



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

June 2013 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 43, No. 3 | ISSN 0162-8186

Upcoming Events

- **Butterfly Count**
7/27/2013 9:00 AM, MGBS
- **Shorebird ID Workshop**
8/2/2013 6:00 PM
- **IAS Fall Festival 2013**
10/4/2013 6:00 PM
- **Another Puerto Rico Trip**
February 2014, *see details inside*
- **Dominican Republic**
February 2014, *see details inside*



Swallow-tailed Kite photo by Marty Jones



Drew Lanham



■ *Indiana Dunes Fall Festival Preview*

Join us for a fantastic weekend at Indiana Dunes State Park for the Fall Festival from October 4-6.

The weekend will be filled with birding in the park and beyond and presentations that will be capped off with our evening keynote dinner and program held at Woodland Park in Portage, Indiana. Our keynote speaker will be Drew Lanham from Clemson University. Drew's keynote, "Connecting the Conservation Dots: Seeing Beyond the Birds" will focus on how birders can maximize the efforts to conserve the avifauna and habitats we all love so dearly. Drew will provide a history of wildlife conservation in America and how the efforts grew from our abuse of and cultural love for feathered things. His talk will expound on the historical successes and current failures in conservation and how we might best approach future challenges if birds and birding are to remain a part of our lives. From that morning cup of coffee to killing birds with kindness, it will be a keynote that will inform, invigorate, infuriate and hopefully inspire us all to greater conservation efforts.

Registration will open in July! You can make your hotel reservations in advance at the Best Western Indian Oak in Chesterton at a discounted rate. You can call the hotel at (219) 926-2200 and use the group name "DNR".

We hope to see everyone there!



MGBS Monitoring Avian Productivity and Sustainability (MAPS) Program Resumes Program



When Amy Wilms held her first bird in hand while studying with Dr. Dave Russell at Miami University, she was hooked. The American Woodcock probably thought otherwise, but Amy was thrilled with the experience and instantly knew that she wanted to pursue her banding permit. Three years later she passed the exam and gained a sub-permit under Dr. Russell's supervision. Her project is the resurrection of the MAPS program started by Dr. Weise at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in 2001.

With funding from the Mumford-Keller Grant program and the Mary Gray Research funds, Amy secured the needed materials. With assistance from Carl Wilms, the banding stations nets were outfitted and ready to start banding birds on June 1st. The crew that assisted Amy was composed of Sally Routh, Michael Fox, Bob Holmes, Carl Wilms, and Ryan and Dawn Slack. Michael and Bob came from Ohio where they had initially met Amy though shared banding experiences. The rest of the gang represents Indiana and IAS members.

The MAPS program is designed to monitor species of birds that nest on the property and monitor their reproductivity and longevity. The third weekend in June they

were excited to catch their first fledglings, Eastern Bluebirds. Other species banded to date include: Gray Catbird, Bluejay, Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, L. Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Downey Woodpecker, House Wren, Acadian Flycatcher, B-G Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, and B.H. Cowbird.

The banding operations will continue through July. Saturdays are the usual day of banding with exceptions called by inclement weather or conflicting events. If you are interested in visiting during bandings, it is suggested that you contact Amy to confirm banding times and days. Conflicts have already planned bandings on July 4th and 14th. Other scheduled dates include July 20th and 27th.

Amy is already looking forward to the summer of 2014 to document returning and residential populations. She is very appreciative of the support IAS and MGBS has provided in making this important project, and dream experience, become a reality.



INDIANA
YOUNG BIRDERS
CONFERENCE

AUGUST 24
JOIN US FOR THE FIRST
ANNUAL INDIANA YOUNG
BIRDERS CONFERENCE

YOUNG BIRDER PRESENTATIONS! **YOUNG BIRDER OF THE YEAR!** **RAFFLE GIVEAWAYS!**
LIVE RAPTORS!

- Early morning birding!
- Youth presentations!
- Fledgling Activity Corner!
- Keynote Cornell Student Speaker - Andy Johnson!
- Lunch catered by Moe's Southwest Grill
- Birding activities and so much more!

