

CARDINAL

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society



April 2011 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 41, No. 2 | ISSN 0162-8186



photo by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.



photo by Scott Arvin

Upcoming Events

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





Indiana Audubon Society

Spring Birding Festival at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, April 29, 30, and May 1, 2011

Schedule of Events Friday, April 29, 2011

8pm - Bird of Prey and People Presenter: Mark Loring Booth Location: Brooks Hall

Raptors: hawks, owls, falcons, and their kin have long held our imagination. See what it's like to be hawk eyed or falcon fast by meeting these magnificent predators up close and hearing the stories of our shared history.

Mark Loring Booth is a dedicated falconer in Indiana. Take Flight! Wildlife Education provides traveling educational programs for schools, nature centers, club meetings, zoological institutions, historical fairs, and any other organizations interested in learning about wildlife and ecology.

Through the use of live animals, natural artifacts, and theatrical techniques, Take Flight! brings the importance of understanding the natural world to life.

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Before Sunrise – Coffee and Breakfast Snacks for the Early Birder Location: Markle Barn

Sunrise – Birding with Rob Leader: Robert Ripma Location: Meet at Markle Barn

There's nothing like spring migration at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary! Join long time birder, Rob Ripma as he walks through the prairies, woods, past the ponds, and pastures looking for the spring migrants that are passing through along with the resident birds of Mary Gray.

Rob Ripma is the current treasurer of the Indiana Audubon Society. Rob loves to bird in Indiana, the US, and beyond. He participates in many activities, teaches school children about birds, and is a member of the Indiana Young Birders Club and the Indiana Bird Records Committee.

7am – Breakfast at Markle Barn

Join the Sanctuary Committee for a great breakfast in Markle Barn. Allen King is leading up this great fundraiser for the Sanctuary! (Word has it that Allen, Bill Hummel, and Carl Wilms are cooking for us)!

After Breakfast – The Big Sit at Brooks Hall Leader: Amy Wilms

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, and around Brooks Hall while folks catch up for the year.

8:30am – Bluebird Boxes Leader: Chad Williams Location: Upstairs of Markle Barn

Join us at the top of the barn and help add additional birdhouses to the Mary Gray. From Bluebirds to Chickadees, we will be adding new homes all over the place. Each family will even get to take a birdhouse home to welcome your own avian family! Be prepared to walk and do some birding along the way!!!

Chad Williams is a Board Member of IAS and chairs the Indiana Young Birders Club (IYBC). Chad loves everything about the outdoors and shares his passion with everyone he meets. In addition, Chad runs a blog about his passion for birding called "Birding! A Growing Obsession" (indianabirder.blogspot.com).

9am – Photography with Allen King Leader: Allen King

Bring your digital camera and join Allen! Participants in this workshop will be taught a few tips and strategies about how to take outdoor nature photos. After learning about what it takes to be a good photographer, participants will be let loose to take photos at Mary Gray. Around 3pm, participants will turn in their 10 best photos to Amy Wilms (Amy will help everyone with the technology, too)! They will be shown in a video

after the last program of the night. In addition, photos will be used on the Indiana Audubon Society website to promote the outdoors (full credit will be given to photographers).

PLEASE BRING YOUR DIGITAL CAMERAS TO THE FESTIVAL

10:30am – Young Birders activity Leader: Annalies Sizelove

Annalies Sizelove from the Cope Environmental Center near Richmond, Indiana plans to have a fun activity with the Young Birders. Meet by the barn for this activity.

