

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society CARDINAL

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Upcoming Events

**Spring Fling of Fabulous
Flowers and Beautiful Birds**
April 24, 9:30 a.m.

Spring Birding Festival
Friday, April 30-Sunday May 2

Trip to Magee Marsh
May 21, 8:00 a.m.

For more information, go
to IndianaAudubon.org



photos by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.

IAS Webmaster Position Open

The Indiana Audubon Society (IAS) is seeking a member interested in assisting the society in the upkeep and maintenance of the www.indianaudubon.org website. This person replaces the former webmaster, Dick Patterson. The webmaster is in charge of monitoring, improving, and updating content on the Indiana Audubon Society website. The IAS webmaster works closely with the IAS Executive Committee to ensure information is updated in a timely manner. Any candidates should have some technical expertise in web design, html interfacing, and other various computer programs. A small stipend is provided for this position. Any interested IAS members should **contact IAS President, Amy Wilms, at wilmsab@muohio.edu**.

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Workday

Join us at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary on April 17, 2010 for a workday to prepare for the Spring Festival. We'll be checking trails and cleaning Brooks Hall, among other things, so all skill levels are welcome! We'll start the morning about 9 am and work until noon. Following the workday, the Sanctuary Committee will meet (everyone is welcome). Please bring your own lunch.

**If you have questions about
the day, feel free to contact
Carl Wilms
wilmsce@muohio.edu
765-827-5109
or Bill Cummings
bc11235@gmail.com.**

Spring Festival at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

April 30, May 1-2, 2010

The Spring Birding Festival promises to delight all audiences this year! Please mark your calendars now and start picking out your camping spot because spring is a comin' and the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary will be ready for you. Everyone will have plenty of time to bird watch, dig in the soil, laugh, and even learn about environmental law while enjoying the 700 acres of peaceful surroundings. To top this off, we'll start out by learning about the owls of Indiana, learn to plant food crops for our feathered friends, and enjoy an outstanding presentation about an endangered species, the Crawfish frog.

This time of year is special at the Sanctuary and the warblers will be singing their songs as you arrive. The Sanctuary Committee has worked hard at putting this program together and we hope you'll join us for a great event!

For more information about the Spring Festival, go to www.indianaaudubon.org and look under "Activities". Registration can be completed online this year or you can download the form from our website.

Friday, April 30, 2010

6:00pm: Board Meeting
8:00-10:00pm: Screech! Where Do They Live and How Do We Know?
Presenter: Ross Britain, National Audubon Society

Ross Britain will be presenting information on the natural history of the owls of Indiana and how to survey for their presence in our Hoosier habitats. Ross will also give a demonstration of banding techniques used to study owl population ecology by attempting to capture Eastern Screech Owls immediately after the presentation.

Ross Brittain has a Masters Degree in Public Affairs and PhD in Environmental Science from Indiana University, where he studied avian food webs in coastal Georgia and modeled habitat loss due to sea level rise and urban development. Prior to graduate school, he owned the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Bloomington, Indiana for 7 years. Ross is probably best known in the state for coordinating a team of researchers to study Northern Saw-whet Owls migrating through Indiana and has published two articles on their data. Ross currently works as the Indiana Director of Bird Conservation for the National Audubon Society and holds his office in the Center for Earth and Environmental Science at IUPUI. Ross lives in Greenwood with his wife, Erin, and son, Micah.

Saturday, May 1, 2010
Sunrise: Birding with Rob
Leader: Rob Ripma

Rob will be leading the early morning bird hikes during the Spring Festival on the

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary property.

Rob is the current Treasurer of the Indiana Audubon Society and has been birding for many years. Since graduation from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business in 2008, he has created a fast-growing bird blog reaching more than 7,700 unique visitors from 99 countries. He also runs an associated birding website and has recently started photographing birds.

As a life-long resident of Indiana, Rob is very knowledgeable of all regularly occurring Midwest birds both by sight and sound. His favorite birding locations in the state include Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis and Goose Pond FWA in southwest Indiana. He participates in annual Spring and Christmas bird counts in Hamilton County and at Goose Pond and has led trips to both Eagle Creek and Goose Pond for both amateur and experienced birders. Outside of Indiana, his favorite birding locations are the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, southeast Arizona, and southern Florida.

When not birding, Rob works at Wild Birds Unlimited in Carmel. He and his wife Stephanie currently live in Carmel, Indiana.

