

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

# CARDINAL

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## Upcoming Events

**Cass County Fall Migration**  
9/10/2011 8:00 AM

**IAS Cuba Survey**  
2/6/2012

**Prairie Chicken Trip**  
4/6/2012

For more information, go to [IndianaAudubon.org](http://IndianaAudubon.org)

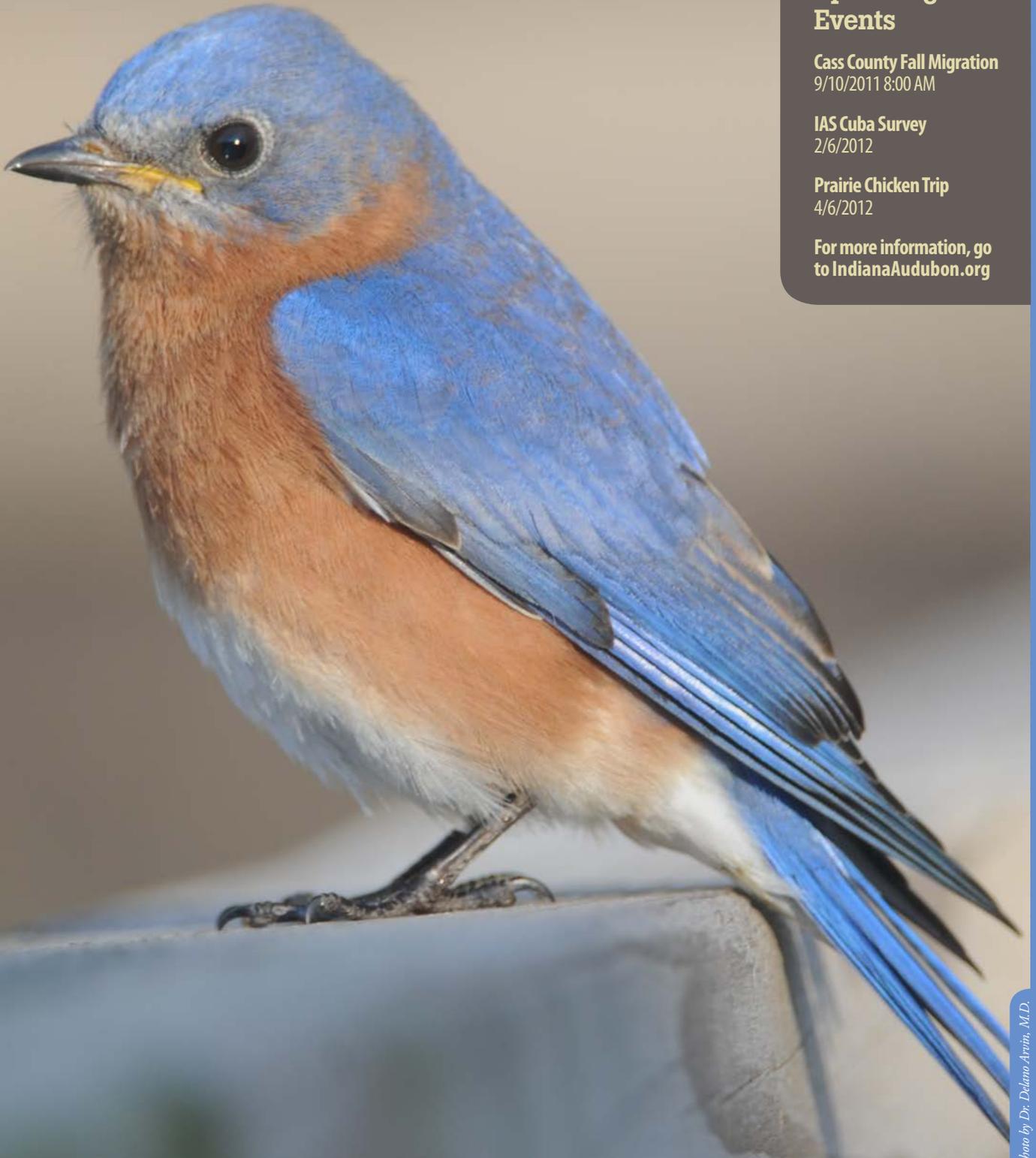


photo by Dr. Delano Arvin, M.D.