12pm – Lunch at the old Girl Scout Camp (provided to participants)

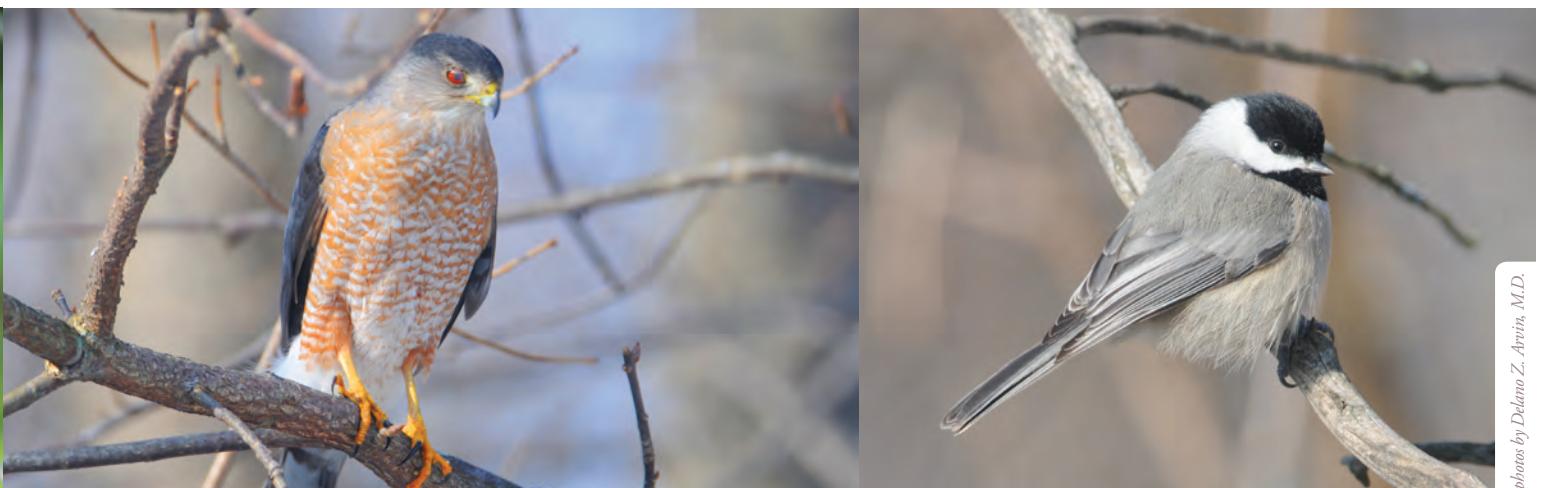
Back by popular demand, the Sanctuary Committee will be serving up a great outdoor meal at the old Girl Scout Camp. The meal is free, but PLEASE be sure to pre-register (we don't want to run out of food). For those needing transportation to the camp, please meet in front of Brooks Hall beginning at 11:40am. Transportation will be provided.

After Lunch – At old Girl Scout Camp

Annalies Sizelove from the Cope Environmental Center near Richmond, Indiana plans to have a fun activity with the Young Birders. We hear that the activity will be interactive, fun, and eventful! The activity will take place after lunch at the Girl Scout Camp! (Adults are welcome to listen in)!!!

3pm - Changes in the Whitewater Valley Avifauna since European Settlement Presenter: Bill Buskirk, Professor of Biology, emeritus, Earlham College Location: Brooks Hall

Since European settlement changes in land use and bird communities have been, and continue to be, dramatic and dynamic in the Whitewater Valley. In this regard, the region including the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, is a case study in these changes across Indiana and the surrounding areas. This talk will outline a summary of landscape changes and will include discussions



photos by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.

of some of the species that have become extinct, extirpated, newly established, and even some that have now repopulated the valley.

Dr. Buskirk was born in Indianapolis and raised in Indiana. He joined the Amos W. Butler Chapter and the IAS in the 1950's and has banded birds at MGBS frequently using the feeder of former caretaker Edna Banta. While attending Earlham College he studied under Jim Cope, Gertrude (Lucky) Ward, Carrollle and Millard Markle, all of whom were active members of IAS.

He earned his M.S. studying the fall migration of birds across the Gulf of Mexico, as observed from the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. This was followed by his completing his Ph.D. at U.C. Davis studying the ecology and behavior of mixed-species flocks of birds in Costa Rica. Post-doctoral research was completed in the Namib Desert and Okavango Delta of Africa where he participated in the study of baboons, dune beetles, birds and desert ecology.