Adults (19 and up) - \$20
Young Birders (9-18) - \$10
Fledglings (8 and under) - FREE



indiana
youngbirders





■ Bird Town Indiana!

Bird Town Indiana is a designation awarded by IAS to those communities in Indiana that demonstrate an active and ongoing commitment to the protection and conservation of bird populations and habitat.

Through Bird Town Indiana, towns and communities can apply for recognition based on several criteria from four categories. Those being: creation and protection of natural communities, participation in programs promoting natural resource management, limiting or removing hazards to birds, and public education of birds. These special communities

will have the opportunity to promote their status as Bird Town Indiana, with roadside signs designed by IAS board member Scott Arvin.

Like the Arbor Day's Tree City USA, we hope to recognize great Indiana towns and cities that participate in birding activities, whether on their own or partnered with the many local Audubon chapters. If you know a local town or city that deserves to apply, please contact Jeff Canada at jeffcanada3@yahoo.com for the official application or visit the IAS website for more information. IAS is waiving the application fee for the first towns in 2013. Get your town involved this year!

■ American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society

The Field Museum is hosting the 2013 joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society (<http://fieldmuseum.org/explore/aou-2013>). Largely due to a lack of resources for attending, undergraduate students rarely get an opportunity attend this type of ornithological conference, and high school students are virtually unheard of as attendees. We would like to see that change and have thus created an opportunity for budding pre-college ornithologists to experience a scientific conference first-hand, perhaps helping them choose the school or major that might give them a leg up on an ornithological career. Attendance of the conference will provide a chance to learn about a variety of research and to query graduate students and faculty about their career choices (possibly providing invaluable contacts for the college admissions process). Indiana Audubon Society youth and adult members can apply for Mumford/Keller Grants/Scholarship funds to attend this workshop. Members can ignore traditional grant deadlines and submit this spring and early summer for possible funding.

The chaperoned experience we have put together will include a variety of activities on Friday, August 16. The cost to register for this single-day event is \$130. Included in this cost is one-day registration for the conference (which includes admission to the morning plenary session and all scientific sessions), both lunch and dinner with graduate students and/or faculty happy to answer questions about careers and colleges, and admission to (and participation in, if desired!) the AOU Student Quiz Bowl in the evening. Not included in the cost is transportation or lodging. Students interested in participating must have been in grades 9–12 during the 2012–2013 academic year. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Nick Block at nblock@fieldmuseum.org or Brad Bumgardner at president@indianaaudubon.org.

■ Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarships Funds Available in 2013

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to offer the Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarship Program in 2013. 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, \$2,500.00 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 funding are due by September 1, 2013, and are announced at the Fall Birding Festival in the Indiana Dunes. Applications and more information are on the Indiana Audubon Society website (www.indianaaudubon.org).



IYBC is planning another great year of trips and activities. Be sure to get your young birder involved.

Field Trips in 2013

- Sept. 7 Indiana Lakefront - Leader Nick Kiehl
- Aug. 24 First Annual Indiana Young Birders Conference at Cool Creek Park in Carmel, IN.
- Oct. 4-6 IAS Fall Festival at the Indiana Dunes

Register online at www.indianayoungbirders.org

Other Programs

- 2013 Field Guide Giveaway
- IYBC Birder of the Year



Get your young birder involved in IYBC activities for their chance to win a free Field Guide

indianayoungbirders.org

Indiana Audubon Society Grant: Project Report by Lauren Smith

Thanks again to the Indiana Audubon Society for funding our 2010 grant proposal for research on the impact of invasive plant species on higher trophic levels. Over the past year, our lab has been able to use the materials purchased with the funds for a variety of projects. Here are a few of the highlights:

Summary of Results:

The goal of our proposed research was to determine how several invasive plant species, *Euonymus fortunei*, *Microstegium vimineum*, and *Festuca arundinacea*, influence the behavior of small mammals. As described in the grant proposal, the behavior of small mammals is generally determined by their perception of predation risk. By altering habitat structure and increasing or reducing cover for native small mammals, invasive plants can change herbivore/granivore behavior and therefore impact food availability for birds of prey. Interactions between invasive plants and small mammals can have cascading effects on other birds as well by altering patterns of seed dispersal, changing food availability for granivorous birds and altering plant community structure.

was similar in each treatment, but the species identity changed.

