

CARDINAL

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society



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photo by Delano Z. Arvin, M.D.



Upcoming Events

For **Christmas Count** information go to our website

Sanctuary Committee Meeting December 18, 2010
9am to 1pm
Lunch provided!

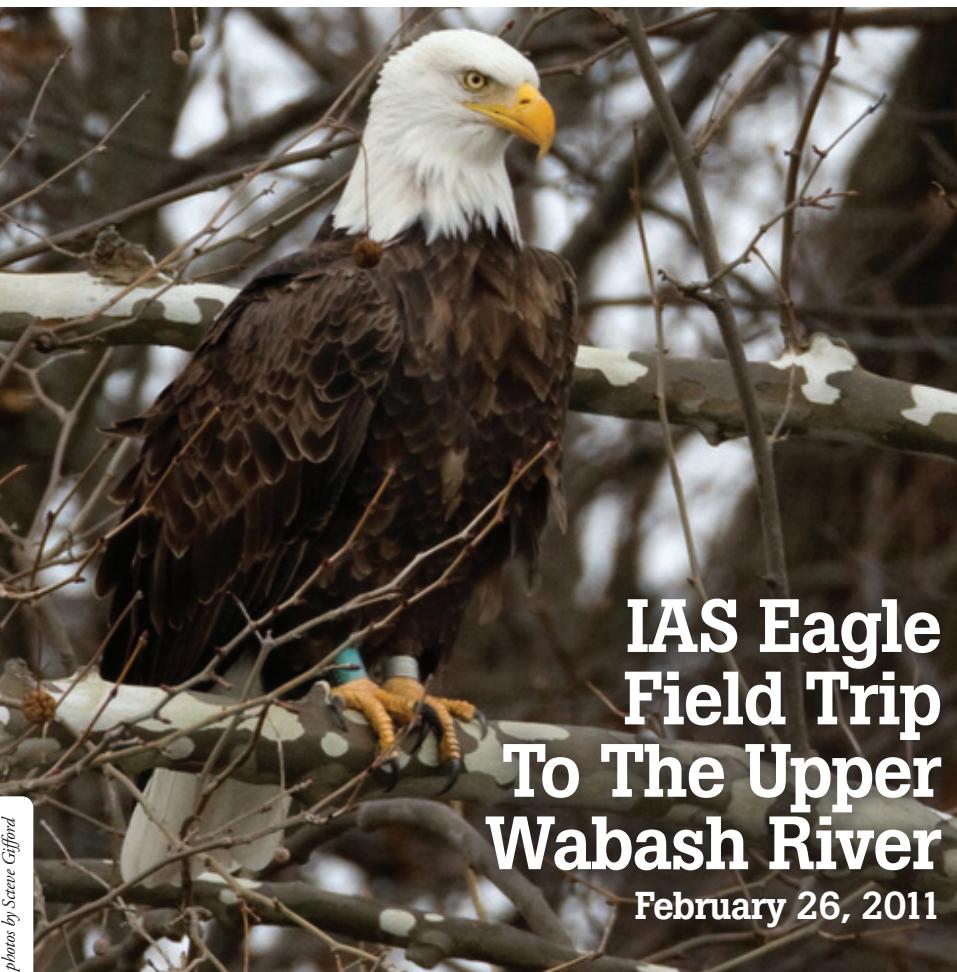
January Board Retreat at Turkey Run State Park
January 22-23, 2011

Eagle Trip to Upper Wabash River
February 26, 2011

Spring Festival at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary
April 29 & 30, May 1, 2011

For more information, go to IndianaAudubon.org

photo by Steve Gifford



photos by Steve Gifford

IAS Eagle Field Trip To The Upper Wabash River

February 26, 2011



For the past ten plus years we have traveled to west-central Indiana to view eagles along the Wabash River in Parke and Vermillion Co's. This year we will try a different location that should prove equally enjoyable under the leadership of Lynnanne Fager who heads up the annual DNR-Upper Wabash Interpretive Services' Eagle Watch program in the Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoir area. The date is set for 26 February 2011 and we hope to see lots of eagles along the Wabash River and near the reservoirs. Last winter Lynnanne recorded 58 Bald Eagles one day along the route planned for IAS. Golden Eagles were also observed and other surprises are sure to appear.

We will meet at the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services (UWIS) building at Salamonie Reservoir at **12 p.m.(noon) Indianapolis time**. This is a much later start time than for our past eagle trips and you will be able to make the trip in daylight hours instead of the pre-dawn trip to the West Union site in west-central Indiana. From the UWIS building we will caravan and start a loop that follows the Wabash River to a winter roost site for Bald Eagles at Mississinewa Res. We will finish the loop back to the interpretive center doing as much birding as possible along the way. Time should be available for those who wish to return to the winter roost site to watch the eagles come in for the night.

