



Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

# CARDINAL

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## Upcoming Events

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

**Spring Birding Festival**  
May 4-6, 2012

**Fall Birding Festival in  
Brown County State Park**  
Oct. 5-7, 2012

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

photo by Tole Ripma

# The Fall Festival at Pokagon State Park

by Brad Bumgardner, Vice President



Potawatomi Inn



Joel Greenberg



Kenn Kaufman



Foster Brown and Mark Szabo



Kimberly Kaufman



Brad leads the morning bird walk



Sarah Siss and Crab Williams work on their shirts for Kenn Kaufman



Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman are presented with their shirts by Sarah Williams, Scarlet, Cypress, Severin Avin and Sarah Siss

Sweeping October gales, not far from winter's mind, welcomed birders to the 2011 IAS Fall Festival at Pokagon State Park, Sept 30-Oct 2, 2011. The huge weather system brought a much needed north wind for departing birds, but left birders in huddled masses, with few feathers to point a pair of binoculars towards. Despite all of this, the weekend was hailed as a success for Indiana Audubon Society and the 95 IAS members who met to network, learn something new, and perhaps bird a new location.

The weekend was kicked off with some lighthearted entertainment by the great musical duo of Foster Brown and Mark Szabo. Foster and Mark's Nature Theater showcased their love and passion for environmental themed music and sing-alongs. The entire group was clapping to their professional tones and harmonics. Nature Theater was great for birders young and old.

Saturday brought another cold and dreary start. But birders were undaunted, showing up to bird the local haunts of Steuben County, including the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area, Pokagon State Park, and even some cold kayaking near the Gene Stratton Porter State Historic Site. While birds were few, some clear highlights emerged, ranging from Gallinules, Sandhill Cranes, Pileated Woodpeckers, and some close up looks at a flock of Horned Grebes on Lake James.

A parade of diverse and extraordinary birding presentations best summarize the afternoon program slate on Saturday. From birds and murder to saving birds with radar, the subjects ranged in topic and had an appeal for each type of birder. Kimberly Kaufman added a great presentation on what makes young birders clubs thrive. Her personality and wit

kept the audience enthralled and bursting with new ideas for our own Indiana club.

A great service to the IAS was provided by the great staff and hospitality at the Potawatomi Inn. The banquet staff helped to serve a wonderfully prepared meal which received numerous high marks. The dessert, a wonderful apple crisp and ice cream, was a great topping to it all. A second dessert was immediately served when our keynote speaker, Kenn Kaufman, took center stage in a highly motivating presentation on the thrill of getting outside to discover something new, whether feathered or not.



Brad leads the morning bird walk



Eastern Massasagwa at the nature center

If they had gone un-noticed during the weekend, Indiana Audubon's young birders made their presence known loud and clear when they stood up to present the Kaufmans with their very own hand painted t-shirts and young birder autographed field guide. It was a truly memorable night for so many involved in the

festival. You could hear the ideas being formed that night that will surely propel the Indiana Young Birders Club well into 2012 and beyond.

On Sunday, Mother Nature brought back the sunlight, but not without offering a bite to the air that allowed roof tops and pumpkins to sparkle with the season's first northern frost. Like Saturday, the birds were few, but company great, as folks that meet but once a year were able to catch up, weave tall tales, and bask in the early fall at Pokagon. That is... until the ospreys flew over everyone's head, down at Lake James.

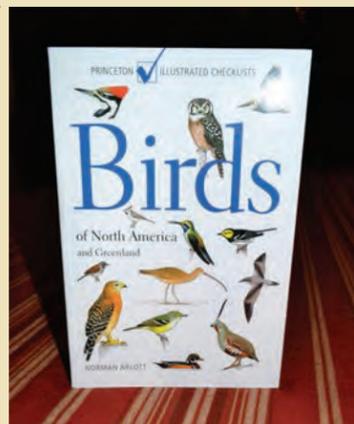
Kenn Kaufman quietly asked our local guide, Fred Wooley, "does that happen often?"

Fred quipped back, "Never!"

Other birders feasted on ripe paw paws and enjoyed some birding history at the nearby Wing Haven Nature Preserve. A quiet morning on the serene Little Gention Lake was calming, as fog slowly lifted from the glass-like surface. Yellow-rumped Warblers chipped from the shoreline willows and migrating blue jays took advantage of the early morning calm.

As Sunday came to a close, birders were reluctant to leave, having just experienced a glimpse of what Pokagon has to offer. Many swore they'd be back to experience three more seasons of fun. We hope you come back too, but we'll be busy setting our aim towards the hills of brown in the fall of 2012. Mark your calendars for **October 5-7, 2012** at the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park! We'll hopefully see you before that at the **Spring Festival on May 4-6.**

Keep an eye out for events and field trips at [indianaaudubon.org](http://indianaaudubon.org).



*Princeton Illustrated Checklists, Birds of North America and Greenland* by Norman Arlott

below is the description from the from Princeton site

The Nearctic region, which spans most of North America, including Canada and Greenland, is home to an incredibly rich diversity of birdlife. This illustrated guide covers more than 900 bird species yet is succinct, compact, and easy to use, making it the essential companion for birders and travelers alike.