Microstegium vimineum: We did not find a significant influence of *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass) on small mammal distribution or seed predation patterns. Part of this may have been due to the design of the experimental plots we were using – erosion fencing placed around plots to prevent seed spread may have interfered with small mammal movement. Further work should be done with this invader to determine influences on mammal behavior.

Euonymus fortunei: We found perhaps the most interesting results with *Euonymus fortunei* (purple wintercreeper). While trapping was impossible at this field site due to interference by raccoons, track plate data showed that larger mammals (rabbits) avoided *Euonymus*-invaded areas, whereas smaller mammals (chipmunks) preferred invaded areas. This is likely due to the fact that the dense groundcover inhibited rabbit movement, but provided great cover for the chipmunks that could run underneath it. Results showed that seed predation was increased in

results.

Research and Outreach with the Lilly Scholars Program:

Our lab found a wonderful way to combine this research project with outreach through the Lilly Scholars Program at Indiana University. The goal of the program is to give underrepresented high school students hands-on experience in scientific research and to encourage these students to pursue careers in science. Lilly Scholars join our lab for one week during the summer, during which time they participate in a research project and create a poster presentation.

We decided that the seed predation and track plate work funded by the Indiana Audubon Society grant would be a perfect way to get our students involved in science, particularly because the nature of this project allowed them to complete a full experiment in one week. Our students investigated the impact of the invasive plant purple wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) on small mammal perception of predation risk. They used seed trays, herbivory measurements, and track plates to conduct this research, and found results similar to those described above for *Euonymus*.



We used trapping, seed trays, and track plates to better understand how invasive plants influenced small mammal behavior. Results for each species are summarized below:

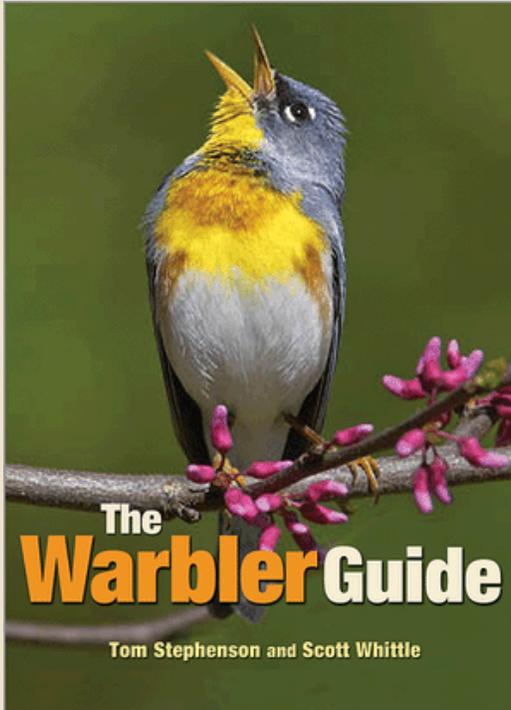
Festuca arundinacea: We found that *Festuca arundinacea* (tall fescue) influenced the distribution of vole species at our field site. Trapping results showed that prairie voles preferred uninvaded areas, whereas meadow voles preferred areas invaded by tall fescue, most likely because of the cover it provided. Seed predation and track plate data was not different between invasion treatments, most likely because the overall abundance of voles

Euonymus-invaded areas, which is consistent with the high abundance of chipmunks. We also conducted herbivory surveys in invaded and uninvaded areas, and found that seedling herbivory followed a reverse pattern from seed predation. More plants were eaten in uninvaded areas than in *Euonymus*-invaded areas. This is also consistent with the distribution of rabbits at this site, because rabbits seem to be the dominant herbivore.

