

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

February 2010 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 40, No. 1 | ISSN 0162-8186

It may seem a world away to think of wildflowers and migrating birds when we're under a foot of snow and icicles aim their daggers down from many a roof, but the spring festival at Mary Gray will be upon us in just a couple of months. This year the meeting comes early. The dates are Friday, April 30th, through Sunday, May 2nd. As always, the days will begin with walks through the sanctuary in search of the colors and melodies of the warblers, thrushes, and other migrants. We are also expecting some wonderful presentations on wildlife, an archeology dig, demonstrations on planting for wildlife habitat, owl banding, the geology of Mary Gray, young birders programs on bluebirds and campfires, and more. Lunch on Saturday will be a visit to the girl scout camp, a remote and beautiful spot rarely visited. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful weekend in May!

Bill Cummings

Upcoming Events

Prairie Chicken Field Trip
March 26, 6:30 a.m.

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



photo by Dr. Delano Arvin

MAGEE MARSH FIELD TRIP 21-24 May 2010

In 2002, the Indiana Audubon Society went to "Crane Creek" which is now known as Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on the southern shore of Lake Erie and came back with 156 species of birds, including 30 species of warblers – dozens of Black-throated Blue and Wilson's, and multiple Mourning and Connecticut, as well as Cape May, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, Canada, and Chestnut-sided practically "stepping on our toes". A super bonus was Ohio's first, and only, Garganey.

In 2004, the IAS returned with "only 151 species" including 27 species of warblers (including nearly 100 Bay-breasted), American White Pelican, Willet, more than 10,000 Dunlin, and a bonus Brown Pelican at Eagle Creek Reservoir on our way home.

This area has become the premier neotropic migrant hotspot in the Midwest, if not the entire country. The famous boardwalk provides one of those experiences no birder should go without. It is not every day that you practically have to

kick warblers out of the way. On top of this are extensive marshes and wetlands nearby that offer a variety waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders.

What will 2010 hold for IAS as we sponsor a return trip from May 21-24? We will use Friday and Monday primarily as travel days. This will give us at least one afternoon, two full days, and another morning to bird Magee Marsh and surrounding hotspots. Rob Ripma and Alan Bruner will be heading up arrangements for the trip. Please contact Rob for information on lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved at a local hotel, and IAS members will be given priority on lodging until April 15th.

Information about Magee Marsh can be found at: <http://www.friendsofmageemarsh.org/birding.php>

More information about birding in Northwest Ohio can be found at:

<http://www.bsbo.org/birding/default.htm>

Some may wish to travel on their own and join us at the boardwalk, while others may wish to

carpool. We will make arrangements to carpool from Indianapolis on Friday morning.

Non-members are welcome to join us at \$30/ person for the four days.

Please let us know if you:

- A. Plan to join us.
- B. Wish to reserve a motel room. (We will give you more information about the hotel at that point.)
- C. Would be interested in group dinners
- D. Wish to carpool from Indianapolis on Friday morning.

We hope you can join us. You may contact us as follows for reservations or inquiries:

Alan Bruner
765-597-2459
(cell) 765-562-2741
abbird@att.net

Rob Ripma
317-748-4140
robripma@yahoo.com

Eagles Put on a Show as If They Knew They Were Stars!

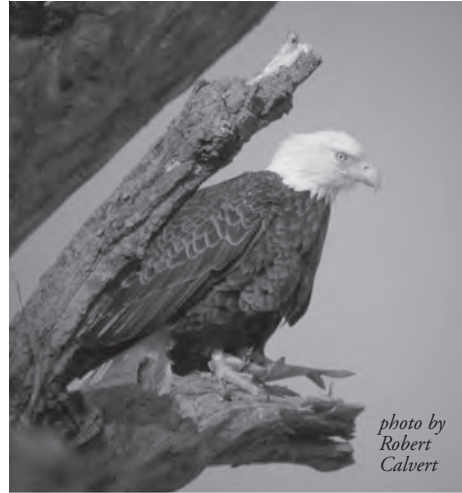


photo by Robert Calvert

A group of anxious birders, including Robert & Stacey Calvert, Richard and Christine Pankop, Frank, Mary and Susan Williams, Mike Hannum, Denise Weltzin, Anne Wermer, Donna Gore, Mary Ann Layman, Susan Schaeerre, and Evelyn Schwein, met at sunrise at the West Union bridge in west-central Indiana 30 January 2010 to begin the twelfth annual Indiana Audubon Society Eagle Field Trip.

Anticipation turned to elation as the first Bald Eagle passed over before the trip leader finished his introductory spiel to the group. Within the next half-hour another 20 birds passed by en-route to the Wabash River. Although this was well below our 40+ average, who can complain about seeing 21 Bald Eagles in thirty minutes! To add to the entertainment, a flock of Wild Turkeys flew over Sugar Creek and began feeding in a field while one of the males tried out his courting maneuvers.