*Birds of North America and Greenland* features 102 stunning color plates that depict every species and every type of plumage in males, females, and juveniles. Concise species accounts describe key identification features, with information on habitat, songs, and calls. This field-ready guide also includes color distribution maps.

- Covers more than 900 bird species found in the Nearctic region
  - Features 102 stunning color plates that depict every species
  - Includes concise species accounts and color distribution maps
- Succinct, compact, and easy to use

Norman Arlott is one of the world's leading bird artists. His books include *Birds of the West Indies* and the two-volume *Birds of Europe, Russia, China, and Japan* (all Princeton).



## Landon Neumann, IAS Scholarship Recipient

Last fall, I was fortunate to be awarded an IAS scholarship to go to an American Birding Association (ABA) camp in Colorado this summer. Here's a short report of my amazing experience.

I flew into Colorado Springs around 1:00 p.m. (local time). When I got there most of the other campers were already there waiting for the last few people to arrive. After about an hour, all of us who had arrived headed to Catamount Institute's mountain campus in Woodland Park (about an hour from Colorado Springs) which is where we called home for the week. After getting settled in, we birded around the property. The highlight was the discovery of an active Williamson's Sapsucker nest.

The next day we left for the area where a fire called the Hayman Fire burned a large amount of forest. We learned about the effects of fires on birds and conducted a Bird Breeding Atlas in part of the burn area. We birded a little in the burn before actually getting to the block area. The best birds we found were a few Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks. We were able to confirm breeding Western Bluebird and Dark Eyed Junco. Other nice birds that we weren't able to confirm were Hammond's Flycatcher and Pygmy Nuthatch. After we atlasted for awhile, we headed back to camp where we had a compass and orienteering lesson with a Catamount worker. That evening, we had a presentation about birding by ear with Alison Kondler.

We birded Phantom Canyon the next day where had great looks at Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, and Virginia's Warbler. Later in the day, we went to Pueblo Nature and Raptor Center where we had a tour of the facility, and while in that area were able to get Black-chinned Hummingbird and Canyon Towhee. We also got a tour of a local bird

artist's studio. That night we had dinner with the ABA staff and had a career panel discussion.

The following morning we birded with Birding magazine editor Ted Floyd who showed us around the San Luis Valley. Our first stop was a Juniper forest where we had Black-throated Gray Warbler. On the way to our next stop, we had a flock of sixty-two Pinyon Jays in a trailer park. Then we proceeded to a huge wetland where we had a late Snow Goose, many American Bitterns, White-faced Ibis, and a family of Great Horned Owls. We continued onto a scrub desert where we were treated with Sage Thrasher and Sage Sparrow, plus a neat looking dust devil. To end our day, we stopped by a reservoir where we had Clark's Grebe. That night we ate out and after dinner were rewarded with two American Dippers, close to where we ate.

After a previously exhausting day we were able to sleep in, but a few friends of mine wanted to bird instead of sleep so we birded the Catamount property where we spotted a Black Bear taking a bath in a pond. (Everyone else was jealous of our find). Later that day, we birded with Jeff Gordon (ABA President) around some of Colorado Springs birding hotspots. The highlights were many White-throated Swifts and a great view of a Lewis's Woodpecker. For lunch, we stopped by the ABA office and ate lunch with the staff where we saw the very first edition of Birding magazine. We then had a native tribal Indian talk with one of the Catamount workers, and that night we went owling without much success.

The next day we left early again because we were going to high elevation to look for White-tailed Ptarmigan and Brown-capped Rosy-Finch with Nikon Prostaffer Mike Freiberg. On our way to the spot to look for these birds, we were able to get great looks at Wilson's Warbler and Fox Sparrow.

Even though it was the first week of July, there was still some snow on the ground. After about an hour and a half with no luck finding either of our target birds, trouble started to appear over the mountain. A thunderstorm was coming towards us, but we were too busy looking for Ptarmigan and Rosy-Finch to be worried much. Finally after another half hour, we found Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, but by then it had started to sprinkle, and our counselors were getting worried. The storm blew in as we started back to the van. First it started pouring sideways, and then it started to hail sideways, too. By the end of the storm, we all had welts on our arms from the hail, and the ground was covered with hail. For the rest of the day we dodged rain, but we did get nice selection of water birds at a reservoir. That night we had a sketching workshop with a Catamount worker.