These data are interesting on the trend level, and we will continue to collect data in this system with hopes of finding enough statistically significant trends to publish our

Left: Undergraduate Rebecca Stoops helps Lilly Scholars Adam Collins and Gabriel Santiago place track plates, plants, and seed trays in an area dominated by native plants. Track plates were also placed in areas dominated by invasive *Euonymus fortunei* to compare small mammal activity in invaded and uninvaded areas. Center: Adam and Gabriel monitor their track plates and seed trays in a *Euonymus* invaded plot. Right: Gabriel and Adam present their poster at the Lilly Scholars poster session. They were extremely proud to be the only group that completed their own project in its entirety rather than simply presenting results that had been previously collected. They were also proud to be the only group that undertook a week of field work when temperatures were well over 100 degrees!

Book Review Books from Princeton University Press <http://press.princeton.edu/birds/>



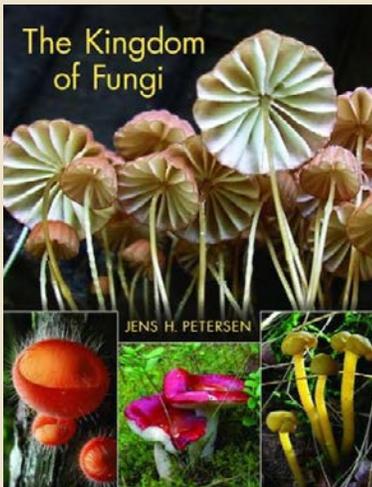
The Warbler Guide by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle

- Covers all 56 species of warblers in the United States and Canada
- Visual quick finders help you identify warblers from any angle
- Song and call finders make identification easy using a few simple questions
- Uses sonograms to teach a new system of song identification that makes it easier to understand and hear differences between similar species
- Detailed species accounts show multiple views with diagnostic points, direct comparisons of plumage and vocalizations with similar species, and complete aging and sexing descriptions
- New aids to identification include song mnemonics and icons for undertail pattern, color impression, habitat, and behavior
- Includes field exercises, flight shots, general identification strategies, and quizzes

.....

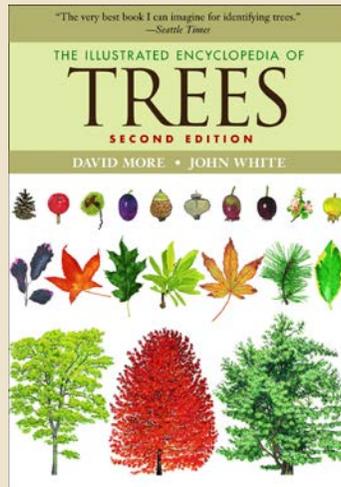
This guide is excellent with multiple comparison charts and helpful detail that will make identification easy to master. I love it – *Scott Arvin, Cardinal Editor*

.....



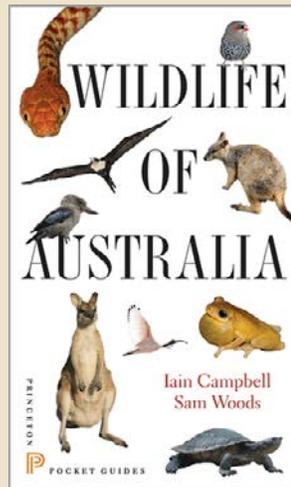
The Kingdom of Fungi
by Jens H. Petersen

- Reveals fungal life as never seen before
- Features more than 800 stunning color photos
- Describes fungal biology, morphology, distribution, and uses
- A must-have reference book for naturalists and researchers



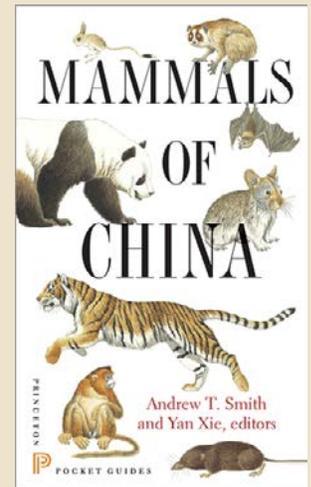
The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees
by David More & John White

