

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society **CARDINAL**

June 2011 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 41, No. 3 | ISSN 0162-8186



Upcoming Events

SW Indiana Field Trip
7/8/2011 8:00 PM

**Butterfly Count-Mary Gray
Bird Sanctuary**
7/30/2011 9:00 AM

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

IAS Cuba Survey
2/6/2012

**For more information, go
to IndianaAudubon.org**



photo by Scott Arvin

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 himself or herself 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.indianaudubon.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 Approaching

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.indianaudubon.org). For questions about possible funding projects, email IAS Vice-President, Brad Bumgardner, at bumgbj01@hotmail.com.

IAS Fall Birding Festival Fast Approaching

Fall birding in Indiana can be a wonderful time. The leaves are changing to orange and gold, quiet chip notes rustle amongst the tree tops and best of all... no mosquitoes! Join fellow Hoosier birders for a full weekend of birding fun. This year's festival is being held at one of our state park wonderlands... Pokagon State Park, from September 30-October 2, 2011. The historic Potawatomi Inn at Pokagon State Park serves as a perfect backdrop for early fall birding in "101 Lake Country."

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!

Enjoy an enchanting Saturday 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.

Other great programs are being lined up, including birding tours to Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area, Gene-Stratton Porter Historic Site, Wing Haven Nature Preserve, and more. Bring the kids, as an assortment of birding activities will be on hand that they will enjoy too. For a complete list of programs and to register, visit the Indiana Audubon Society website (www.indianaudubon.org). We're sure registration will fill and day of registration will not be available.

A special room rate is being held at the Potawatomi Inn. Ask for the IAS group rate (1001AS) when calling (877-LODGES-1) as all other rooms are booked at the Inn. We hope to see you this fall!

An Account of the 9 April 2011 Prairie Chicken Field Trip

by Amy Kearns

On 9 April 2011, Amy and Noah Kearns, Douglas Gray, Sally Routh, Cassie Hall and friend, James Mathews, Karen Wade and friend, Gene and Jaclyn Shroeder, and Mary Fox went to the Prairie Ridge St. Natural Area near Newton, IL. to view Greater Prairie-Chickens on their booming grounds. Entering the blinds before sunup a few "chickens" were seen before mother nature cut loose with severe lightning and rain. Amy Kearns related her and Noah's experience that morning.

"The major highlight was of course 9 Greater Prairie-Chickens – 4 males booming in the lek in front of the blinds with distant lightning as a big thunderstorm rolled in. These birds were lifers for everyone in the group, and the lightning during sunrise made for quite a dramatic setting! I will certainly never forget it. We left the blinds early because of the storm. Noah and I headed to Newton for breakfast to wait out the weather, and at 10:30 a.m. traveled back to Prairie Ridge. After the morning storm passed it turned into a beautiful day, with sunshine and warm weather. From various locations on the property, Prairie-Chickens could be heard booming all afternoon. We figured we'd heard at least five



additional birds. After the chickens, our 2nd target bird for the day was Upland Sandpiper, which we missed, but not for lack of trying. We made up for it with 4 pairs of LOGGERHEAD SHRIKES – yes, 8 birds total!! It was wonderful to see the shrikes doing well somewhere in the Midwest. These 4 pairs were all in a 4-5 square mile area and were actively foraging and courting. Pretty amazing and a real treat! Other highlights were a 1st summer Trumpeter

Swan, an adult Peregrine Falcon flying low over a field that held at least 3 Smith's Longspurs, a Sora whinnying while we were in the blinds, 68 American Golden-Plovers, 7 American Pipits and at least 16 singing Henslow's Sparrows. We had 58 species for the day!"

Alan W. Bruner
Chair, IAS Field Trip Committee



photo by Mary Jones

Wabashiki April 9, 2011 Field Trip Report

This field trip included visits to several popular birding sites in Vermillion and Vigo Counties in west-central Indiana. The trip was a joint effort by the Indiana Audubon Society and the Wabash Valley Audubon Society. Twenty-four participants began the day at the new Wabashiki FWA in West Terre Haute.

Rain and thunder coincided with the 7:30 start time which made for somewhat difficult birding in the morning. We had a flyover Caspian Tern at Wabashiki before the rain quickly increased intensity and forced us to move on for some car-birding in Universal Mine.