There is no charge for this trip for IAS members and a \$15 charge to non-members. Lynnanne is unable to accept personal payment for her services but those who wish to can donate to the building fund for the Salamonie Raptor Center by writing a check to Friends of UWIS (Upper Wabash Interpretive Services).

Directions to the UWIS building at Salamonie Reservoir, 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews, IN 46702:

From the northwest and southwest – begin at the intersection of US 31 and US 24 just northwest of Peru in Miami Co. Go east on US 24 past the towns of Peru and Wabash. Cross into Huntington Co. and turn right (south) on SR 105, traveling through Andrews. After several turns go to first stop south of Andrews. Turn west on SR 105/200S and continue until arrow sign directs SR 105 to the south. Cross the bridge over Salamonie Reservoir and continue to first road to the right into Lost Bridge West. Go to first stop, turn right. Go through the gatehouse to first paved road on the right. UWIS building is down the road on the right.

From the northeast – take I-69 south to exit 78 near Warren. Turn right onto SR 5 and continue north to SR 124. Turn left (west) onto SR 124, cross SR 9 and continue to SR 105. Turn right (north) on SR 105 and continue for two miles. Turn left onto Lost Bridge West (if you cross the bridge over the reservoir, you have gone too far). Go to first stop and turn right. Go through gatehouse to first paved road on the right. UWIS building is down the road on the right.

From the southeast - take I-69 to exit 73. Turn left (west) onto SR 218. Continue west, crossing SR9 at flashing light. Turn right (north) at next intersection onto SR 105. Continue north through Banquo and two miles beyond the intersection of SR 105 and SR 124. Turn left onto Lost Bridge West (if you cross the bridge over the reservoir, you have gone too far). Go to first stop,

turn right. Go through gatehouse to first paved road on the right. UWIS building is down the road to the right.

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Prepare for prevailing weather by dressing appropriately. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at: **abbird@att.net** or call **765-562-2471 (cell)** or **765-597-2459 (home)**.

We hope to see you there!

Alan W. Bruner
IAS Field Trip Chair



Vic Riemenschneider Receives the James H. Mason Award for 2010

For the last eight years Vic Riemenschneider has helped the Indiana Audubon Society in a very quiet and dedicated fashion. As membership chair, Vic has spent numerous hours each month tracking current membership rolls; sending renewal notices that many of us are thankful for; sending second and third notice reminders for those of us who are apt to need such proddings; and

general promotion of our organization. Vic tracks our new members and is officially the first person to welcome members with new membership cards and welcoming information. Imagine what it would entail for you to manage the enrollment of over 400 IAS members. Renewal dates, address changes (some members have more than one), updates with marriages and the passing of our members and friends, separation of funds for membership, donations to endowments to the IAS or MGBS, or donations to the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary or the Indiana Young Birders' Club. It has been estimated that over the course of his membership chairmanship, Vic has made thousands of contacts in order to promote and maintain membership roles in the IAS. I ask you, who reminds Vic to maintain this vigilant dedication???? That is the point... he does it because he believes in the cause. It is belief in a concept that is bigger than any of us.

Now that you may have attempted to visualize the size of this book-keeping task, let me add a serious monkey-wrench. Over the past two years, the IAS has pursued several concepts that will hopefully assist in the transition of the IAS into the internet age. With the development of the new IAS website a membership component was added so that membership via the internet is feasible and encouraged. What this seemingly innocuous web-page represents to the IAS visitor or member, is not the same for Vic, the membership chair. His time tested system that had been honed and established with the expertise of a scientist was thrown a bag of new tricks that may have been heaved with little thought as to the impact that it could generate. But Vic did not voice any objections to the ripples that headed his way. He adjusted to the changes and delivered his reports with continued expertise.

This service to us, members of the IAS, and the Society in general, represents the dedication and service ethic of the namesake of the James Mason Award. It is with pride and honor that I recognize Vic Reimenschneider as the recipient of the Indiana Audubon Society's 2010 James Mason Service Award.

Amy Wilms, IAS 2010 President

North American Bird Phenology Program

The North American Bird Phenology Program (BPP) at USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD, is the oldest bird monitoring program in the country, currently housing several million bird migration records dating back to the 1880's. The records document bird migration arrival and departure times from around North America. This is an unparalleled and untapped resource which will help us to understand the scale of global climate change and how it is affecting bird populations across the country, which is why we're digitizing all of these records and making them publicly available on the USA-National Phenology Network's website.