# Fall Festival 2011, Pokagon State Park

## September 30–October 2, 2011

*Join us for a fun filled weekend of birding excitement amongst the northern lakes and wetlands of northeast Indiana. The historic Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park serves as a perfect backdrop for early fall birding in "101 Lake Country."*



photo by Delano Z. Arritt, M.D.

This is a perfect opportunity to network with other birders, enjoy programs from some of Indiana's (and other states!) top birders, or simply relax in one of Indiana's oldest state parks. If you're from out of state, we'll be conveniently located near Michigan and Ohio. Whether the big lister or the casual bird watcher, we have something for all!

## Location!

The 2011 Indiana Audubon Society Fall Festival is being held at the Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park, located near Angola, IN. The street address is 450 Lane 100 Lake James, Angola, IN 46703 for those with a handy car GPS! If you need more information about location, please check out the DNR site at [dnr.in.gov](http://dnr.in.gov).

## Accommodations!

Established in 1927, the Potawatomi Inn has been a signature icon along the shores of Lake James at Pokagon State Park. The inn has been a site of many Indiana Audubon functions through the years. Indiana Audubon's first event at Pokagon took place in 1950. The Potawatomi Inn allows birders to experience nature at its finest, while enjoying restful comfort with its spacious guest rooms and banquet facilities. IAS members can use group code 1001AS to claim one of the held rooms for as low as \$85.00/night. To make reservations, visit [in.gov/dnr/parklake/2435.htm](http://in.gov/dnr/parklake/2435.htm) or call 1-877-LODGES1.

## Schedule of Events

*\*All Times Eastern Daylight Time\**

### Friday, September 30

**530PM-8PM Registration Open (Inn Main Lobby)**

**6PM-7PM IAS Board Meeting (Crooked Lake Rm)**

**7PM-8PM Nature Theatre with Foster Brown and Mark Szabo! (Crooked Lake Rm)**

Foster and Mark have entertained countless naturalists with their friendly and high quality ballads. Their true artistry conveys great chapters in our natural history; summoning laughter like great wizards. Their highly energetic performances elicit enthusiastic responses from both children and adults. Their program is not to be missed!

**8PM Informal Social Time (Lonidaw Lounge)**

### Saturday, October 1

**7AM-1130AM Kayak Birding the Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site (Inn Main Lobby)**

Join us for a unique birding experience along the banks of one of Indiana's literary history. Learn some of the history of the Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site with Site Property Manager Dave Fox and Wild Birds Unlimited Chief Naturalist John Schaut while birding the special land that she helped to preserve and write about. Space is limited; additional program fee of \$5.00/person required during registration.

**7AM-1130AM Steuben County and Pigeon River Birding Tour (Lonidaw Lounge)**

Explore the forests, wetlands, lakes, and prairies in the land of 100 lakes! With the help of Jim Haw and Rob Ripma, carpool to some of far NE Indiana's birding hotspots for a wide diversity of bird species this time of year. Boots and hunter orange recommended for Pigeon River.

**8AM-11AM Pokagon State Park Birding Tour (Inn Sun Deck)**

Pokagon is a treasure trove of northern habitats packed into one of Indiana's smaller state parks. Join IAS Vice President and former Pokagon park naturalist, Brad Bumgardner, for a peek at some of the better fall birding locations in the park.

We'll be searching out late fall warblers and the incoming sparrows. Moderate hiking involved (~3mi).

**12PM Lunch (on your own)**

**2PM-3PM Of Birds and Murder: The Life of Nathan Leopold (Crooked Lake Rm)**

Delve into the murder mystery of the Chicago Region. Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb committed what they thought was the perfect crime in 1924. The young boy's body was hidden in NW Indiana, at one of Leopold's known birding locations. Joel Greenberg will bring one of the first "trials of the century" to life this afternoon.