The rain persisted through the entire morning, however our spirits were lifted when we located eleven Black-necked Stilts standing in the shallow portion of a pond at Brouillettes Creek Road in Universal Mine. A Least Sandpiper was also seen here. Wilson's Snipe were seen in many places alongside the roads. A pair of Vesper Sparrows was seen.

In the afternoon we made a valiant effort to locate what would have been a first documented Vigo County Smith's Longspur. Our group walked large sections of the Lenderman-owned, corn-stubble fields north of the small town of Sanford. At one point we heard a single rattle call of one Longspur species, but the bird was never positively identified. This location is ideal for Smith's and we are certain one can be found here in the future when the timing is right.

Dry air and a warm afternoon sun greeted us as we visited the flooded Wabash River bottom land south of Terre Haute at Kennett and Arbuckle Lane. Many areas along the Wabash, including this one have very good shorebird and waterfowl habitat following each flood event. Today we had good numbers, duck species, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and a first of the season Grasshopper Sparrow. A lone and late Sandhill Crane was sighted flying northward.

Throughout the day we had difficulty locating warbler species, but managed a few later in the day at local Terre Haute city parks. Here is our

list of 92 species, excluding the unidentified Longspurs species.

Canada Goose 26
Wood Duck 8
Gadwall 11
American Black Duck 2
Mallard 16
Blue-winged Teal 66
Northern Shoveler 23
Green-winged Teal 12
Redhead 1
Ring-necked Duck 6
Lesser Scaup 7
Bufflehead 6
Common Goldeneye 5
Hooded Merganser 12
Ruddy Duck 2
Ring-necked Pheasant 5 (four at Universal and one north of Sanford)
Wild Turkey 1
Common Loon 1
Pied-billed Grebe 13
Double-crested Cormorant 32
Great Blue Heron 9
Turkey Vulture 18
Bald Eagle 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 (Nick Brown at Highland Lawn Cemetery)
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 3
American Kestrel 1
American Coot 80
Sandhill Crane 1
Killdeer 19
Black-necked Stilt 11 (Universal Mine)
Greater Yellowlegs 70 (conservative count, the majority of Yellowlegs species were seen at Kennett Road)
Lesser Yellowlegs 30
Least Sandpiper 1 (Universal Mine)
Wilson's Snipe 91
Caspian Tern 1 (flyover at Wabashiki)
Rock Pigeon 13
Mourning Dove 8
Great Horned Owl 1 (Wabashiki)
Belted Kingfisher 1
Red-headed Woodpecker 1 (Wabashiki)
Red-bellied Woodpecker 2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2 (NE Vigo Co)
Downy Woodpecker 2
Hairy Woodpecker 2

Northern Flicker 1
Eastern Phoebe 1
White-eyed Vireo 1
Blue Jay 3
American Crow 15
Horned Lark 23
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 6
Purple Martin 7
Tree Swallow 35
Barn Swallow 5
Carolina Chickadee 2
Tufted Titmouse 3
White-breasted Nuthatch 1
Brown Creeper 1 (NE Vigo Co)
Carolina Wren 3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet 2 (Dobbs Park)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 3 (Dobbs Park)
Eastern Bluebird 2
American Robin 38
Gray Catbird 1 (Dobbs Park)
Northern Mockingbird 2
Brown Thrasher 4
European Starling 36
Cedar Waxwing 2
Northern Parula 1 (Nick Brown at Highland Lawn Cemetery)
Yellow-rumped Warbler 3
Yellow-throated Warbler 2
Eastern Towhee 5
Chipping Sparrow 2
Field Sparrow 7
Vesper Sparrow 2 (Seen by Alan Bruner at Universal)
Savannah Sparrow 35
Grasshopper Sparrow 1 (Heard only at Arbuckle Road)
Song Sparrow 5
Swamp Sparrow 2
Dark-eyed Junco 2
Northern Cardinal 4
Red-winged Blackbird 68
Eastern Meadowlark 32
Rusty Blackbird 1
Common Grackle 75
Brown-headed Cowbird 14
American Goldfinch 1 (Dobbs Park)
House Sparrow 10

Many thanks to Alan Bruner and Peter Scott for leading this trip and to all of those that drove the distance on this very rainy morning.



We have six books from Princeton University Press this month. Two of these aren't new but are important because of our IAS trip to Cuba in 2012. They are, *Birds of the West Indies Field Guide* and *Birds of the West Indies Illustrated Checklist*. The new Books that have come out recently are, *Avian Architecture*, *Frogs and Toads of the World*, *The Private Life of Spiders*, and *Antarctic Wildlife, A Visitor's Guide*.