We rely solely on volunteers both in the BPP office and transcribing records on our website.

We are trying to raise awareness of our program and increase our number of volunteers.

For more information or to contribute or participate in this program, please contact:
Jessica Zelt, Program Coordinator
United States Geological Survey
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
BARC-East, Bldg 308- Room 105
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: 301-497-5745
Fax: 301-497-5624
Email: jzelt@usgs.gov

Thank You
Brandon Kell
301-497-5923

Indiana Audubon Quarterly Update

Please help me welcome John Kendall as the recently appointed Indiana Audubon Society IAQ Editor! John brings with him a wealth of Indiana birding knowledge, excitement, and a passion to help the IAS move into the digital age. We're excited to have him as a part of our team!

You may have noticed that John, along with the IAQ Committee, sent all of our members a short questionnaire about improvements that can be made to the IAQ. Please send us your responses! We welcome everyone's opinion.

PLEASE NOTE: Many of our members have questioned whether IAS will continue printing the IAQ. Rest assured, there are no plans to discontinue printing our publication! At this point in time, everyone who receives the publication in print copy will continue to receive it. The IAS Board and the IAQ Committee are working very hard to keep our publications in print and online.

To fill out the survey, go to [Indiana Audubon.org](http://IndianaAudubon.org) and click on Publications. Results of the survey will be printed in the next issue of the IAQ and the Cardinal.

Upcoming Board Retreat

The Indiana Audubon Society will host its January Board Retreat at Turkey Run State Park on January 22 and 23, 2011. We will have a guest trainer from the Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network join us for part of the weekend! In addition, we'll plan for 2011 and beyond. We welcome all IAS members to attend! Please contact Amy Wilms, President at wilmsab@muohio.edu or 765-827-5109 if you would like to attend. The Saturday lunch will be provided!

Eagle Project Tallied at Mary Gray

by Carl Wilms

Cody Carlin has completed his Eagle Scout project at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. During the first significant snowfall of the 2010-11 winter, Cody organized a party of four scouts and their dads to complete his task. Cody had met with Resident Manager Carl Wilms several times prior to this December 3-4 weekend to discuss potential projects and the orchestration of their completion. The Thursday prior to the work weekend, Cody and Carl located, cut and transported several suitable black locust logs that would be good for making stairs for trails, erosion diversion dams, and stakes to secure the wood in place. During the Friday night of the campout, the assembled crew set to splitting the logs into the steps, diversion timbers and stakes.

These materials were installed on the Tulip Poplar and Cardinal Loop Trails. The Tulip Poplar trail has a section that is familiar to those who hike the trail regularly, where the trail leaves the southbound walk along the creek and turns uphill and to the left. This is where the trail heads into some of the most mature forest on the property. The heavily used trail has had steps and water diversion devices installed in the past, but this recent installation is the most

significant effort to date. There are now five new diversions and five additional steps leading up this path. They are intended to slow the erosion on this section of trail and make the sometimes slippery ascent/descent more manageable.

The Cardinal Loop trail also received some needed attention. As hikers leave the lane on the Cardinal Loop and veer to the right at the first junction, they walk briefly along a tiny creek, cross a footbridge, and then face a steep ascent leading up to the ridgeline. This is the section where there are now 22 new steps that make a much more comfortable walk up or down the hillside. All of this work was conducted during a gentle three inch snowfall that lasted all day long and muffled the woods and work noises and blanketed the landscape in winter beauty. The only casualty of the day was one missing shovel that will hopefully be retrieved when the snow melts and reveals the shovel's location.

At the end of the project the scouts cleared out from Markle Barn where they had spent the night before. The crowd lingered in the parking lot and bid a slow farewell as there was a good sense of satisfaction of a day well spent developing stewardship and fellowship in the midst of a beautiful setting of approaching winter. These new features are ready to be sampled by all visitors at the Spring Festival or

sooner. On behalf of the IAS, Wilms thanked Cody for thinking of Mary Gray and the Scout leaders discussed future projects for Mary Gray as well.



Mr. Carlin, Mr. Cannarella, Cody Carlin (partially obscured), Mr. Savoy; Installing water diversion dam on Tulip Poplar Trail.



Mr. Savoy (Scoutmaster), Mr. Carlin, Cody Carlin: Standing on new Cardinal Loop Trail steps.

Return Service Requested

www.indianabirds.org

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