8:00-9:00am: Breakfast with the Kiwanis

Breakfast will once again be served by the Kiwanis! Hot food and great company is guaranteed. Please be sure to help support the Kiwanis by purchasing meal tickets. Breakfast is \$6.00 per person.

9:00-10:30am: Planting and Maintaining Food and Cover Crops to Attract Wildlife
Leader: Brian Stern

Planting and Maintaining Food and Cover Crops to Attract Wildlife" is the topic for this exciting program. Brian works in this area on a daily basis with his customers. Participants will learn about how to take ordinary garden tools and incorporate cover crops and green manures into the home vegetable garden and landscape while attracting Birds, Bees and Butterflies. Other benefits are the improvement of garden soil, attracting beneficial insects and improving the earthworm population.

Brian and his wife Susan own and operate Stern's Herbs 'N' Bloom LLC in Winchester Indiana. They grow Herbs, Native Wildflowers and Native Prairie Grasses for retail sale. In addition, they also grow specialty cut flowers, fresh and dried for floral sales.

9:00-11:30am: Let's Go Diggin' with Allen!
Leader: Allen King

Join Allen as he continues the archaeological dig at the site of the Yellow Brick House. Since this workshop began, about 600 artifacts have been found so far which are helping us determine how the inhabitants of the house lived. Virgin soil hasn't been reached

in the pits yet and participants may find some Indian things, too. Come prepared to kneel down and move dirt with a trowel. Equipment will be provided. Young people are welcome. They bend more readily.

Allen King became interested in investigating the past through Elderhostel programs and later with the U.S. Forest Service. His most recent dig was not productive. The site in Minnesota did not live up to the findings in the test pits.

10:30-11:15am: Young birders: Camp fire basics for kids: environment, how to make a good one, safety.
Leader: Bill Cummings and his kids

Bill Cummings earns his daily bread by burning kerosene inside jet engines for Rolls-Royce in Indianapolis. The real test of a combustion engineer, though, is building a one-match fire in the woods. This live demo will be hosted by Bill and his kids, Will, Joe, Mark, and Sarah, all of whom have camped out at Mary Gray before turning age 1. A recent birthday bonfire provided Joe an opportunity to demonstrate the basic needs of a fire - fuel, oxygen, and good mixing of the two - and these principles will be highlighted. We will also cover safety aspects and some environmental impacts of wood and fire.

11:30am-Noon: Shuttles out to the old location of the Girl Scout camp

12:00-1:00pm: Lunch of grilled hot dogs and brats in the old Girl Scout building. Master chefs provided from the sanctuary committee. (Lunch is provided at no cost)

1:30-2:00pm: Shuttles back to Brooks Hall. Those who prefer can walk back.

2:30-4:00pm: A House is a Home
Leader: Chad Williams

Young Birders! Did you know that man-made bird boxes helped save the Eastern Bluebird? Meet the Indiana Young Birders Club at the red barn to help assemble and then install some Eastern Bluebird boxes on the Mary Gray property to continue to help this gorgeous blue insect eating bird.

Chad developed his interest in birds when he was in the 5th grade from a man named Clayton Wiggins who lived down the road. A friend told him that Clayton banded birds and Chad should go talk with him. Before he knew it, Chad was making regular visits to Clayton's house to watch him band birds and watch his feeders from his breakfast table. The interest stuck and now Chad's proud to consider himself an "official Birder"! Chad is an IAS Board Member and chairs the Indiana Young Birders Club of which he helped start!

3:00-4:00pm: The Fish that Stopped an Interstate: Exploring the Endangered Species Act
Presenter: Nick Gahl

Nick holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence (cum laude) from Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington, and served on the executive committee of the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies. He began his career with the firm Steward & Irwin in 2007, and he has welcomed the hands-on experience in federal and state environmental litigation, compliance permitting, and various other environmental matters ever since.

Prior to starting at Stewart & Irwin, Nick worked in the Behavioral Science Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Quantico, Virginia. This opportunity arose after graduating magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts in both Psychology and German. During such time, Nick studied abroad in Innsbruck, Austria and became an avid snowboarder.

Outside work, Nick enjoys maintaining his competitive spirit by participating in soccer and flag-football leagues and is a member of the Indiana Audubon Society and Sanctuary Committee member.