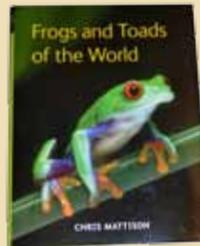
Princeton Field Guides, Birds of the West Indies, by Herbert Raffaele, James Wiley, Orlando Garrido, Allan Keith and Janis Raffaele includes all species recorded in the region and features 94 color plates with concise text on facing pages for quick reference and easy identification. Species accounts cover identification, voice status and habitat and range with color distribution maps. //

Princeton Illustrated Checklists, Birds of the West Indies, written and illustrated by Norman Arlott includes 80 color plates, featuring 550 species, concise text on field-identification characteristics and distribution maps. //

Both are good guides, though I favor the *Field Guide* over the *Checklist*. The *Field Guide* goes into greater detail and the range maps are conveniently placed on the page opposite the plate illustration. The *Checklist* places the range maps for each species further back in the book, grouped in their own section. This allows the maps to be significantly larger than the *Field Guide*. I don't think you can really go wrong with either book though. The *Field Guide* is slightly better organized with the voice, habitat, and plumage information noted with a bold heading within the species description. The *Checklist* has the same info but the headings aren't as easy to quickly pick up on because the different font tends to blend with the rest of the text.



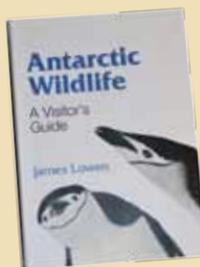
Avian Architecture, How Birds Design, Engineer & Build, by Peter Goodfellow, illustrates how birds around the world construct their nests and the many forms those nests can take. It has over 300 color images and covers over 100 species with illustrated descriptions of how the construction process takes place. It has interesting and insightful commentary, grouping the various nest types into categories such as scrape nests, aquatic nests, platform, nests, domed nests and just about any other nest type you can think of. It's a good read and a pleasure to thumb through. //



Frogs and Toads of the World, by Chris Mattison is a great book for the amphibian enthusiast in your house. It has many stunning photographs with detailed descriptions of each of the 49 unique frog families. It describes the remarkable diversity, shape and development of our non-feathered web footed friends. The photos and information are great but I don't consider it a must have. It's a good addition to anyone who appreciates frogs and toads. //



The Private Life of Spiders, by Paul Hillyard features spiders from a vast range of habitats around the world. It covers many things including spider behavior, anatomy, social organization and web construction. The strength of the book is in the photos. It's informative and and I enjoyed reading it. Once again I don't feel that this is a must have but it will be a welcome addition for anybody who likes those eight legged creatures. //



Antarctic Wildlife, A Visitor's Guide, by James Lowen is the book for all world travellers. It covers the wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula, Drake Passage and Beagle Channel. It features full-color photographs. It describes key identification features and gives tips on where to look. It includes an introduction to Antarctic environments and information on Antarctic cruising. I really like this book. The photos are great, it's well organized and has extensive info in a nice field guide sized book. I hope to one day have a chance to experience Antarctica and this will make a nice companion on the journey. //

Book Reviews

Save the Date

Date: July 23, 2011
Time: 10am - 11am
Location: Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary is sponsoring a rain barrel workshop! Join us on July 23, 2011 at 10 am to learn how to build your

own rain barrel. Everyone in attendance will walk away with their own 55 gallon rain barrel (supplies are included in the price)!

Cost: \$35.00 (includes everything)!

Registration: Registration is extremely limited and will open on June 20, 2011.

Go to www.indianaa Audubon.org or find the registration information printed edition of the Cardinal.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!
Amy Wilms (wilmsab@muohio.edu or 765-827-5109)