- Illustrates nearly 2,000 tree species and cultivars found in North America and Europe
- Includes precise paintings of important details: leaves, needles, bark, blossoms, fruits, nuts, and cones
- Shows deciduous trees in both full leaf and winter
- Describes the native range of each species, the date of its introduction into cultivation, and other key facts
- Features an introduction, a glossary, and indexes of scientific and English names



Wildlife of Australia
by Iain Campbell
& Sam Woods

- Easy-to-use pocket guide
- More than 400 high-quality photographs
- Accessible text aids identification
- Habitat guide describes the Australian bush and its specific wildlife
- Coverage includes the 350 birds, 70 mammals, 30 reptiles, and 16 frogs most likely to be seen on a trip around Australia

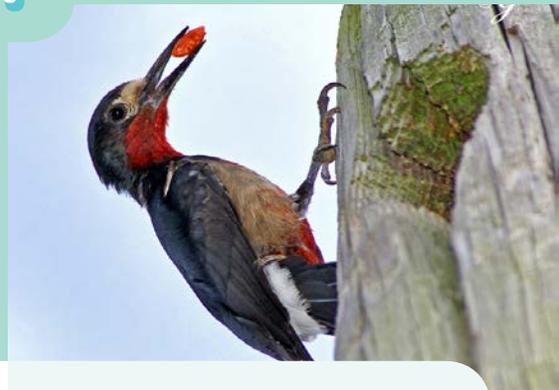


Mammals of China
Edited by Andrew T. Smith
& Yan Xie

- The comprehensive pocket guide to all of China's 558 mammal species
- Describes the physical characteristics, geographic distribution, natural history, and conservation status of every species
- Features up-to-date distribution maps and stunning color illustrations throughout
- Written by a team of leading specialists



Another Tour Puerto Rico!



DAY 1—ARRIVAL DAY

Arrivals by mid afternoon at Luis Munoz Marín International Airport (SJU)

DAY 2—NORTH-CENTRAL

Great diversity of habitats: lagoons, coastal forests, karst forests, rain forests, cliffs, ponds, coast, marsh and grassland. Between 8-10 endemics.

Endemic species possible this day are:

Adelaide's Warbler, Puerto Rican Vireo, Puerto Rican Tody, Puerto Rican Woodpecker, Puerto Rican Flycatcher, Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo, Puerto Rican Spindalis, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, Puerto Rican Screech-Owl, Puerto Rican Oriole, Puerto Rican Emerald, Green Mango, Puerto Rican Parrot. Antillean Mango, Grasshopper Sparrow, Antillean Euphonia, Bridled Tern, Loggerhead Kingbird, Orange Bishop, Roseate Tern, Masked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Least Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, White-cheeked Pintail, White-crowned Pigeon, Caribbean Coot, American Coot, Yellow-breasted Crake, Key West Quail- Dove, Ruddy Quail-Dove and migratory birds (Shorebirds, Warblers).

DAY 3—MARICAO, SOUTHWEST

Endemic species possible this day are:

Elfin-woods Warbler, Puerto Rican Tanager, Puerto Rican Emerald, Puerto Rican Vireo, Puerto Rican Tody, Puerto Rican Woodpecker, Puerto Rican Flycatcher, Puerto Rican Lizard-Cuckoo, Puerto Rican Spindalis, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, Puerto Rican Oriole,

Green Mango and Puerto Rican Nightjar (at night) and Yellow-shouldered Blackbird.

Target birds for the day include:

Caribbean Elaenia, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Puerto Rican Pewee and Clapper Rail.

DAY 4—CARTAGENA LAGOON, PLAIN PIGEON SPOT

Depends on the needs we can go to some spot after Cartagena Lagoon.

Target birds for the day include:

West Indian Whistling-Duck and Plain Pigeon.