Fifteen participants caravanned along the Tow Path Road where a large flock of Canada Geese were waiting along with about 30 Trumpeter Swans. Heading through Lodi a Mute Swan and four Greater White-fronted Geese were

encountered as an immature Bald Eagle flew over. The bridge over the river yielded a group of Great Blue Herons, an immature eagle, and lots of crows feeding on the floating chunks of ice.

After a quick break at the Cayuga Burger King we headed for the Cayuga Power Plant's south gate. As expected a few thousand Canada Geese, Common Goldeneye, American

Mergansers and Ring-billed Gulls were present. But the bonus bird was the male Whooping Crane standing among the sleeping geese. What a thrill!

Then off to the nearby eagle nest which showed little activity for about ten minutes. Suddenly, as if choreographed for maximum impact, five immature Bald Eagles appeared overhead circling slowly while the nesting pair came in screaming. The nesting pair landed near the nest, the female with a fish in her talons, posing as long as we desired.



photo by Mike Hannum

Meanwhile the immature birds circled low right above us as if they knew they were stars.

Time allowed us to take advantage of the open house eagle day at the power plant. We rode in from the parking lot in chilly open wagons pulled by tractors. But the eagle show continued as three or four eagles circled over the wagons as if trained as we headed for the river. At the river more eagles were perched and flying up and down the Wabash (just like they were supposed to!).

The trip continued after lunch with six intrepid birders entering the vast Newport river bottoms where two adult and five more immatures eagles were waiting. On through Montezuma and back towards West Union, three gorgeous Rough-legged Hawks hovered over the hayfields, their plumage immaculate against the snow.

We returned to the Trumpeter Swan spot along the Tow Path Road to find more geese including about 20 Greater White-fronted Geese, a Cackling Goose, and a dozen Tundra Swans. And there was still time to try for the Golden Eagle at Russell Bend. Cutting cross-country three more flocks of Wild Turkey were encountered plus two more immature Bald Eagles. We walked the last quarter mile of the Russell Bend road which was treacherously icy but the icicles along the rock formations were spectacular. A couple of Golden-crowned Kinglets broke the general silence as an adult Bald Eagle flew over.

As we approached the east end of the "Golden Eagle" field the wintering immature Golden Eagle flew up from the ground but we were blocked by the trees. It perched momentarily then circled low before disappearing, failing to circle overhead as it normally does for prime study. Still not a bad way to end the day.

And who can complain about a show starring more than 26 Bald Eagles (at least 49 appearances), a Golden Eagle, a Whooping Crane, Greater White-fronted Geese, three swan species, and great company. Thanks to all participants who made the trip a grand production.

Alan W. Bruner

Trip leader and Indiana Audubon Society Field Trip Chair

Indiana Important Bird Area LandBird Monitoring Project Announced

The National Audubon Society's Bird Conservation Initiative in Indiana is beginning a monumental task to further the knowledge of Indiana's unique bird life within our Important Bird Areas (IBA). Indiana has 40 recognized IBAs and 15 of them are considered to be globally important, which is a higher number of global IBAs than all other states except Alaska, Florida, California, and North Carolina. It is important that good data on these bird populations exist for land managers can make better decisions on issues that affect our sensitive bird populations.

The primary objective of this project is to monitor land birds in IBAs across the Hoosier landscape using a standardized survey methodology carried out by teams of volunteers during migration, breeding season, and winter. The National Audubon Society's Bird Conservation Director for Indiana, Ross Britain, is seeking volunteers to help conduct surveys in these great birding places. The Indiana Audubon Society is reaching out to its members to assist in any way you can. For more information on the project, visit the IAS website or email Ross Britain at rbritain@audubon.org.

Ross Brittain

PRAIRIE CHICKEN FIELD TRIP 26 & 27 MARCH 2010

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 26 March 2010 and again on Saturday 27 March 2010. Alan Bruner will lead the Friday trip and Rob Ripma the Saturday trip.

Currently all the spots in the blinds have been taken, but we will keep a waiting list in case someone has to cancel. Therefore call and we can add you to this list. Participants with reservations in the blinds must be there by 5:30 a.m. Illinois time and 6:30 a.m. Indiana time. Others who wish to view the birds from

a distance and join us for the remainder of the trip can meet at sunup (c. 6:30 a.m. Illinois time, 7:30 a.m. Indiana time) at the IDNR Office.