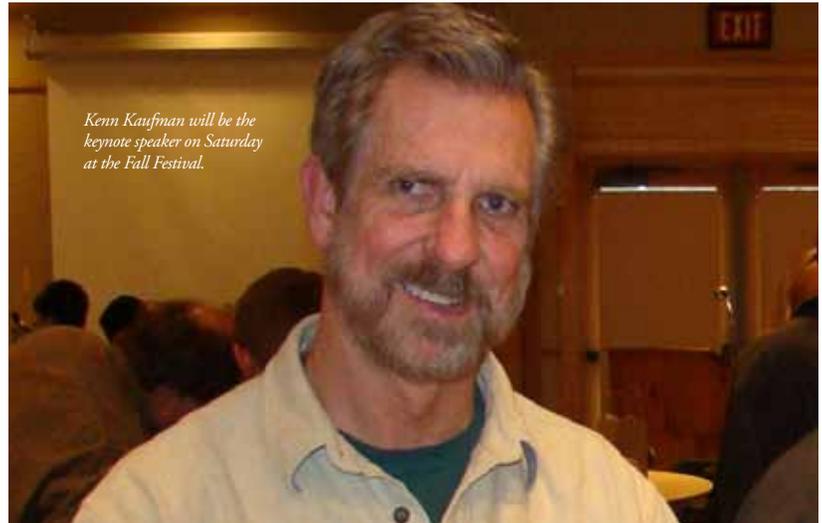
IAS RETURNS TO CUBA IN 2012

Indiana Audubon Society will once again visit the palm tree covered beaches of the Caribbean's largest island for a 12 day birding tour in early 2012. Join IAS Vice President Brad Bumgardner and renowned Cuban ornithologist Arturo Kirkconnel (co-author, Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba) on a journey to some of Cuba's most interesting national parks and natural areas. A superb team of Cuban naturalists will also work with us in the field as well. They will assist in the identification of the birds we observe, and provide a broad overview of Cuban natural history in the natural areas we visit.

The \$4,300.00 cost, per sharing, includes all accommodations, meals, guide service, most tips (guides, drivers, naturalists, wait and bell staff), airport/

hotel transfer, ground transfer, bottled water, some drinks, admission fees (itinerary only), licensing fees, program/management services, a full-time IAS leader, Cuban bilingual guide, full time bilingual Cuban ornithologist, additional naturalists, and a full-time driver. It's a once in a lifetime trip to a place where few Americans can legally go.

**For more information or to register please contact:
Brad Bumgardner
Indiana Audubon Society
(219) 916-6254
Bumgbj01@hotmail.com**



Ias Fall Festival 2011: Sept 30-Oct 2

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" from Sept 30 through Oct 2.

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!

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!

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 www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2435.htm or call 1-877-LODGES1.

Join us Saturday night for special keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman. Combine the great tours of the forested hills, wetlands, and prairies of Steuben County, it's sure to be a great time for all!

FIELD TRIP- Northern Cass County

Fall Migration, Saturday, September 10th 2011
Leaders: Landon Neumann and Rob Ripma

Please join the Indiana Audubon Society on September 10th for a field trip during the heart of fall migration in northern Cass County led by Indiana Young Birders Club member Landon Neumann. The trip will focus on fall migrants, especially warblers and other songbirds. The trip will include two of Cass County hotspots, the Berry Patch and France Park.

Please meet at the Logansport High School (1 Berry Lane, Logansport, IN) at 8:00 a.m. by the tennis courts (the courts are on the left side of the school). From there we will walk a short distance to the Berry Patch (the school's cross country course/outdoor education laboratory) to look for migrating cuckoos, vireos, warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Close up views may be possible. After the Berry Patch we will head back to the cars and carpool to France Park and bird around the park in search of more migrants, especially wetland

species. After leaving France Park, we will get back into our vehicles and drive behind the park and bird Georgetown Road to look for different species on and along the river. We will eat our picnic lunches along the river. After lunch we will head to Lake Cicott and some surrounding county roads to look for hawks and open country birds. We will return to the high school between 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Directions to the school: From the intersection of US 24 and US 35 on the southwest side of Logansport, continue west on US 24/35. Merge onto SR 435/East Main St. At the first intersection, turn right or north onto 18th St. In about one mile, turn right onto Jefferson St. Take Jefferson until it comes to a T-intersection. Turn right onto Sunset Drive. Take the next left onto Hopper St. Take the next left onto Berry Lane. The school will be on your right.

Please pack a picnic for lunch and bring two dollars for the France Park admission fee. Also, please wear clothes suitable for the weather that day. Any questions about the field trip can be directed to Landon Neumann at coryneumann@comcast.net or 574-753-0324 or to Rob Ripma at robert.ripma@nuttybirder.com.