**3PM-4PM Using Weather Radar to Determine Migration Hotspots (Crooked Lake Rm)**



photo by Scott Arritt



photo by Scott Arritt



photo by Delano Z. Arritt, M.D.



photo by Scott Arritt



photo by Scott Arritt

Michigan is using weather radar and GIS to determine migration concentrations for wind farm placements and reduced bird mortality.

Ed Schools will highlight some initial research that shows promise for other applications, such as for large scale determination of bird migration hotspots.

**Saturday, October 1 (Cont'd)**

**4PM-5PM Success in Youth Birding Clubs (Crooked Lake Rm)**

The Ohio Young Birders Club is one of the finest examples of youth birding clubs in the nation. Kim Kaufman will highlight the successes (and failures) to making a great youth birding club work. Information will also be available about the Indiana Young Birders Club.

**6PM-9PM Keynote Dinner with Kenn Kaufman,**

**Membership Meeting, and Silent Auction (Snow Lake Rm)**

Enjoy an enchanting evening with one of the premier birding guides and authors in the US!

Kenn Kaufman will speak to the current and next generation of IAS birders. The night also includes the annual silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the Mumford and Keller Scholarship and Grant Program.

**930PM-11PM Informal Social Time and Optional Pokagon Owl Excursion (Lonidaw Lounge)**

**Sunday, October 2**

**730AM-930AM Pokagon State Park Birding Tour II (Inn Sun Deck)**

For over 30 years, visitors have joined park naturalist Fred Wooley for his weekly Sunday morning birding stroll

This morning, join Fred and John Schaust for their traditional Sunday birding excursion.

**8AM-10AM Birding Wing Haven Nature Preserve (Inn Main Lobby)**

This ACRES property is rich in birding history, including the first verified re-nesting of Sandhill Cranes in Indiana, back in the 1980s. Brad Bumgardner and Rob Ripma will tour folks through the prairies and wooded ravines of this amazing property. We'll also explore the history of this one of a kind property. Carpool distance 2 miles.

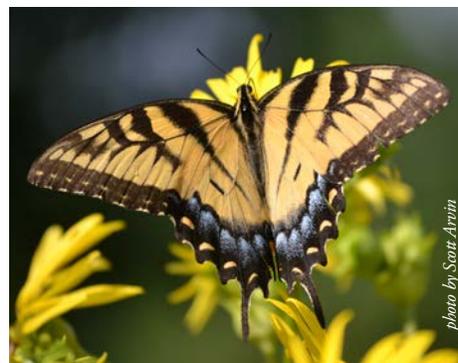


photo by Scott Arritt

**1030AM-1130AM Lights out Indy (Crooked Lake Rm)**

In less than 2 years, birders have noted nearly 1,000 dead birds in downtown Indianapolis. Learn about the Lights Out Indy program, an initiative by the Amos Butler Audubon Society, and their mission of saving migratory birds in Indiana.

**Program by Amos Butler Audubon President Don Gorney.**

**1130AM-12PM Author Book Signing with Kenn Kaufman and Joel Greenberg (Crooked Lake Rm)**

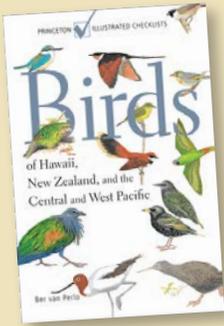
Finish up a fun weekend with a send off by two birding legends! Kenn and Joel will be available to sign any books you may have.

**12PM-1PM Lunch (on your own before you go)**

**Watch for the participant ribbons! Meet a life member this weekend!**



photo by Delano Z. Arritt, M.D.