DIRECTIONS TO THE IDNR OFFICE:

Driving east from Effingham or west from Newton on Route 33 turn south on Bogota Road (990N 900E) and go 4 miles to first curve in road. Go straight off of curve to crossroads (600N 900E), turn left (east) for 1 mile or first crossroads (600N 1000E) then turn right (south) and go 1 ¾ miles to white house with wire fence. From Route 130 turn west at St. Marie

Rd (600N 1390 E) and go 4 miles to (600N 1000E), then turn south (left) and go 1 ¾ miles to white house with wire fence.

Indiana Audubon Society members participate free, non-members for \$15/ person. Remember Indiana Audubon Society membership is not the same as National Audubon Society membership.

If you have any questions contact us as follows:

Alan Bruner 765-597-2459 (cell) 765-562-2741 abbird@att.net	Rob Ripma 317-748-4140 robripma@yahoo.com
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New Members

Please join me in welcoming the following individuals who joined our Society in 2009:

Pete Banta, David Benson, Nathon Burns, Deborah Ceglowski, Douglas Chapman, Dwight Chasar, Steve Chittick, Theresa Cochran, Lynn Daugherty, Rich and Dawn Doup, Clark Evans, Catherine Filter, Nick and Jessica Gahl, Steven Gifford, Douglas Gray,

Tim Griffith, Mike Hannum, Dawn Hewitt, Randall Holley, Dennis Jones, Susan Jones & Clyde Witt, Matt Kalwasinski, Amy & Noah Kearns, Cindi Goslee & Roland Kreager, Marco A. Landron de Guevara, Betsy Lang, Dr. Donald L. MacDaniel, John N. Newhall, Steve & Cindy Odiorne, Kathryn Parnell, Gary and Carla Rahn, Jay Reffett, Michael Retter & Matthew Hale, Rob and Stephanie Ripma, Eric Ripma, John & Mona Rowland, Haley

Samuelson-Couchman, Tim Schmidt, Holly Settles, Phoebe L. Sewell, Laura Sexson, Daryl Smith, Larry & Linda Sutterer, Lyman Thompson, Andrew Wagoner, Mark Weldon, Chad Williams, Susan Williams, Spence Williams, Frank Williams Jr, and Geoffrey A. Williamson.

Vic Riemenschneider, Membership Chair.

The Following People Made Donations This Year

Judy Allen & Friends
Serrin E. Anderson
Rita Apsley
Charlene Arnold
Susan R. Bagby
John & Sharon Baker
Wm & Kelly Baker
Tom and Melissa Barrett
Jerry & Eileen Beard
Mike & Nancy Becker
Suzanne Belcher
Jon & Lynn Bereman
Adele Bernhard
Jay and Cindy Bernzott
Elizabeth K. Betz
Mable Bevington
Sean & Elisabeth Billingsly
Gerald & Patty Blakley
Jason & Stacy Blakley
Phil & Bernie Blase
Lisa Bowling
Ruth L. Brewer
Thomas & Joy Brinduse
Arlene Brockman
Dorothy Buck
Larry and Judy Burch
Jay Butler
Gelin & Brandt Camp
Marilyn F. Campbell
D. Duane Carmony
Paul Carmony
Wayne & Marjorie Carmony
Katharine Carr
Lee Casebere
David Cassuto
John S. Castrale
Amanda Caudill
Richard Caudwell
Class of 1950 BHS
Dave and Judy Coleman
Tom & Wilma Collins
Adrian & Judy Combs
Len & Bobbi Cyzyk

Charlotte Dafler & Family
Harlan and Kathy Doliner
Jim & Marcia Dougherty
Barbara Drenning
Alexandra Dunn
Ann Eling
Daniel Estrin
Ken and Jennifer Evancic
Everett & Melba McDivitt
Kiefer & Goldie Families
Malone Family
Fern Criscillies
Adora Anderson
Richard and Louise Fessenden
Dean Finley
Phyllis Foe
Wray Furgason
Skip Gehring
Bennett & Lissa Gershman
Mary Gough
Bette Graham
John & Julie Greeson
Robert Gregory
Jeff and Karen Grund
Eli & Doris Hannoy
C.E. & Joyce Harris
Orie Hebard
Roger L. Hedge
Ted & Patricia Heemstra
Karen Henman
Jim & Faye Hofer
Mark and Mary Huffman
Ed & Marge Hunter
Hunter Gladys
Peggy Sue Hunter
Ted & Carol Hunter
Alan & Robin Jeffries
Arthur & Lora Jeffries
Janet Johnson
Marcia Johnson
Randall & Julie Judd
Mary Margaret Kellam
Charles E. Keller