Looking Back, *The IAS Spring Festival*

The IAS Spring Festival was held at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in Fayette County, Indiana. Unusually wet weather hampered the preparation of the grounds for the event, but the weather cooperated for the weekend itself by holding back the rain. The residual waters from the previous days did result in only one vehicle requiring a tow to get moving out of the campground.

The weekend was designed to stimulate family and young birder interests as well as provide the opportunity for birders to share wanderings on the property and local birding spots such as the Whitewater River and Brookville Reservoir. There were 102 species identified over the course of the weekend.

There were two wildlife programs where participants could experience birds of prey up close and personal. Mark Booth brought hawks, a falcon, and a black vulture to Brooks Hall on Friday night and entertained the audience with his whimsical story-telling and humor. Patti Reynolds from "Return to the Wild", a wildlife rehabilitation group in Nashville, IN, brought animal ambassadors to share with members at the Barricklow outdoor amphitheater Saturday afternoon. It is always a thrill to visit with these magnificent animals in such an intimate setting.

Early afternoon saw Annalies Sizelove from the Cope Environmental Center leading young birders in adaptation activities in and around the

large picnic shelter. The children learned about beak structure, foot design, and other adaptive elements that differ between human and bird species. They were also involved in the dissection of owl pellets.

Dr. Buskirk's presentation on Saturday afternoon was delayed briefly by the interest in the live animals at the amphitheater, but was well worth the wait. By researching historical documents, Dr. Buskirk generated in our minds the vast avifauna that populated the Whitewater Valley during early European settlement. The incredible numbers of individual species were staggering. The Passenger Pigeon flocks would darken the skies and they would snap limbs on trees due to the combined body masses of the birds. It was also interesting to note that species diversity has increased in the region due to habitat diversification, but that the overall bird population has decreased.

Sue Arnold shared with us some of her impressions of her trip to Cuba that was organized through IAS with Chuck Mills as its leader. As growing reports indicate, the protected habitats of that country yield ecological benefits demonstrated by bird diversity. Sue added photos of her own and of her travelling companions to generate a program that portrays Cuba as a desirable birding destination. It was openly voiced that the impending developments of Cuba as a United States tourist destination will hopefully not result in the destruction of the habitats that support endemic species.



The evening program for Saturday was wrapped up with the products of Allen King's instructional guidance that was provided earlier in the day. Allen shared with interested photographers a few of his words of wisdom regarding the subject composition and techniques he uses in his marvelous photography. His group was then instructed to canvas Mary Gray and submit a few photos that were to be shared after the evening program. Although Allen was not present for the show due to his not feeling well, those present were treated to some very creative and lovely images of the day.

Sunday morning was greeted with a second early morning bird walk lead by Rob Ripma, the IAS treasurer and renowned birder. Like Saturday's outing, coffee and light snacks were ready in Markle Barn and the groups headed out.

Chad Williams, IAS board member and Young Birders chair, also lead youngsters in two significant activities for the weekend. They erected bird houses around the perimeter of the three ponds in the main area in hopes of enticing bluebirds or tree swallows to nest in them. Chad used the newly acquired binoculars that IAS now owns for instructional purposes by taking his entourage on a bird walk.

The final official event of the weekend was a wildflower walk lead by Betsy Wilson. While I was not able to attend this event (this was car towing and lunch cooking time for me) I was assured that Betsy's expertise was shared and augmented by those who joined in for discussion and appreciation of the emerging plant life on the forest floor at Mary Gray.

Weekend festivals held at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary are wonderful events. As resident managers, Amy and I, along with Trevor Abernathy, strive to prepare the Society's grounds and buildings so that they greet the membership and guests with the cornucopia of beauty that the surroundings offer. One of the most significant benefits of being at Mary Gray aside from the appreciation of the property itself, but the nature of the humans that come to visit and appreciate the space. We casually state that 99% of the people that come here are truly interested in the role humans play as a part of nature rather than as the dominators of nature. As another IAS Festival draws to a close I am reminded of this thought and eagerly anticipate many more festivals in our future.

Carl Wilms



This cute little guy was from our recent trip. He was one of the many owls at BIRDSACRE, Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, in Ellsworth, Maine. With a nice collection of eggs, bird skins and 200 acres to roam, it's a nice stop if you're in the area. www.birdsacre.com

Scott Arvin, Cardinal Editor



Return Service Requested

www.indianaquodubon.org

3499 S. Bird Sanctuary Rd.
Connersville, IN 47331

The Cardinal

