

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society CARDINAL

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photo by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.



Upcoming Events

January Board Retreat
January 22 and 23, 2011
Turkey Run State Park

Spring Birding Festival
April 28, 29, and May 1st

For more information, go to IndianaAudubon.org



photos by Scott Arvin

photo by Scott Arvin

IAS Fall Festival A Success! by Brad Bumgardner

The IAS Fall Festival was a great success. More than 100 Hoosier birders converged on McCormicks' Creek State Park October 1-3, 2010. A wide variety of birding trips and topics had a little bit of everything for any type of birder. In total over 120 species of birds were recorded during the three day event.

A highlight for many people was the Saturday night dinner and presentation by Al Batt. Al brought his Midwest humor and birding stories from his early days in Minnesota and Iowa. Al's insights provided much comic relief and reflection for many attending birders. It seems we were not the only birders impressed that weekend. A follow up note from Al Batt to the Indiana Audubon simply states, "Thank you for enhancing my existence. May happiness be your shadow."

We hope you joined us this year. If not, plan on next year's festival, Sept 30-Oct 2, 2011 at Pokagon State Park.



Al Batt presents a humorous program connected to appreciation of nature.

photo by Carl Wilms

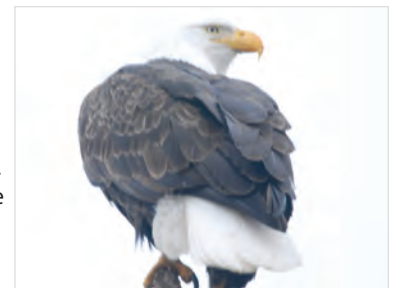
Warbler Bonanza! IAS Field Trip To Eagle Creek

by Alan W. Bruner, IAS Field Trip Chair

One of the rules of attending field trips is- never stay home because of a bad weather report! Though the skies were strongly overcast with a constant threat of rain, Laura Sexton, Amy Wilms, Stephanie and Rob Ripma, Matt Kelwasinski, Jeff Canada, Elvin Wilmot, Kathy Feldman, and myself, under the leadership of Gordon Chastain, called the weatherman's bluff. The group arrived at the Eagle Creek Park marina parking lot just before 8:00 a.m. on 11 September 2010. Warblers were thick and even though the lighting conditions made it difficult to identify most of them, it didn't matter. There were so many of them. By 10:30 a.m. at least four major waves of warblers passed through the small area, composed of up to 300 individuals and twenty species. Black-and-white and Cape May Warblers entertained as they crept along the trunks of trees, Blackpoll Warbler and Tennessee were the default warbler species, and a salting of other warbler species such as Golden-winged, Canada, Orange-crowned, and Black-throated Blue kept participants on the alert. Almost ignored in the process was the Bald Eagle that chased down an Osprey and stole its fish, Carolina Wrens still feeding young, and the female Indigo Bunting feeding its fledgling.

We finally moved on and checked out a small area at the Circle Drive east of the marina but added little. After lunch a walk to the mudflats at the north end of the lake got us back into the thick of things with at least 50 more warblers, mostly Tennessee, lots of Swainson's Thrushes, Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and a Cooper's Hawk that, in a blink of an eye, nabbed a Robin on the trail in front of us. At the mudflats, a mix of Mallards, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Northern

Shoveler were found, as well as Stilt, Least, Pectoral, and Solitary Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs. An adult and immature Bald Eagle were present as well as a number of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets.



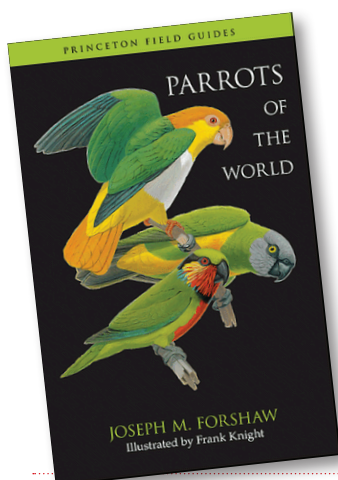
photos by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.

When all was said and done, 78 species had been tallied in spite of the sparse mix of passerines other than warblers. But more than 200 warblers were identified out of an estimated 300-350 individuals passing through, and participants were virtually exhausted from studying them.

The actual warbler count is as follows:

1 Golden-winged Warbler	65 Tennessee Warbler
1 Orange-crowned Warbler	12 Nashville Warbler
3 Northern Parula	6 Chestnut-sided Warbler
11 Magnolia Warbler	12 Cape May Warbler
4 Black-throated Blue Warbler	1 Yellow-rumped Warbler
15 Black-throated Green Warbler	5 Blackburnian Warbler
17 Bay-breasted Warbler	27 Blackpoll Warbler
8 Black-and-white Warbler	25 American Redstart
3 Ovenbird	1 Common Yellowthroat
2 Wilson's Warbler	1 Canada Warbler

Thanks to Gordon and all who participated for making it a memorable day!