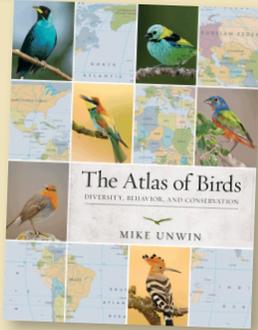


This month's books are *Birds of Hawaii, New Zealand, and the Central and West Pacific* by Ber van Perlo and *The Atlas of Birds, Diversity, Behavior, and Conservation* by Mike Unwin

Highlights of *Birds of Hawaii, New Zealand, and the Central and West Pacific*

- More than 750 species illustrated on 95 color plates
- Depictions of all plumages for males, females, and juveniles
- Detailed distribution maps show where each species is commonly found
- Information on key identification features, habitat, songs, and calls
- In-depth look at flight signatures, vagrant populations, and much more
- Concise and highly portable

*Birds of Hawaii, New Zealand, and the Central and West Pacific* has all you would expect from a checklist



guide. The information is well organized and easy to find. My one complaint is that the illustrations are small and not well detailed in some cases. Overall the book is well worth having if you're going to any of these islands. **////**

*The Atlas of Birds, Diversity, Behavior, and Conservation*

- The premier illustrated atlas of bird diversity, behavior, and conservation
- Features full-color maps, photos, and diagrams
- Covers bird evolution, classification, and behavior
- Describes the complex relationship between birds and their habitats
- Explores the impact of human activities on species survival
- Illustrates where and why birds are most under threat—and how to protect them

A beautiful book, informative, well designed and useful. I spent a long time looking through this and found it to be fascinating. I would recommend this to anyone. **////**

## Your Presenters!

### Foster Brown

Foster has been a historical interpreter and manager with the Cleveland Metroparks since 1996. His passion for music can be heard in many of his award winning albums. To listen, visit [www.fosterbrown.net](http://www.fosterbrown.net).

### Brad Bumgardner

Brad is the interpretive naturalist at Indiana Dunes State Park. He graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Natural Resources. He is also the Vice-President of the Indiana Audubon Society and chairs the Indiana Bird Records Committee.

### Dave Fox

Dave Fox has had a life-long interest in birds, but since becoming the Natural History Section Manager for the State Historic Sites and serving at Property Manager for the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site, his interest level has soared!

### Joel Greenberg

Joel Greenberg has over 25 years experience working on natural resource related issues in the Chicago area, and is an acknowledged authority on the region's natural history. Currently he is a Research Associate at both the Chicago Academy of Sciences and the Field Museum. Greenberg has JD and MA (environmental policy) degrees from Washington University and is a retired member of the Illinois Bar.

### Don Gorney

Don is currently serving as president of central Indiana's Amos W. Butler Audubon. In addition to his role as president, Don serves as project director for both Lights Out Indy and Wings Over Indy for Amos W. Butler Audubon. Don has been an extremely active birder for almost 20 years and has 359 species on his Indiana list.

### Jim Haw

Born in Missouri, Jim Haw is a retired professor of history at IPFW. He has been birding for more than 50 years, and has birded northeastern Indiana since 1972.

### Kenn and Kim Kaufman

Both Kenn, and his wife Kim, have devoted their lives to bird conservation. Kenn is well known as one of the world's most renowned birding experts, and Kim is Executive Director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Ohio.

### Rob Ripma

Rob is the current Treasurer of Indiana Audubon Society and has been birding for many years. He maintains a fast growing bird blog and associated birding website, reaching more than 7,700 unique visitors. He lives in Carmel with his wife Stephanie and currently works at Wild Birds Unlimited.

### John Schaust

As Chief Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc., John is responsible for helping to fulfill its mission of bringing people and nature together. He supports over 275 WBU stores in encouraging their customers to be active backyard bird watchers and knowledgeable stewards of the environment

### Ed Schools

Ed is a Senior Conservation Scientist with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, a program of the Michigan State University Extension. He holds a BS in Physics from Indiana University and a MS in Environmental Science (ecology) from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

### Mark Szabo

Mark is a naturalist and historian for the Stony Creek Metropark Nature Center in Ohio. He can often be seen teaming up with Foster Brown to produce some great sounds.

### Fred Wooley

Fred has been the interpreter at Pokagon State Park since 1980. With degrees in zoology and environmental education, Fred has been active in his profession of natural and cultural history interpretation and volunteers with local land trusts and resource management projects.

