



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

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Upcoming Events

- **IYBC Lakefront Trip** 9/8/2012
- **Fall Birding Festival in Brown County State Park** 10/5-7/2012

For information go to IndianaAudubon.org



Solitary Sandpiper photo by Kyle Arvin

Indiana Audubon Fall Festival Brown County State Park

The 2012 IAS Fall Festival at Brown County State Park is right around the corner. Have you registered for the festival yet?

The event will be kicked off on Friday night with a presentation about the Nesting Raptors of Indiana by the Indiana Raptor Center. They will be bringing several live raptors with them for everyone to see!

After a fantastic morning of field trips around Brown and Monroe Counties on Saturday, we have arranged an awesome line-up of speakers including Indiana Young Birders Club youth advisory panel member Landon Neumann and Ohio birder Ethan Kistler who will present on his adventures while backpacking through Africa.

The event will be capped off with an evening keynote by Greg Miller. Greg will share his experiences surrounding The Big Year, both the actual big year he completed and his involvement as the birding



photo by Dr. Delano Arvin, M.D.

consultant for 2011's major motion picture starring Owen Wilson, Jack Black, and Steve Martin!

We will have more field trips on Sunday morning and then will end this year's festival with a presentation from Jeff Canada about the new partnership between the IAS and The Peregrine Fund. He will even have a live kestrel with him to show everyone the bird we are working to protect!

We hope to see many of you on October 5-7th in Brown County. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Ripma (IAS Vice President) at Robert.Ripma@yahoo.com

October 5-7, 2012 Friday, October 5, 2012

8:00-9:00pm Nesting Raptors of Indiana

Presenter: Indiana Raptor Center

Information regarding the natural history of raptors that nest in Indiana, along with facts about their important economic influence on our food supply will be presented, and handouts on topics such as how to build raptor nest boxes, field markings for flying raptors, and first line rescue procedures for finders of injured animals will be provided. The program includes the presentation of several species of live birds that could be anything from a screech owl to a bald eagle! Photos and flash are permitted in an up-close controlled encounter.

Saturday, October 6, 2012

7:30-Noon Birding Lake Lemon and Beyond

Leaders: Jim and Susan Hengeveld

Join local birders Jim and Susan for a tour of Lake Lemon, Yellowwood State Forest, and beyond. The trip will focus on the late migrants that can be found around Brown and Monroe Counties as well as waterfowl and shorebirds.

7:30-Noon Birding Around Lake Monroe I

Leaders: Brad Bumgardner and Lee Sterrenburg

Brad and Lee will lead one of two birding expeditions around the Lake Monroe area. This trip will lead participants through a variety of habitats around the lake. Like the other trips, we will focus on late migrant warblers, waterfowl and shorebirds. Potential stops include Cutright, Fairfax, Paynetown, and Pine Grove State Recreation Areas, Stillwater Marsh, and Friendship Road.

7:30-Noon Birding Around Lake Monroe II

Leaders: Ethan Kistler and Rob Ripma

Ethan and Rob will lead the second of the two trips to Lake Monroe. This trip will lead participants through a variety of habitats around the lake. Like the other trips, we will focus on late migrant warblers, waterfowl and shorebirds. Potential stops include Cutright, Fairfax, Paynetown, and Pine Grove State Recreation Areas, Stillwater Marsh, and Friendship Road.

9:00-11:00 Songbird Banding Demonstration

Leader: John Schaut

You will have the opportunity to see songbirds up-close and personal through bird banding, a tool avian researchers use to study birds to ensure their preservation. Learn about this valuable research first-hand! Cameras welcome.

10:00-Noon Young Birder Club - Document Nature Your Way!

Hey Young Birders, bring your parents, friends, binoculars and artistic abilities to the lobby and let's go exploring. We'll start with a hike and then come back to some colored pencils, crayons, and notepads and create a notebook of your findings. Draw some pictures, tell a story, or both - it's up to you! This will be a great opportunity to express what you love most about nature. On Saturday night, as part of the IYBC 100 Guide Giveaway a minimum of one winner will be selected to receive an awesome new field guide. Your choice; Butterflies, Insects, Mammals, or Birds.