Parrots of the World

Book Review by Scott Arvin, Cardinal Editor

Attention world travellers and bird enthusiasts! We're all looking for the next addition to our personal library so I'm including this review for any members that might find this useful. This book was brought to my attention by Princeton University Press. The *Parrots of the World* by Joseph M. Forshaw and illustrated by Frank Knight, is a wonderful new resource. It contains the following features:

- The only parrot guide to focus on geographical distribution
- Covers all 356 species
- Features 146 color plates depicting all species and

well-differentiated subspecies

- Provides detailed facing-page species accounts that describe key identification features, distribution, subspeciation, habitat, and status
- Includes color distribution maps
- Shows where to observe each species in the wild

The book is beautifully designed, well organized and simple to use. I was captivated by the many illustrations. Now I want to go look for parrots! For more information go to <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/9292.html>

If you have information about new guides or other useful birding/nature tools, send me a review. I'm happy to put it in the next issue.

Mumford and Keller Scholarship Grant Awards at the Fall Festival

The Indiana Audubon Society's (IAS) Board of Directors (BOD) was prompted by IAS President, Amy Wilms, to generate a grant/scholarship program that would foster a portion of the IAS mission to promote educational endeavors that relate to the appreciation of the flora and fauna of Indiana's natural settings. The BOD initiated a committee to develop such a project and allocated \$2500 a year for projects that would meet with the committee's guidelines and priorities.

The members of this committee discussed the potential naming of this program. We wanted to recognize IAS members who have distinguished themselves as educators and contributors to our understanding of Indiana's birdlife and natural surroundings. It was rather quickly decided, that if Dr. Russell Mumford, and Mr. Charles Keller would agree to such use of their names, we would recommend to the BOD that the grant/scholarship program be titled the "Mumford and Keller Grant and Scholarship Program". These two gentlemen subsequently honored the IAS with the permission to use of their names for this awards program.

Before this year's award recipients are reviewed, sharing the reasons behind the committee's pursuit of the Keller and Mumford namesake is in order.

Dr. Mumford is now professor emeritus from Purdue University. During his professional endeavors he published extensively on birds (prairie chickens, vireos, prairie warblers, owls, and Brewer's blackbirds), bats, shrews... to list a few. He joined IAS in 1947 and contributed to meetings with programs. Russ is a past-president of IAS. He was recognized in 1966 as the Indiana Conservation Educator of the Year and by the IAS with the Earl Brooks Award in 1989.

Mr. Keller has retired from Eli Lilly and has shared his birding enthusiasm with friends and family over many years. He joined the IAS in 1945, was assistant editor of the IAS Quarterly from 1961-1975 and editor from 1987 - 2005. He co-authored with his wife Shirley and son Tim "Indiana Birds and their Haunts" in 1979, and compiled a valuable historical perspective of the IAS in 1997.

Together these men have co-authored one of the most treasured texts regarding IN birds, the "Birds of Indiana" an autographed copy of which is included in the auction this weekend.

But it should be pointed out that these rather obvious listings of their active participation in Indiana birding may give way to a significant



contribution that would go unnoticed by many ardent birders in the region.

It was shared by Alan Bruner, who maintains IAS birding archives, that these two gentlemen are responsible for providing the majority of field notes that document IN bird activity for the past century. These efforts follow the footsteps of Dr. Amos Butler. This contribution to education and birding history is significant and clearly shows the devotion and admiration they have for the importance role birds maintain in our aesthetic and environmental settings.

Award winners for this year's Mumford and Keller Scholarship and Grant Awards are:

Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services: \$833

These funds are to be used in conjunction with other monies to develop the Salamonie Raptor Center Building Project. This project will provide a shelter for the rehabilitation and housing of injured raptors. The birds will be displayed for public appreciation of birds of prey and the important roles they play in our ecosystem.

Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association: \$395

These funds will be allocated for the purchase of banding nets, poles, and headlamps so that saw-whet owls may be banded in conjunction with educational programming along IN northern lakeshore area.

Landon Neumann: \$500

A scholarship for Landon to attend either a American Birding Association Young Birder Camp or the National Audubon Society & Project Puffin's Hog Island Teen Ornithology Camp held in Maine. This young man has already distinguished himself by birding with Ken Brock and Brad Bumgardner. His parents are supporting his project and he indicates that he has quite a list of "odd jobs" to complete in order to round up the additional expenses for this undertaking.

Lauren Smith: \$169

Lauren is a graduate student at Indiana University's Biology Department. She is granted these funds to purchase supplies needed for her graduate work. She is studying the impact of invasive plant species on the behaviors of small granivorous mammals due to perceived predation risk by birds and other predators caused by increased or decreased ground cover.

Total Awards for the year equal \$1897. For additional information on the Mumford and Keller Scholarship and Grant Awards, visit the IAS website.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Wilms



January Board Retreat Planned

January 22 and 23, 2010

Turkey Run State Park

Everyone is welcome! Lunch will be provided to all attendees on Saturday.

Room reservation information can be found on the IAS website. Be sure to check out the rates!

An Eagle Trip with Alan Bruner is in the works (and maybe some owling, too)!

Contact Amy Wilms (wilmsab@muohio.edu) if you are interested in attending.

See you soon!



Alan Bruner recognized for his efforts as IAC Editor, Fall Festival 2010.



Lee Steffenburg Membership Chair



Silent auction items are reviewed prior to the Sat. evening meal program, IAS Fall Festival 2010



Lee Steffenburg (left) is presented the Earl Brooks Award by Brad Bumgardner, IAS V.Pres. 2010



Silent auction bids and bills are calculated by Rob and Stephanie Ripma. Fall Festival 2010

Return Service Requested

www.indianadudbon.org

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