4:00-5:00pm: The Shorebirders Twilight Zone & Freudian Birds
Presenters: Alan Bruner and Kathy Feldman

Join Alan Bruner and Kathy Feldman for two light-hearted skits! The Shorebirders Twilight Zone is a comical look at the confusion birders often have when identifying shorebirds. The skit will take you through a fictional day of birding by a "rookie" and a double-talking expert. The second skit, Freudian Birds, looks at rare bird species and birding behavior discovered through editorial errors in publications. This is a chance to poke fun at our mental slips and editorial skills. This will be an interactive presentation with audience participation.

Kathy Feldman lives in Indianapolis, IN, Started birding in 2001 and immediately became an addict, spending most of her vacation time in birding hot spots. IAS member and a former board member and education committee chair of Amos W. Butler Audubon Society, organizing several educational workshops during that time. Showed horses many years and is still an Indiana 4-H Horse and Pony judge in saddle seat, hunt seat and western/stock seat. Owned three Whippets since 1977, including two champions with one ranked number one in North America but best of all, wonderful family members. Employed as a Certified Employee Benefits Specialist for an actuarial/401(k) firm.

Alan Bruner lives in Marshall Indiana and is employed at Metal Forming Industries as a Nickel Plater and Environmental Analyst. He is a graduate of Indiana State University with degrees in Chemistry and Life Science. Alan has been a member of IAS for over 35 years

servng at one time or another in all officer positions except Treasurer. He is the current IAS Quarterly Editor and Field Trip Chair. Alan also maintains the Indiana Bird Report Archives and has written numerous bird-related articles.

Indiana Audubon Society Membership Meeting will follow Kathy and Alan's presentation

6:00-7:00pm: Dinner served by Gina Pflum & Friends (\$7.00 per person)

7:30pm: Awards: The Earl Brooks Award is given in May for the advancement of conservation of natural resources in Indiana.

8:00-9:30pm: The Secret Life of Crawfish Frogs: An Indiana State Endangered Species
Presenter: Mike Lannoo

Mike is Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine and Chair of the IU School of Medicine Academic Standards Committee. He has authored numerous papers on antarctic fish, salamanders, malformed frogs, and frog conservation. His published books include works on the Natural History of the Okoboji Wetlands in northwest Iowa, a thorough review of malformed frogs with an unprecedented use of x-rays of frog skeletons, and a beautiful amphibian atlas of the United States. He speaks frequently to a variety of audiences, including an appearance about frogs on National Public Radio a few years back. He set up and oversaw a study of cricket frogs at Mary Gray in the 1990s and continues to offer guidance on habitat management of the sanctuary. In 2001 Mike was awarded the prestigious Parker/Gentry Award for Conservation Biology from The Chicago Field Museum of Natural History for "efforts which are distinctive and courageous and have had a significant impact on preserving the world's natural heritage, and whose actions and approaches can serve as a model to others."

Mike is also a keen pursuer of prairie establishment and restoration in properties in both Indiana and Wisconsin. He, his wife, Sue, and son, Pete, lived until 2005 on a 5-acre prairie he established outside of Muncie and now live in suburban Terre Haute.

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Sunrise - 10:00am: Birding with Rob
Leader: Rob Ripma

8:00 - 9:00am: Breakfast will once again be served by the Kiwanis! Hot food and great company is guaranteed. Please be sure to help support the Kiwanis by purchasing meal tickets. Breakfast is \$6.00 per person.

9:00-11:00am: Geology of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Presentation followed by field trip.
Leader: Jack Berninger

Jack has been working on a project about the geology of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. He notes

that there is an interesting geologic deposit in the creek on the property and will talk about his discoveries. After the short presentation, be prepared to hike the property to better understand the geology of Mary Gray.

Jack has been leading hikes and giving presentations at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary for several years. Past talks have included the ferns of Mary Gray of which he wrote a walking guide and trail descriptions and the Dinosaurs of Mary Gray that discussed the latest discoveries to support the theory that birds really are dinosaurs. In addition, he leads a great spring hike each year at Brookville Lake. Jack and Elaine, his wife, are often seen hiking the trails at Mary Gray enjoying sharing their expertise.

9:00-11:30am: Archeological dig, continued
Leader: Allen King

10:30-11:30am: Beekeeping
Leader: To Be announced

Noon: Lunch served by the Pflums and Friends. Cost is \$6.00 per person. We look forward to seeing you!