These educational experiences prepared him for a three decade career at Earlham College where he taught ornithology, ecology, animal behavior, conservation biology, landscape Ecology and included international study abroad programs in Kenya, Costa Rica, Galapagos, Ecuador, Peru and New Zealand.

Bill Buskirk continues sharing his love of the biological world in retirement by leading field trips for alumni and friends of Earlham to Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Antarctica and Argentina. Bill and his brother Bob are Life Members of the IAS.

4:15pm – IAS Board Meeting Meet in house #2

6pm – Dinner at Markle Barn Served by Gina Pflum and Friends

7:30pm – Membership Meeting and Awards Location: Brooks Hall

8pm - Big Sue's Birding Adventure in Cuba Location: Brooks Hall Presenter: Sue Arnold

Travel with us to Cuba as long time Amos W Butler Audubon Society member Sue Arnold did in March 2010. Licensed by the Caribbean Conservation Trust through the Department of the Treasury, Sue and thirteen other midwest travelers spent 10 days with local guides in diverse habitats, including the Bay of Pigs, eating exotic foods and observing endemic species of birds and other wildlife. Learn what the island adventure was like for Sue and her fellow travelers.

Sue is a past IAS board member and trustee and long time member. She is now more of a part-time birder and full-time gardener and member of INPAWS, Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, and other plant/garden related groups, and enjoys hosting garden tours at her home in Hendricks Co. She was an Iowa farm girl and graduate of Iowa State University, and is a plant specialist at the greenhouse of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

9:15pm – Photos of the Day!

Be sure to hang around for a few minutes and enjoy a video slide show made from photos taken throughout the day!

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Before Sunrise – Coffee and Breakfast Snacks for the Early Birder Location: Markle Barn

Sunrise – Birding with Rob Leader: Robert Ripma Location: Meet at Markle Barn

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9am – Indiana Young Birders Hike with Chad Leader: Chad Williams

Join Chad Williams for a fun hike to see the birds of Mary Gray and enjoy the outdoors with friends. Who knows what we will see! If you have some rubber boots, bring them along for this hike!

9am – A Walk on the Wildflower Side Leader: Betsy Wilson

Join Betsy Wilson on a leisurely walk through the Sanctuary to find the jewels of the place. Learn about what is currently in bloom and the many flowers that have called the Sanctuary home for many years.

Betsy Wilson served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Audubon Society and is involved in the Indiana Native Plant Society. She and her husband George donated the lovely fountain by the window on wildlife and planned the planting in the area.

12pm – Lunch Before you leave, be sure to join us for a light lunch at Markle Barn!

Message from the IAS President and Board of Directors

Amy Wilms, President

Members,

We've made it through the icy winter and now turn our thoughts to the spring that is ahead of us! Today, March 19, 2011, I visited my grandpa who lives in Fayette County. While enjoying his conversation and the 2 acres that he owns, I mentioned to him that I was hearing a Northern Cardinal sing his lovely song. Grandpa walked me to a location under his roof and pointed to a bird nest. He said he was quite sure that the bird that had raised its young in the same place last year was back! I easily remembered a Phoebe had raised her brood in the same spot last year. It was exciting when I realized that I recognized the builder's nest and had, in fact, commented to my husband this same morning that I had heard a Phoebe in our backyard at Mary Gray! Not only was I able to celebrate my grandpa's 95th birthday with him on this day, I was able to connect with his enjoyment of nature. I find that as birders, there has most likely been a strong influence from someone important in our lives that directed us towards birding...and I'm proud to say that my enjoyment of birding all started with my grandparents in my very early years as a child.

The past two years as the President of IAS has been such a great experience. The Board of Directors is constantly working to help IAS become better and stronger. Many thanks go



photo by Scott Arvin

to the great folks who serve on the Board and Committees! They all deserve a pat on the back.