DAY 5—EL YUNQUE, OLD SAN JUAN

Located on the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico in the Greater Antilles group, the El Yunque National Forest is the sole tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System. The forest's relatively small 28,000 acre size belies its importance. It differs significantly from all the other U.S. National Forests because of its year-round tropical climate and immense biodiversity.

On evening you'll be transported to the 16th century with a guided tour in the living museum of the Old San Juan, the oldest city in US.

Farewell dinner.

DAY 6—DEPARTURE DAY

Transportation to the airport for flights home or to connect to the Dominican Republic tour.

Hola! My name is Gabriel Lugo.



I'll be your guide and companion in search for our beautiful birds. I hope to serve you and fulfill your wish list.

I'm an independent custom birding tour guide whose only goal is to give you the best of Puerto Rico.

Fully aware, expert: ready to serve you.

I'll be happy to make your birding trip, one you can not forget.

You'll be taken through the most beautiful natural reserves and best spots I know.

Always respecting basic ethical guidelines for bird watching and avoiding the least possible human impact.

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 12th to 17th, 2014**

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 6 are required with a maximum of 14 to make the trip work.

Contact: Chuck Mills ccmills@wowway.com

Dave Fox davefoxy@gmail.com

Brad Bumgardner bumgbj01@hotmail.com



Tour Dominican Republic!



Dominican Republic

From montane cloud forests and lush tropical habitats, to the limestone karst and sparkling turquoise waters off the coast, the Dominican Republic hosts 32 avian endemics, including Palmchat, the single representative of the family Dulidae. There are also numerous Caribbean endemics and several introduced species.

As one of the most enticing birding destinations in the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of Hispaniola, the second-largest island in the Greater Antilles. The varied landscapes and friendly people provide for ample interest during our week-long birding tour, spanning multiple elevations in several locations.

We'll focus on the rugged Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, where most of the country's endemics and specialties can be found. In the high-elevation forests, we'll look for Eastern Chat-Tanager, White-fronted Quail-Dove and La Selle Thrush. In the broadleaf evergreen forests we find Hispaniolan Spindalis, Green-tailed Ground-Tanager and Narrow-billed Tody. Amongst pine forests we'll look for Hispaniolan Crossbill, Golden Swallow, and Antillean Siskin.

The expansive Lago Enriquillo basin hosts American Flamingos, and various species of herons, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Endemic Hispaniolan Palm Crow, White-necked Crow and Broad-billed Tody frequent the arid mesquite scrub that ring the lagoon. We'll spend time on the north shore of the island looking for the rare, critically-endangered Ridgway's Hawk, confined only to the forested foothills of Los Haities National Park.

Focus of the Trip

32 endemics, that will include 2 evenings of night birding for 3 endemics, Ashy-faced Owl, Least Pauraque and Hispaniolan Nightjar, and at least 1 early morning start. There will also be a few endemic subspecies and a handful of other Caribbean specialties. Overwintering neo-tropical warblers, some waders, a few seabirds and shorebirds will also be seen. A small number of butterflies and reptiles can be seen.

Guides

Gabriel Lugo

Miguel Landestoy

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 18th to 24th, 2014

Price is \$2850 with a single supplement of \$375.

Deposit of \$500 due by Oct. 15th.

Checks are to be made out to IAS.

Final payment must be made 90 days before the trip.

There is only room for 5 more people.

Contact: Chuck Mills ccmills@wowway.com

Dave Fox davefoxy@gmail.com

Brad Bumgardner bumgbj01@hotmail.com

Registration is under activities

at IndianaAudubon.org



Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Featured on National Television!

by Amy Wilms

CBS News Sunday Morning aired a feature on birdwatching on May 26th with the IAS Spring Festival as one of the highlights! On – air correspondent Serena Altschul interviewed several presenters and followed participants around as they birded the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. To view the featured story, go to www.cbsnews.com and search the title, "Birdwatchers answer the call of the wild".

Featured in the piece are, Alexandra Forsythe, Major Randel Rogers, and keynote speaker, Richard Crossley along with many of the birds that attended the festival, too!

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch?id=50147664n>