Driving Directions
Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary
3499 S Bird Sanctuary Road
Connersville, IN 47331

From Indianapolis using I-70

Take I-70 east from Indianapolis and exit south at Exit 137 onto SR 1. Follow the signs on the south side of Connersville to SR 121. Head south on SR 121 for approximately 3.5 miles to CR 350 S, which will be on your right just after a bridge. Turn right (west) onto CR 350 S. Drive approximately 3 miles, where you will come to a 90° turn. The gravel road directly in front of you is the beautiful Sanctuary entrance.

From Indianapolis using SR 52 and SR 44

Take Highway 52 from Indianapolis to Rushville, where you will want to catch SR 44. Drive east on SR 44 until to CR 525 W in Fayette County, which is approximately 3.5 miles from the Fayette/Rush County line. Turn right(south) on CR 525 W for drive for 0.7 mile. Turn left (east) onto CR 150 S and drive 0.7 mile. At the next intersection, turn right (south) on the winding Bird Sanctuary Road. In 1.2 miles you will come to a "T" intersection. Turn right into the beautiful Sanctuary entrance road.

Hotel Accommodations
The Woodridge Inn
3700 Western Ave.
Connersville, IN 47331
765-825-4800
Fax: 765-825-6035
Website: <http://woodridgeinn.com/index.html>
thewoodridgeinn@gmail.com

Goose Pond Field Trip - 26 June 2010

Summer 2009 at Goose Pond south of Linton in Greene Co. may have been the most exciting summer of birding ever in Indiana. The restored wetlands and grasslands of the 8000-acre area produced a plethora of rare bird species never before seen in one place and established record high counts for many of them. The list includes both Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, possible Mottled Ducks, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, up to 16 White Ibis, a summering flock of Am. White Pelicans, Least Tern, Marbled Godwit, and the "famous" Roseate Spoonbill. And this does not include the "usual" American and Least Bitterns, Snowy Egrets, King Rails, Black-necked Stilts, Blue Grosbeaks, and Henslow's Sparrows that can be expected.

What will Goose Pond hold for the summer of 2010? On 26 June 2010 you can find out when the Indiana Audubon Society sponsors a field trip there under the expert leadership of Lee Sterrenburg who has studied the birds there as thoroughly as humanly possible. We will meet at the DNR barn on St. Rd. 59 about 2.3 miles south of Linton at 7:00 a.m. St. Rd. 59 curves ninety degrees to the west before curving ninety degrees to the south and the DNR barn is located on the south side of the road between the two curves.

It is highly recommended that participants stop in the town of Linton and take advantage of restroom facilities prior to meeting at the barn as facilities are very limited at the Goose Pond property (McDonald's on Hwy 54 on east side of Linton is a good choice for facilities and coffee). Participants should also bring footwear (boots) appropriate for wet and/or muddy conditions (this is a wetland area).

This trip is designed as an all-day trip, but you may depart at any time. You may bring a sack lunch or make the short trip into the town of Linton



photos by Marty Jones

for lunch. Lodging is available at the Park Inn in Linton (812-847-8725) and it is suggested you reserve a room as soon as possible. Camping is also available in the Green-Sullivan St. Forest south of Dugger.

Goose Pond has become one of the premier birding hotspots in the mid-west and the list of birds mentioned above just scratches the surface of possibilities. We hope you can join us for an exciting day of birding.

The trip is free to IAS members and \$15/person for non-members (IAS membership is not the same as National Aud. membership). If you have any questions please contact me at abbird@att.net, 765-562-2741, or 765-597-2459.

Alan W. Bruner
IAS Field Trip Chair

I just wanted to let you know how much my husband and I enjoyed our Prairie Chicken field trip with Alan Bruner last Friday. I refer to it as a real "Splendor in the Grass." We've never done anything like that before and have been blabbing about ever since. The IDNR were very helpful and pleasant to work with and took time to answer all of questions. Alan led us through the country roads and fields in search of other birds and we saw many. Four loggerhead shrikes in still life and motion were another first for me and Walt. Alan took time to enlighten us on facts and observations that only an experienced birder can offer. He is also very patient! I'm looking forward to the next trip to Magee Marsh. Keep up the good work!

Regards,
Jean Starick
New IAS Member

The Cardinal
3499 S. Bird Sanctuary Rd.
Connersville, IN 47331



www.indianaaudubon.org

Return Service Requested