sometimes intentionally) to the area. The Sanctuary Committee is in the process of developing an invasive species plan that will include scientific pre- and post- survey work.

A group of us with hand saws, chain saws, brute strength and perseverance tackled a north facing slope across the creek next to the main parking lot that serves as the backdrop to the Denzil Barricklow Amphitheater. In roughly three very sweaty hours we removed a large number of burning bushes (*Euonymus alatus*), an invasive species sold in nurseries across the United States.

The list of invasive plant species growing at the Sanctuary is long, and the damage to the property is extensive. But the Sanctuary Committee is determined to keep the Sanctuary just that: a sanctuary for wildlife and people. We extend our thanks to the INPAWS SWAT team, led by Tom Hohman and all those who cut, dragged, stacked, tripped, sweated, cooked and coordinated to make a difference. If you would like to learn more about the invasive plant species at MGBS, or help us manage the invasive species at MGBS, please email, call, or stop by the Sanctuary and talk with us.

3499 South Bird Sanctuary Road, Connersville, IN 47331 (765) 827-5109

LIFE OF A RESIDENT AT MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY

by Carl Wilms

"How did you land a job out here?" "It must be so cool to live here!" "I appreciate the work that y'all do out here."

These three expressions are frequently directed to me as a resident of Mary Gray. The first one is still a bit of a puzzle for me. Timing? Right spot at the right time? I don't think it is quite that simple; but timing was significant. I remember three basic prerequisites back in 1981 when I first came to MGBS: have a "day job" that provided a paycheck; a willingness and ability to demonstrate a love of nature by providing maintenance to the property and buildings; and being able to "meet and greet" visitors. These same requirements were still in place in 2005 when Amy came, and I returned, to Mary Gray.

The second statement is so true! Mary Gray is a very cool place to live. I have never felt so connected to seasonal transitions. Additionally, ninety-nine percent of the people that we meet here are wonderful folks. Their presence presents varying degrees of involvement with the flora and fauna of the area. One extreme has visitors who want to know, "Where are the birds?" They expected very large cages I guess, but at least they wanted to see some birds! The other end of the spectrum is heavily populated by

IAS members and visitors with expertise in so many areas: birds, botany, zoology, geology, educating children and adults. The list goes on. Volunteers come to battle invasive species, assist with bird banding operations, and provide expertise and labor to rewire Markle Barn. Scouts collaboratively complete projects earning Eagle ranks. These very cool human experiences haven't included the visiting evening grosbeaks, common redpolls, bald eagles, butterflies, return of the red-wings, salt-and-pepper blossoms, and barred owl lullabies that all add spice to life at Mary Gray.

Appreciating the work that occurs here is always a welcome comment. Participation is a key to understanding what transpires here. Work days are always fun experiences. Last weekend the Sanctuary Committee members pitched in to split firewood for the coming winter. With the installation of wood furnaces several years ago (at a cost of about \$4000) we have saved more than that in off-set propane costs as well as working towards carbon neutrality to our operations. The gathering of firewood is a recurring chore throughout the winter and it was amazing

how much firewood the crew split and stacked in two hours.

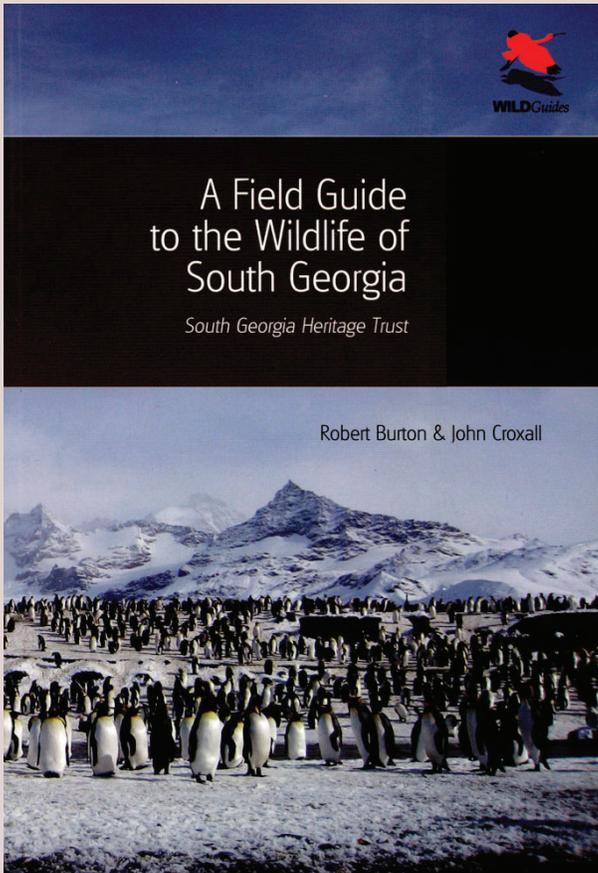
Trevor and I recently spent a Saturday installing much needed insulation in the ceiling of Brooks Hall. Recent lessons on furnace temperament taught us that the hall must be kept warmer than we had been doing, and that we cannot shut the heat vents to the main room. This reality pressed the need to insulate as soon as possible. We were glad to get it done, and we also welcomed assistance provided by the Sanctuary Committee members to help clean up the cellulose dust that resulted.