At our January retreat, the IAS Board had a few motions that our members need to be aware of because we will vote upon them at our membership meeting in May at the Spring Birding Festival. The motions are:

- Motion: put forth to add to the Standing Rules an Archives Committee. This would better enable IAS to have our archives converted into a digital format.
- Motion: put forth to combine and rename the Programs and Conservation committees into a single Education/Outreach committee.
- Motion: put forth to combine the Quarterly, Cardinal, and Website committee to a single Publications committee with 1 single board seat (instead of 1 each for Quarterly, Cardinal, and Website).

- Motion: put forth that the Indiana Audubon Society President will appoint the board representative from the Publications committee; appointment is subject to approval by the executive committee.

If you are a member and would like additional information about the changes, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Board of Directors. Their contact information is located on the IAS website. If you do not have access to the website, please feel free to contact me at 765-827-5109 and I'd be happy to explain the proposed changes to you.

Please consider joining us at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary for our annual Spring Birding Festival! The Sanctuary Committee is working very hard to help make it an enjoyable weekend – and it's a great way to support the Indiana Audubon Society.

Happy Spring Birding!

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.

Registering by email at bbumgardner@dnr.in.gov. Registration deadline May 16.

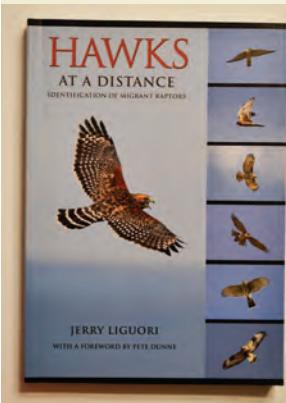
Alan W. Bruner
IAS Field Trip Chair

Book Reviews

Scott Arvin, Editor

Here's another look at a couple of books that I've been made aware of, *Hawks at A Distance*, *Identification of Migrant Raptors* by Jerry Liguori and *The Crossley ID Guide to Eastern Birds* by Richard Crossley. Both are from Princeton University Press.

Now, I can't very well continue to do this without having some kind of rating system so I'll be using the five feather system. Five feathers means it's great, four means pretty good, 3 is average and so on.

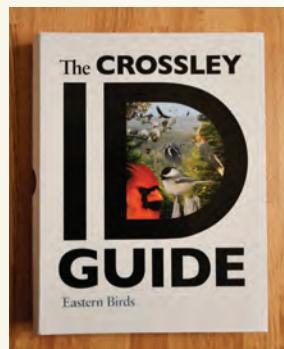


Hawks at a Distance ///

This guide was designed to aid in hawk species identification in flight during migration so you don't have to just give up and assume it was a Red-tailed. I found this guide to be very helpful. It focuses on raptors as they would be viewed in the field with many photos showing the birds flying at many angles. It illustrates 29 species in many lighting situations and settings. There are 558 color photos and 896 black and white depicting plumage and shape. The text describes all aspects of hawk flight style and behavior. There

is a nice chart that illustrates the migration timetable for several species.

I give this book four feathers because it is a very useful guide and should help many who are having identification problems in this area. This book excels at detail and the subtlety of species identification from a distance but may not be for all. This book is by no means a must have but it is a useful tool that would be a welcome addition to any birders library.



Crossley ID Guide ////

This guide is different. It took some getting used to at first because it doesn't follow the usual formula of bird illustrations on a clean white background. The Crossley ID Guide has 640 scenes created from over 10,000 of the author's photographs. The photos show the birds from near and far in many different plumages and behaviors. The photos are beautiful and show the birds like no other guide has. When you see the scenes you will truly appreciate the work that went into their creation.



This one gets 5 feathers. My only complaint would be that the descriptions get a little small at the bottom of the pages. It grows on me more and more every time I look at it.