12:30-1:30pm: IAS Board Meeting

2:00-3:00pm Isolation of Young Birders: Why Adults Should and Need to Support Young Birders

Presenter: Landon Neumann

Come hear Indiana Young Birders Club youth advisory panel member Landon Neumann talk about his adventures as a young birder in rural Cass County. Landon will also talk why it is important that adults support and promote young birder programs.

3:00-4:00pm The Birds of Puerto Rico

Presenter: Chuck Mills

Puerto Rico is vibrant island located only about 2000 miles southwest of Indiana. It has been a part of the United States for over 100 years. It contains 17 endemic bird species along with about 25 endemic West Indies bird species. To add to the tropical flavor there are around 15 easily observed introduced species many of which are parrots. The Indiana Audubon Society is planning a trip there this winter. Join Chuck for an early look at both the habitat and the birds of Puerto Rico. Chuck spends about three months there each year and is active in the Puerto Rican Ornithological society.

4:00-5:00pm Nomadic Birder: Backbacking Across Africa

Presenter: Ethan Kistler

Ethan Kistler will be presenting on his four-month odyssey across Africa. Relying on hitchhiking and human kindness he made his way across nine African countries, absorbing local culture, unique birds and fantastic wildlife.

6:00-9:00pm Dinner, Membership Meeting and Keynote Presentation

Keynote Presenter: Greg Miller

In 2001, birders around the country celebrated the fact that birds & birding made it to Hollywood's Big Screen when the book, *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature and Fowl Obsession*, by Mark Obmascik became a full-length feature film! Directed by David Frankel, the movie stars Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson. Ohio native Greg Miller was portrayed in the book and played by Jack Black in the movie. Greg will be here with us to share his experiences on the movie set, what it was like to watch the movie for the first time in the theater, and life after being portrayed in a Hollywood movie.

9:30pm Movie: *The Big Year*

Join us for a screening of the the very movie that has made Greg Miller famous!

Sunday, October 7, 2012

7:30-10:30am Birding Lake Lemon and Beyond

Leaders: Jim and Susan Hengeveld

Join local birders Jim and Susan for a tour of Lake Lemon, Yellowwood State Forest, and beyond. The trip will focus on the late migrants that can be found around Brown and Monroe Counties as well as waterfowl and shorebirds.

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Leaders: Brad Bumgardner and Lee Sterrenburg

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11:00am-Noon Population Decline of the American Kestrel: IAS is proud participate in the Peregrine Fund's "American Kestrel Partnership"

Leader: Jeff Canada

Launched in response to kestrel population declines across much of North America, The Peregrine Fund's American Kestrel Partnership is a network of citizen and professional scientists working to collaboratively advance kestrel demographics and conservation.

***** There will be a live Kestrel at the program

Nominate an IAS Member Today!

Indiana Audubon Society members are encouraged to nominate a member you know for one of two annual awards the society bestows each year. The Earl Brooks Award is given to an individual "for advancement of conservation of natural resources in Indiana." The award recipient does not have to be an Indiana Audubon Society member. The James H Mason Service Award is presented to a member of the Indiana Audubon Society who has dedicated themselves through service to the society. It serves as an inspiration and focus for others to work with such individuals. More information on each award can be found at: <http://www.indianaaudubon.org/AboutIAS/AwardsOverview/tabid/75/Default.aspx>. Deadline for 2011 nominations is September 8, 2012. Awards will be presented at the Fall Birding Festival at Brown County State Park.

Grants/Scholarship Fall Deadline Approaching

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to announce the fall funding for the Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarship Program in 2012. 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. This year's funding 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 fall funding are due by September 8, 2012, and are announced at the Fall Birding Festival at Brown County State Park. Applications and more information are on the Indiana Audubon Society website (www.indianaaudubon.org). For questions about possible funding projects, email IAS President, Brad Bumgardner, at bumbj01@hotmail.com.



2012/13 IYBC Field Trips

IYBC is planning another great year of trips and activities. Look in the next Warbler for dates and times.

For more information go to www.indianayoungbirders.org



Tour Puerto Rico!