Alan & Beverly Kindig
Allen T. King
Norma King
V.A. Kiplinger
Maggie Klee
Kevin Klinedinst
Alvin T. Laasanen
Ron and Laura Lah
Bill & Nell Larrison
Rebecca Lewis
Jessica & Julian Lippmann
Becky Lomax
Lou Ann Harrison
Alan Moore
Larry & Judy Lykins
Paul Macy
Annedia Maillho & Friends
John & Mary Marsh
Pam & John Marvel
Imogene Marvis
Florence Maxwell
Tex and Mary McCormick
Mark and Jolene McCoskey
Ken & Doris McCreary
Ken & Marcella McGlothlin
Suzie & Bruce McKay
Abigail Miller
Lynn Miller
Morris & Betty Miller
Nancy Mayo-Miller & David Miller
Jim & Faye Hofer
George and Pamela Moffit
Jim and Doris Morton
Jack & Maxine Moyer
Friends of Muncie Public Library
Lois Myerholtz
Doris Myers
Doug & Cheryl Myers
William Newton
John Nolon
Greg & Clare Oskay
Mrs. Charles Oswald
Richard Ottinger

Martha and Harold Overstreet
Rebecca Parker
Richard & Sarah Patterson
Todd and Julie Patton
Robert Pfeifer
Emma B. Pitcher
Big Boy's Pizzeria
Ron and Laura Lah
Edwin & Cynthia Powers
Billie Rakestraw
Robert & Deanne Reynolds
Thomas and Amy Riebe
Gary & Lori Riebsomer
Vic & Marge Riemenschneider
Thomas J. Roberts
Nicholas Robinson
Mrs. L. Marshall Roch
Mary Lou Rogers
Vince & Janet Rose
Donna & Paul Rosteck
Sally Routh
Bruce Ruisard
Florence Sanchez
Nan Sanders
Mrs. Ray Sayre
Teresa Schaedel
Tim Schmidt
Robert & Margaret Schwarz
Rev. William Schwein
Lorraine Shaffer
Leland Shaum
Laurel A. Sherer
Jim and Doris Morton
Mark Shulman
Michelle Simon
Jean Skaggs
Norma Jo Slagle
Judy Smith
Marietta Smith
Richard & Phyllis Smith
Mirand Mrs. Charles Sorenson
Soria Family
Tom & Lavetta Stankus

Gary Stegner
Daniel Stoltzfus
Brenda Joyce Stout
Robert Thompson
Susan J. Thompson
Bill & Ruth Thornton
Sue Ulrich
Al & Betty Walker
Thomas and Dorothy Walker
J. Dan Webster
Elaine Werner
Georgeanne Wilcox
Elvin & LaVerne Wilmot
Iona Wilson
Jeannie Wilson
Randy Wright
Eugene Yates
Nora Zimmerman
Kathryn Zinsli
Alquina Elementary
Fayette County School Transportation Staff
Orange Elementary School
Stant Family
Geri Briskey
John Humbach
Elaine Goldsmith
Bill Murphy
Bill Cummings
Carl and Amy Wilms
Peter Scott
Betsy Wilson
Dorothy Jones
Jack Berninger
Gary Breitenbach
Indianapolis Hiking Club
Bob and Mary Ann Layman
Kathryn Clampit

Birding Today... Protecting Tomorrow! News from the IYBC... by Chad Williams

We have just entered 2010 and already the Indiana Young Birders Club has been making tremendous strides in making this club a premier partner of the Indiana Audubon Society, Inc. The IAS is so excited to be providing birding education opportunities to Indiana's youth and families!

A huge part of the IYBC's efforts will be in providing free outreach programs and events throughout Indiana at various locations through programs that are specific to birds and birding; Education is key to protecting our birds.

Here is a list of 2010 events...

2/13/10 Noon. Great Backyard Bird Count! Join the IYBC at the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, IN to help out with this exciting Citizen Science project.

The following list of program's will all be the same theme at various locations, "Let's Go Birding".



Let's Go Birding! Bring your family and binoculars to the Nature Center and join a representative from the Indiana Young Birders Club to do some birding along the trails near the Nature Center. How many species do you think we'll see? We will wrap up at the Nature Center with a species tally and a drawing to win a Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America. If you don't have binoculars, don't worry, we will have some on site to share

4/10/10, 10:00 a.m. Let's Go Birding!
Brown County State Park Nature Center

5/30/10, 10:00 a.m. Let's Go Birding!
Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center



6/12/10, 10 a.m. Let's Go Birding!
Turkey Run State Park Nature Center

9/05/10, 10 a.m. Let's Go Birding!
Salamonie Reservoir Nature Center

Many thanks to the Interpreters at the City and State Parks for helping us promote birding!

Soon, our first newsletter "The Warbler" will be sent out to all IAS members as well as schools and libraries all over the state. Our newsletter will feature articles from young birders within our state and across the nation and will contain a multitude of other good articles written with our audience in mind.

For more information and to find the most up-to-date event listing, please visit us at www.indianayoungbirders.org.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.indianaaudubon.org

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