With the evolving plan to defend the property against invasive plant species, there will always be opportunities to work on that massive project. Please feel invited to come when you can, take a bird walk, and ask about a project that you may be willing to entertain for awhile. Hopefully we will be available to work along with you. If not, you will enjoy knowing and connecting to your sanctuary a bit better.



PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY AT MARY GRAY?

If you are interested in pursuing PV energy at Mary Gray in order to curb our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, and conserve our financial resources, get in touch with Carl Wilms. (wilmsce@miamioh.edu)



A Field Guide to the Wildlife of South Georgia

Robert Burton & John Croxall

South Georgia is rich in wildlife and spectacular scenery, and it is a prime destination spot on most Antarctic tours. This beautifully illustrated field guide depicts the birds, mammals, insects, flowering plants, and other vegetation found in this unique part of the world. It features 368 full-color photographs of more than 180 species, including 65 species of birds, 20 species of sea mammals, nearly 60 species of insects, and more than 40 species of flowering and nonflowering plants. Detailed species accounts describe key identification features, with information on status, behavior, threats, and distribution. This one-of-a-kind photographic guide also includes introductory chapters on South Georgia's geography, climate, ecology, and conservation.

- Features 368 photos of more than 180 species
- Covers birds, sea mammals, insects, and plants
- Provides detailed species accounts
- Includes chapters on geography, climate, ecology, and conservation
- The only photographic field guide to focus specifically on South Georgia

"I showed this to my father who has travelled to South Georgia a few times and he was pleased with the organization of the book. He also enjoyed that there were a nice number of plant species represented. Overall this guide is a must for anyone going there. I enjoyed it a lot."
 Scott Arvin, Cardinal Editor

THANK YOU

In 2009, I was invited to an IAS board meeting. It was a packed room in one of the Officer's Quarters at Fort Harrison State Park. IAS was in a dire situation. Membership dues were not covering printing costs, and something had to happen. By the end of that year, we had turned the corner and were in the digital age. It was during that year that I realized all the work that each individual board member does for the Indiana Audubon Society. A few years later, I would log a year as your vice-president and three years as your president.

As we watch the calendar change from 2014 to 2015, I want to thank everyone for their support of the society while I have been president. The three years have passed by so quickly. As I step down, I see so many passionate people who care deeply for the Indiana Audubon Society. Jeff Canada and the rest of the society board of directors look poised to advance the society further with fresh ideas and innovative plans, all the while retaining the original mission and conservation dreams that our founders started the organization with. 2015 should be an exciting year for the society, and I encourage you to be active in it. Join a committee, make a donation, volunteer at Mary Gray, just do something!

Thanks again for letting me serve as your president for three great years.

Brad Bumgardner
IAS President

MARY GRAY PHOTO CONTEST

OPENTO: IAS Members only (see www.indianaudubon.org to join)

WHEN: Begins January 1, 2015 Ends April 1, 2015

WHY: To be used as the mascot for our new donor board; author's name will be engraved beside the bird. Winning photos will only be used for the donor board. Non-selected photos will be deleted.

WHAT: Send us your best shot of the entire bird! Each entry submitted must be a photo (at least 300 dpi) of one of the following species: Northern Cardinal, Barred Owl, American Woodcock, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Parula, or Ruby Throated-hummingbird

Send photograph & author name to: Michael Hall @ leahcim18@aol.com

You may submit as many entries as you would like. Submit each entry separately.

Winners will be announced & a prototype of the donor board will be unveiled at the Spring Festival at MGBS.