For more information go to <http://www.crossleybirds.com/>



photo by Scott Arvin

Memorials Gifts to MGBS

For Mary Gough

Sarah & Daniel Lewis
Nancy and Charles Jessee
Lynn and Cassandra Bowers
Carolyn, Aaron & Adam Bogue
John W. Cleveland
John and Betty Yergin
Jeffery & Catherine Yergin
Grace Eernisse
Keatrich Johnson
Carl Wilms
Anne Traudt
Karen Henman
Dr. Larry P. Gough
Freida Hassel
Marge & Vic Reimenschneider
David & Patricia Yergin
Edie Gayton
Sue Dukeman
Sharon & Chris Rothenberger
Barbara & David Rankin

Welcome New Members

Donald Allen
Allen and Mary Chesser
John M. Cline
Jim Davis
Robert Decker
Priscilla Hamill
Donald Kudrak
Catherine Landskron
Carl Landskron
Judith Leahy
John Paulsrud
Lois Rini
Gene and Jaclyn Schroeder
David Stephens
James Strange
Tim Street
T. K. Tolford
Aidan Walter
Robert Walton
Vicky Whitaker

For Amy Horn

Marvin & Donna DeMoss
Laverne Lunsford

Spring Festival Information

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

3499 South Bird Sanctuary Rd
Connersville, Indiana 47331

Driving Directions

From Indianapolis using I-70

Take I-70 east from Indianapolis and exit south at Exit 137 onto SR 1. Follow the signs on the south side of Connersville to SR 121. Head south on SR 121 for approximately 3.5 miles to CR 350 S, which will be on your right just after a bridge. Turn right (west) onto CR 350 S. Drive approximately 3 miles, where you will come to a 90° turn. The gravel road directly in front of you is the beautiful Sanctuary entrance.

From Indianapolis using SR 52 and SR 44

Take Highway 52 from Indianapolis to Rushville, where you will want to catch SR 44. Drive east on SR 44 until to CR 525 W in Fayette County, which is approximately 3.5 miles from the Fayette/Rush County line. Turn right(south) on CR 525 W for drive for 0.7 mile. Turn left (east) onto CR 150 S and drive 0.7 mile. At the next intersection, turn right (south) on the winding Bird Sanctuary Road. In 1.2 miles you will come to a "T" intersection. Turn right into the beautiful Sanctuary entrance road.

From Cincinnati

Exit I-74 in Indiana at Exit 169 (Highway 52). Drive north on Highway 52 through Brookville and Metamora to SR 121. Turn right (north) onto SR 121 and drive approximately 12 miles to CR 350 S (look for the sign indicating the turn off for Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary). Drive approximately 3 miles. The gravel road directly in front of you is the beautiful Sanctuary entrance.

Where to Stay

Camping

Primitive camping is available. Find out more here. Camping is free during the Festival! Water and pit toilets are available. Modern restrooms are open all weekend (no showers).