Puerto Rico is a vibrant island located only about 2000 miles southwest of Indiana. It has been a part of the United States for over 100 years. It contains 17 endemic bird species along with about 25 endemic West Indian bird species. To add to the tropical flavor there are around 15 easily observed introduced species many of which are parrots. The Indiana Audubon Society is planning a trip there this winter where most of these species will be seen. Registration is now open. Since there are only 14 spaces available we expect this trip to fill soon. For

more information see the last issue of the Cardinal or go to the Indiana Audubon Society Webpage. Open the activities menu. The description of the trip is located there. The registration form is on the right and may be clicked and opened.

This first class trip is several hundred dollars less in cost than trips offered by some of the major bird tour companies. Flights from Indianapolis are currently about \$400. Since Puerto Rico is a part of the United States you do not need a passport to travel there.



Barceloneta, PR



The tour starts and ends in San Juan Puerto Rico

Trip Includes: Guide / All meals / Accommodation / Checklist / Entrance Fees / Travel within Puerto Rico

NOT Included: Participant airfare and luggage costs, trip insurance, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The trip will be organized by Wildside Nature Tours.

The tour dates are **February 28th to March 5th, 2013**

Price is \$1525 with a single supplement of \$375.

Deposit of \$300. Checks are to be made out to IAS.

Final payment must be made 90 days before the trip.

A minimum of 8 are required with a maximum of 14 to make the trip work.

Contact: Chuck Mills ccmills@wowway.com

Alan Bruner abbird@att.net

Brad Bumgardner bumgbj01@hotmail.com



-Your Sanctuary



The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary continues to thrive despite the season's dry conditions. The crispy grass found in the high use area was punctuated by soft green patches where shade and groundwater revealed its presence. While the ponds fell to new low water levels within my experience, the revealed mud banks provided opportunities for at least one solitary sandpiper to patrol the edges. Little green and great blue herons made regular visits as did the boisterous kingfishers.

The campground hosted only the most dedicated campers as the heat drove the lighthearted away. Dana and Joy returned for another week of July camping and had the place to themselves.

In July Duke Energy employees began a project as part of their "Volunteers in Action" program. They had asked about doing a project that would utilize some of their specialized equipment and after a little thought I suggested a new bridge on the Cardinal Loop Trail. We walked the trail and agreed on the site as a suitable project.

Our eastern neighbor agreed to let Duke drive one of their service trucks on his hay field to drop off the power poles for the project. I

ordered the lumber and hardware which was paid for by a Duke grant of \$1000. The crew showed up and as the pictures document, put in a good days work to begin construction. This bridge is going to set a new standard for bridge construction here at Mary Gray.

Several members of Volunteers in Action were not inclined to construct bridges and so they applied paintbrushes to Kestrel boxes that I had constructed ahead of time with the help of Karl Henman. There are hopes of erecting these this winter in time for the upcoming breeding season. There are thoughts of having an opportunity for naming rights to the boxes at the Fall Festival....

The roofing projects that have been in the air for the past year have been awarded to a local contractor. It was a very competitive bidding process that the committee was pleased with the award. The final decisions were being made while Dana and Joy were camping and Dana's architectural expertise assisted in the review and award process.

The hummingbirds have been exceptional this year making up for the dearth of monarchs. Amy and Tim Tolford banded 21 in an hour in the backyard the last week in July. Since then,

the numbers of visitors has only increased. We feel a bit like we are operating a roadside diner. Amy continues to follow her passion for bird banding.

The past several early fall days have brought a high number of visitors. Last evening we had a red Focus left in the parking lot after dark. Trevor and I mounted quads to search, Amy called the sheriff to ask that the license plates be run and to give the owner a call to make sure that they hadn't had car trouble. We called the sheriff back after an hour to see if he had learned anything. His report was that the dad of the boy driving the car had called to say that everything was okay (except for getting lost) and that they had found the "road" and were on the way back. So, Trevor and I drove back towards Delawana to meet them and give them a lift. Evidently it was not the road they had found. They were walking on the county road... Trevor took off in his vehicle to circumnavigate the property. Of course, shortly after Trevor left, they arrived. They had called a friend to come and give them a lift. The faces of the young couple (16-ish) revealed that they had an encounter with nature that they will never forget. At 11:00, we put the quads away and headed for bed.



Leucistic Red-tailed Hawk by Daniel Gore