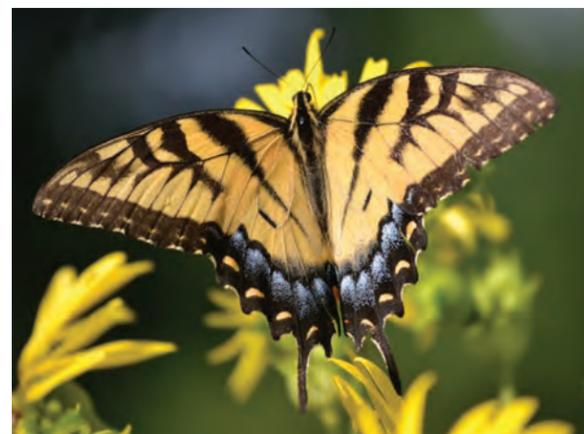
On our final full day we birded Chico Basin with Bill Mayard (former Winging It editor) to look for desert birds. The highlights that morning were Scaled Quail, Wilson's Phalarope, Barn Owl, close-up view of Common Nighthawks, and Cassin's Sparrow. That afternoon, we went with a group of researchers near camp to see an active Flammulated Owl nest and to learn more about the owls there.

The next day I flew home around noon, but we were able to bird for about an hour at a nearby reservoir in Colorado Springs. The highlight was two Common Loons that were probably summering there.

I would like to thank the IAS for giving me the scholarship to go to this camp. I had an awesome time, made a lot of new friends, and had 34 lifers. I would highly recommend any Indiana young birder take advantage of IAS's great scholarship program to go to an ABA camp.

### IAS review notes

The guide is well done and the illustrations are very good. My only criticism would be that the range maps are on the right side of the left page so they are difficult to see since they are so close to the binding. !!!



## Cass County field trip report

by Landon Neumann

On September 10, Rob Ripma and I led an Indiana Audubon Society field trip in Cass County. We began the trip at the Berry Patch (Logansport High School's outdoor education laboratory and cross-country course). We had a good amount of warblers there, but many were left unidentified because most of them were flying over our heads and the foggy morning made it impossible to see where they landed. We were however, able to get eight species of warblers.

Our next stop was France Park and Georgetown Road. France Park proved to be filled with migrants, except warblers. We were able to get six of the seven species of vireos that inhabit Indiana and they were all in the same tree! We also had a nice look at a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Georgetown Road was

rather slow, but we had a nice collection of butterflies.

After Georgetown Road we headed to Lake Cicott where we had nothing. After that we headed to two of Cass County's best shorebirds spots. At one of them we were able to find a nice collection of shorebirds. The next spot proved to be birdless. For the last stop of the day we headed to the largest marsh in the county. We didn't have much there, but we did have a few Pied-billed Grebes. This species nests only at the local marsh making it a good summer bird for the county.

Overall we had a nice variety of species. We did fairly well on all migrants other than warblers. It was a great day of birding.



*On Saturday, October 1st, Terry Walsh first sighted this Long-tailed Jaeger (LTJA) at Eagle Creek Reservoir. The LTJA range and habitat is usually offshore and very rarely found inland. Extended views of a LTJA in Indiana is possibly a once in a lifetime chance. Unfortunately, my personal and work schedule would not allow a visit to the reservoir until the following Thursday. I could only hope the LTJA would still be there at that time. For the next five days I carefully read the details of each LTJA post, talked to other birders and planned how to best photograph the bird.*

## Long-tailed Jaeger by Marty Jones



From previous Lake Michigan jaeger experiences, I knew how important the weather would be in determining whether the Marion County LTJA would stay in place. Indeed, the weather pattern for central Indiana the first week was clear, calm and warm. No major cold fronts, wind shifts, rain or even clouds were forecasted. I needed all the help I could get from mother-nature and she was very cooperative.

Expecting that the LTJA would be difficult to photograph from shore, I made plans the night before the trip to take the kayak along, just in case. When I arrived at the reservoir I was able to quickly locate the LTJA 200 meters out in the middle of the reservoir. The water surface was as smooth as glass and the lighting was perfect. I immediately went to plan B by paddling my kayak out into the reservoir.

With the many boaters on the reservoir on this beautiful day, I did not want to add further stress to the LTJA by paddling too close. I made my way to the middle of the reservoir where I had seen the LTJA earlier. The LTJA had other ideas and was now perched on a buoy far in the distance near the dam. For nearly an hour I stayed in place and enjoyed Laughing Gulls pacing back and forth.

Suddenly, the LTJA was off the buoy chasing a Belted Kingfisher. Perhaps I have the only photograph, albeit blurry, in existence of a LTJA chasing a Kingfisher? The LTJA chased the Kingfisher the entire distance of the reservoir, east to west. Once arriving to the wooded shoreline the LTJA then turned and began flying straight toward me. I couldn't believe it when the LTJA flew directly overhead and landed just 30 meters to the east.

For 90 minutes the LTJA flew short distances all around my kayak. The LTJA often approached within 10 to 25 meters of the kayak! I watched him catch fish, insects, swim, rest, and preen. The most amazing experience was watching him fly, both landing and taking off facing me. I'm certain he enjoyed my company while I was there. Eventually it was time for me to leave the LTJA and return to reality. I took one last look at the LTJA and paddled back to shore.

The weather finally did change the following weekend and with it the LTJA continued its journey. The time and experience I had photographing this rarity is one that will forever live on in my memory.



I thought I would sign off on this issue by saying goodbye to these little guys. We'll see you in spring!