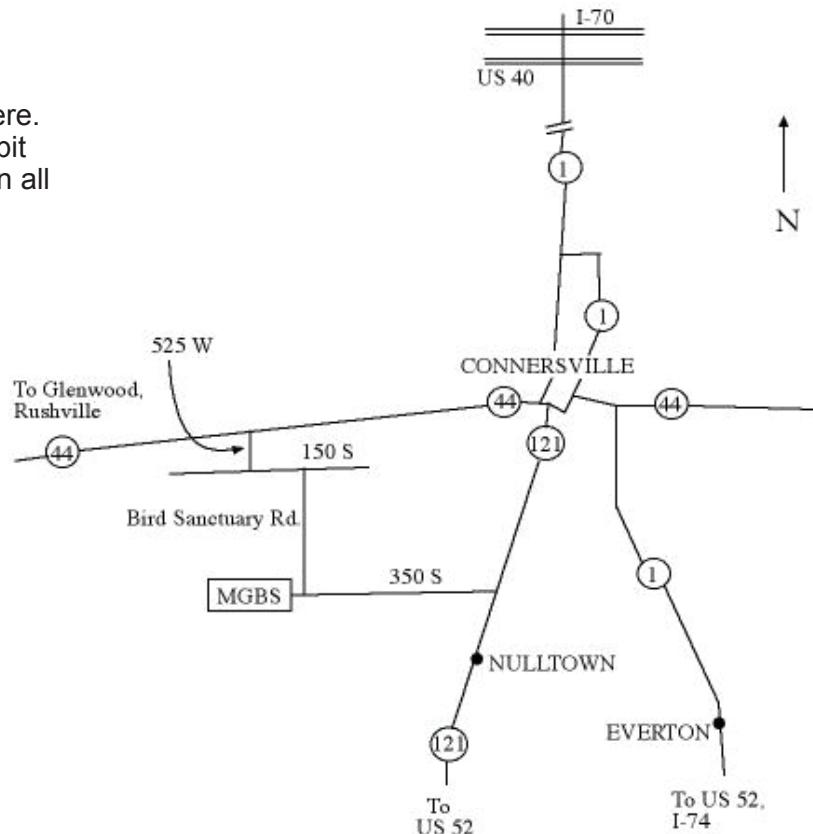
Lodging

Woodridge Inn

woodridgeinn.com
3700 Western Ave
Connersville, IN 47331
(765) 825-4800

Gray Haven Motel

www.grayhavenmotel.com
1200 West 3rd Street
Connersville
(765) 825-2151





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: _____

Registration

How many adult IAS Members will be attending? #____ X \$15 each \$_____

How many children will be attending? (No Charge) #____

How many adult IAS Non-Members will be attending? #____ X \$25 each \$_____

How many children Non-Members will be attending? (No charge) #____

Join IAS today and get the member rate! (\$30 Individual/\$35 Family) \$_____

Meals

Saturday Breakfast (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 18) #____ X \$6/\$2 each \$_____

Saturday Lunch (no charge) #____ X No charge \$0.00

Saturday Dinner (\$8 each adults - \$3 each children under 18) #____ X \$8/\$3 each \$_____

Sunday Breakfast (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 18) #____ X \$6/\$2 each \$_____

Sunday Lunch (\$6 each adults - \$2 each children under 18) #____ X \$6/\$2 each \$_____

Total \$_____

* I would like a vegetarian meal #_____

*Speakers: If you are a speaker, your registration and 1 meal fee is waived. Please adjust the form cost accordingly.

Payment Instructions: Payment may be made by mailing a **check** or by using **PayPal**. Registrations must be **received** by Amy Wilms before **April 25, 2011**. If you know you are coming and prefer to pay at the Festival, send an email to Amy Wilms (wilmsab@muohio.edu). 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

My check is enclosed for \$_____

Connersville, IN 47331

PayPal

Save a stamp and pay online! An invoice will be emailed to you along with instructions from Amy Wilms. By using PayPal, you will be able to pay by check, credit card, or debit card on a secure PayPal page.

_____ I would like to pay by credit card. Please email me the invoice. (You must include your email address). Email or mail this form to Amy Wilms.



photos by Delano Z. Armin M.D.

Oops! Did anyone notice? by Amy Wilms

I'm guessing that many of you noticed that the February mailing of the Indiana Audubon Quarterly and the Cardinal contained an error on the label. Your address was hopefully correct but the name was possibly wrong. (I hate it when I do that)! Somehow I printed the labels incorrectly. Hopefully this issue will not contain the error. Sometimes I like technology....and sometimes I REALLY dislike it. Thanks for understanding!

New Membership Chair Hard at Work! by Amy Wilms

Our new membership chair, Sally Routh, is hard at work learning the membership process. Please note Sally's contact information when renewing your dues:

Sally Routh
Membership Chair
12284 Daugherty Drive
Zionsville, IN 46077
sallydrouth@gmail.com

Return Service Requested

www.indianaudubon.org

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