## Your Board of Directors!

**Amy Wilms- President**

**Brad Bumgardner- Vice President**

**Rob Ripma- Treasurer**

**Stephanie Ripma- Secretary**

**Chad Williams- Executive Committee**

**Alan Bruner- Immediate Past President**

**Serrin Anderson**

**Chuck Mills**

**Ted Meyer**

**Steve Doud**

**Kathryn Henman**

**Holly Meyers**

**Allen King**

**Bill Cummings**

## Southwest Indiana Field Trip Review July 8-10, 2011

Four inches of rain the day before left high water everywhere in the Evansville area and hot humid weather accompanied us the entire weekend. And don't even ask about the confusion caused by Indiana's time changes. In spite of this southwest Indiana yielded up many of its treasures to 16 intrepid birders from Illinois and Kentucky as well as Indiana.

On Friday evening Judy Leahy, Terry Ballenger, Laura Sexson, Paula Riggs, Brenda Turchiarelli, and Alan Bruner met at Evansville's eastside Lowe's store parking lot. Around 9:00 p.m. we headed out northeast of town under the leadership of local birding experts Charles Mills and Tammy Turner. We were on the hunt for Chuck-wills-widow. As we walked up Ditny Hill Wood, Thrushes serenaded us from deep in the woods. At the top of the hill we patiently waited for the goatsuckers to call. Just as the avian chorus stopped the insect chorus began and through the din Tammy and a few others heard the diagnostic "chuck" call of a Chuck-wills-widow. Soon a Whip-poor-will started up and sang vigorously but the "Chuck" refused to call again. A few more stops produced a Barred Owl but no additional goatsuckers.

The following morning Judy Leahy, Terry Ballenger, Laura Sexson, Martha Magers, Cindy and Ted Meyer, Tammy Turner, and Alan Bruner met bright and early at the Lowe's meeting spot. We drove directly to Lincoln St. Park where we were met by Charles Morris and Ken Hurm and our leader for the morning, David Ayer, the park naturalist. After birding around the nature center and dam area we started our hike on Trail #3 with hopes of seeing Worm-eating Warbler. Red-shouldered Hawk, Summer Tanagers, Great Crested Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatchers, Kentucky Warblers, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, and many other woodland birds made themselves known but no luck on the Worm-eater. David did however point out the delicately beautiful flower of the Butterfly Pea which was almost worth the hike in itself.

Upon returning to the dam, Tammy Turner alerted us to the Mississippi Kites hovering over the beach parking lot across the lake. Up to three could be seen at once. We drove to the parking lot where one of them soared and sallied after insects right over our heads showing off their pearly white heads and wing patches. A nest of Red-headed Woodpeckers found by Judy was virtually ignored as we savored the flight of the kite.

A quick stop at the Lincoln Memorial just outside the park and we were off for lunch in Dale, Indiana.

After lunch Tammy Turner utilized her orienteering skills to lead through the Stanley Mine and Bluegrass FWA areas. It wasn't long before excellent full-scope views of Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Dickcissels were enjoyed. Orchard Oriole, Prairie and Black-and-white Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat made themselves evident and many Bell's Vireos were heard but refused to give everyone the great

view we sought. Blue Grosbeaks were difficult but allowed us a few brief views and three vocal solos. Unfortunately all water levels were extremely high which thwarted our efforts to see waterfowl. Believe it or not only one Canada Goose and no Wood Ducks were found.

Having experienced enough heat for the day we headed back to Evansville. On the way a Common Nighthawk was spotted sitting across a wire while two others were acrobatically interacting overhead.

On Sunday morning, Judy Leahy, Laura Sexson, Paula Riggs, Cindy and Ted Meyer, Robert and Judy Wargel, Carol Pettys, and Alan Bruner followed leader Charles Mills to the far southwest point of Indiana. Four Fish Crows were waiting for us at the Hovey Lake headquarters parking lot. They continued to cavort nearby, constantly giving their nasal call. A Prothonotary Warbler sang nearby but only a female showed itself.

Next stop, Twin Swamps Nature Preserve. The cool walk through the deciduous swamp was not as squishy as we expected and the mosquitoes were very well behaved. This made for a very enjoyable hike to the cypress swamp amid the songs of Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Carolina Wren, as well as more calling Fish Crows.

Along the roads outside of Twin Swamps Horned Larks were encountered and a very cooperative male Blue Grosbeak allowed thorough examination as it sang on the wires. A brief stop at the Uniontown Lock and Dam added Double-crested Cormorant and hundreds of Cliff Swallows to our list.

We returned to the Hovey Lake parking lot where an unexpected Mississippi Kite appeared over the trees to the west. We next took a short walk along the levee bordering the marsh to the south and enjoyed super views of Red-headed Woodpeckers as well as a gorgeous male Prothonotary Warbler feeding young in a dead snag. An adult Bald Eagle flew over us and a Green Heron was noted.

From here we were Gibson Co. bound. Flooded roads prevented us from reaching some of our planned stops but we finally made it to Cane Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Great Egrets were seen in flooded fields nearby as well as from the observation blind. Great views were obtained of the nesting Least Terns and the summering male Redhead was quickly located. Due to the vegetation height we struck out on the anticipated Black-necked Stilts, but a Least Bittern flew over the cattails long enough for everyone to identify it. We then drove around the power plant cooling lake but again high water limited our ability to see waterbirds. Charles Mills was able to get us permission to see the lake which enabled us to see the four Double-crested Cormorant nests on the middle dike.

Overall 97 species were identified during the weekend, including four Mississippi Kites at two locations, seven Fish Crows at three locations, a Least Bittern seen by all observers, many Least Terns, and excellent views of Henslow's Sparrow. The rather late date and hot, humid weather affected many songsters and the high waters ironically hurt us on waterbirds.

Much appreciated was the leadership of our local guides, Tammy Turner, Charles Mills, and David Ayer. Also appreciated was the patience of participants in dealing with the various interpretations of starting times as well as their cooperation and great fellowship during the weekend.

Alan W. Bruner  
IAS Field Trip Chair



Resting along trail at Lincoln St. Park with park naturalist David Ayer (left center). Also pictured (left to right): Terry Ballenger, Judy Leahy, Charles Morris, Laura Sexson, Martha Magers, and Ted Meyer. Photo by Alan Bruner



Birding at spillway at lake in Lincoln St. Park. Left to right on lawn: Tammy Turner, Ted Meyer, Martha Magers, Laura Sexson, Cindy Meyer, and Terry Ballenger. On bridge in back: Judy Leahy. Photo by Alan Bruner



Bald Cypress "knees" at Twin Swamps Nature Preserve. Photo by Alan Bruner



## 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 given significant 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 1, 2011. Awards will be presented at the Fall Birding Festival at Pokagon State Park.

## Grants/Scholarship Fall Deadline September 1st

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to announce the fall funding for the Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarship Program in 2011. 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. In 2011, \$4,000 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 1, 2011, and are announced at the Fall Birding

Festival at Pokagon State Park. Applications and more information are on the Indiana Audubon Society website ([www.indianaaudubon.org](http://www.indianaaudubon.org)). For questions about possible funding projects, email IAS Vice-President, Brad Bumgardner, at [bumgbj01@hotmail.com](mailto:bumgbj01@hotmail.com).

## Kenn Kaufman Headlines IAS Fall Festival!

This fall, Indiana Audubon has a stellar line up of great speakers and local birding experts for this year's Fall Festival at beautiful Pokagon State Park. If you've not reserved your spot yet, room is filling fast, and our large room block at the Potawatomi Inn is already full! Mark your calendars for September 30-October 2, 2011.

Go kayak birding with Chief Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited, John Schaust, explore the wilds of Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area with NE Indiana birding expert Jim Haw, or enjoy a more leisurely birding stroll through the forests and swamps of Pokagon in early fall. There is a program or birding outing for everyone.

Things kick off Friday night with some great musical entertainment by Midwest famed naturalists and musicians Foster Brown and Bert Szabo and continues with our keynote presentation Saturday night with Kenn Kaufman. The weekend is also a great time to meet up and network with Hoosier birders from all corners of the state.

Registration for the festival is required by visiting the IAS website at [www.indianaaudubon.org](http://www.indianaaudubon.org). We expect a full list of birders, so there will be no registrations at the door. We hope to see you at Pokagon!



## Prairie Chicken Field Trip April 6, 2012

The Indiana Audubon Society has reserved the blinds at Prairie Ridge St. Natural Area at Newton, Illinois to view Greater Prairie Chickens on their booming grounds on Friday 6 April 2012. Last year participants saw a few birds before a violent storm forced them out of the blinds. Hopefully conditions will be more like 2010 when about 17 male birds were booming within a hundred feet of the blinds while Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers cruised by and Eastern Meadowlarks sang from the top of the blinds. There is always a chance at Smith's Longspurs and myriads of American Golden-Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers that pass through here. Loggerhead Shrikes are almost as dependable as Greater Prairie-Chickens as multiple sightings occurred the last two years.

So notify me as soon as possible if you want to participate in this lifetime experience. Once the blinds are filled I will send final details and instructions

If you have any questions at all please contact me at: [abbird@att.net](mailto:abbird@att.net) or 765-597-2459.

Alan W. Bruner  
IAS field trip chair



*These are some of my middle school students (Lion Team) from Connersville Middle School learning how to use binoculars. The binoculars they are using are those that were purchased with memorial funds on behalf of Mary Gough through a special purchasing program that "Eagle Optics" made available to the Indiana Audubon Society. Many of the students were audibly enthusiastic with these fine lenses.*

Carl Wilms



photo by Delano Z. Arritt, M.D.

## Spreading Raptor Knowledge with the Support of the Indiana Audubon Society

For the past two years, the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (UWIS) has had the privilege of housing two birds of prey: an American kestrel and screech owl, in temporary cages. Both birds have been permanently injured and deemed non-releasable by a federally licensed rehabilitator and veterinarian. Our long-term goal, through grants and donations, is to construct permanent, secure housing and display units. We will also provide educational programs to school groups, community organizations, and other public forums; and above all, to provide care and represent our resident ambassadors in a dignified manner while interpreting the importance of habitat and interconnectivity in the existence and survival of birds of prey in Indiana.

After Salamonie property management approved the plan for the Raptor Center and possession and education permits were obtained we acquired our first two birds that have been on public display for nearly two years. Watching the expressions and hearing the responses of the visiting public reaffirm we'll be providing the type of education the public seeks – many of which are learning about these types of birds for the first time.

Working with the raptors has been an ongoing learning process from making anklets and jesses to understanding the birds' personalities.



photo by Delano Z. Arritt, M.D.

Another level of our education is learning their body language. Much like riding a horse, learning to "feel" the birds' next move while perched on the glove is an important aspect of handling. This comes with time spent in training and learning how the birds will react to certain situations.

In an effort to acclimate the birds to the glove and people, we have introduced the

birds to select groups and continue to raise funds for the permanent structure, which will house the foundation pair and eventually a few other birds as they become available, in order to provide a well-rounded program.

Many items are needed in order to successfully and safely implement this program. Through the IAS grant awarded to Friends of UWIS, we have purchased items that will be used for continued training, veterinary visits, and eventually full-scale programming. The purchased items include durable aluminum transport carriers with AstroTurf-covered perches, kangaroo hide and leather tools used for making anklets and jesses, a new leash for securing the birds, and a pair of falconry gloves constructed for raptor handling.

Working with these amazing winged creatures is an honor – just as it is an honor for the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services to have received the Indiana Audubon Society's support for our new and exciting program.

On behalf of the Raptors, UWIS staff and volunteers, we thank you.

Lynnanne Fager, Interpretive Naturalist  
Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, IDNR  
3691 S. New Holland Road  
Andrews, IN 46702



June 19



July 9



*Vulture House*  
They look like black headed chickens but these two young Turkey Vultures have had a cozy life growing up in my Dad's barn. Here are a few photos of the little cuties.  
Scott Arvin, Cardinal Editor



June 24



July 29

photos by Dr. Delano Z. Arvin, M.D. and Scott Arvin

