

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society **CARDINAL**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

IAS Winter Owls UP Trip

February 3, 2017 - February 5, 2017

Goose Pond Cranes Field Trip

February 18, 2017

Winter Eagles Roosts Field Trip

February 25, 2017

Eagle Creek Spring Birds Field Trip

March 15, 2017

Please visit the IAS website for more information

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MERLIN COVER PHOTO:
BOB HUGUENARD





IN THE NEWS...

Now Hiring! IAS Executive Director Position Available

To adjust to a changing non-profit climate and overall society needs, the Indiana Audubon Society, Inc. is seeking to hire an executive director in 2017. This contracted position would have overall responsibility for advancing the society's mission to educate its members and the public about the natural world and the threats it faces, to engage in advocacy to preserve and protect natural systems, and to promote stewardship and conservation in conjunction with the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. The position would report to the IAS Executive Committee, a part of the IAS Board of Directors. A large percentage of the position's responsibility would be focused on the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary (MGBS) in Fayette County. Additional work would be done statewide promoting state initiatives that IAS provides, such as Bird Town Indiana. The preferred candidate should have a bachelor's degree and demonstrated professional leadership experience, including a minimum of five years managing staff, volunteers and fundraising in the non-profit, government, or social services sector. The society prefers a candidate with a record of successful visionary and collaborative leadership and a comprehensive appreciation of the natural world and the threats it faces.

Application period runs April 1-30, with an expected start date of July 1, 2017. Interested candidates should email a resume and letter of interest during this period. For more information, or to apply during the application window, email Jeff Canada, IAS President, at president@indianaaudubon.org.

Changes to the Cardinal Newsletter

Providing the full range of membership benefits is a difficult task in today's digital world. Printing and mailing costs continue to rise, while more and more people choose to connect to the society through its array of digital offerings. The Indiana Audubon Society Board of Directors, at its October 2016 meeting, made the difficult decision to restructure its membership categories in regards to distribution of publications. Years of solicited donations to receive hard copies of IAS publications have not met the costs associated with them. Thus, beginning in 2017, all memberships at the Individual and Family levels will become electronic memberships. Those wishing to receive hard copies of both the Indiana Audubon Quarterly and Cardinal newsletter may still do so by joining or renewing at the Contributing or Cardinal Club level. This update will allow IAS to better manage its hard copy distribution and provide for financial stability as we look toward the future. IAS currently is allowing a grace period for those wishing to renew through January at the old membership rates. The new update will apply to those joining IAS or renewing after February 14, 2017.

Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarships Available in 2017

The Indiana Audubon Society is pleased to offer the Mumford and Keller Grants/Scholarship Program in 2017. This program is for individuals and organizations seeking funding for activities related to Indiana's natural resources, particularly those related to Indiana's avifauna. In 2017, competitive funds have been set aside for applicants in many categories, including but not limited to: research, bird preservation, workshop attendance, and youth birding activities.

Applications for funding are due by April 1. Applications and more information are on the Indiana Audubon Society website (www.indianaaudubon.org) under the About Us tab.



2017 IAS FIELD TRIPS

Join Indiana Audubon Society for these exciting field trips in 2017. All trip registration is online at indianaaudubon.org. We hope to see you this year!

February 3-5: Winter UP of Michigan Owl Tour- TRIP IS FULL!

February 18: Goose Pond Cranes with Lee Sterrenburg

February 25: Turkey Run Area Eagle Roost and Nest Tour with Alan Bruner

March 15: Wild Wednesday Birding at Eagle Creek Park with Will Schaust

April 22: Falling Springs Bird Sanctuary Birding with John and Karen Lindsey

April 29: IAS Spring Meeting at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

May 4-7: Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

May 20: Birding Cool Creek Park with Jeff Canada

June 3: Birds and Bison at Kankakee Sands with Matt Beatty

Join Indiana Audubon Society in the Black Hills, June 3-9, 2017

Join fellow IAS members for an early summer birding adventure into the Black Hills area of South Dakota. This seven-day birding tour will provide participants a chance to log an immense amount of western species without having to travel too far west. The Black Hills region is home to the easternmost outposts for a few western specialties, including American Dipper and Virginia's Warbler.

This van tour is led by IAS Past-President, Brad Bumgardner. Transportation will consist of 12 person passenger vans, leaving from Indianapolis on June 3, and will max out at 15 participants. The trip will involve single-day drives with minimal birding to and from Sioux Falls the first and last day, with stops in the Badlands of South Dakota to and from the Custer area.

The list of expected specialty species includes: American Dipper, Upland Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Kingbird, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, Violet-green Swallow, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Virginia's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, and Western Tanager.

The total cost is \$665.00 per IAS member. Non-member \$699.00. Single Supplement of \$275.00. Trip costs include all transportation, lodging, entrance fees, guiding, and program fees. Participants are responsible for all food and drink expenses. As of this publication, the trip is already half full.



Winter Owls Trip

February 3 - February 5

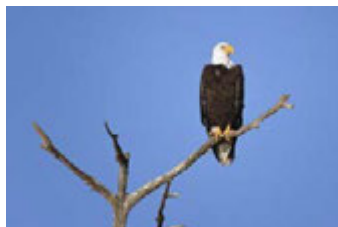
923 US 2 St. Ignace, MI 49781



Goose Pond Cranes

February 18

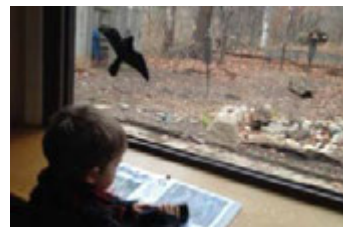
13540 W County RD 400 S



Winter Eagles

February 25

8102 Park Rd, Marshall, IN 47859



Eagle Creek Field Trip

March 15

6515 Delong Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46278



MEET A MEMBER

By Brad Bumgardner

Tom and Cheryl Bell

Tom and Cheryl from the upper Wabash valley, have been birding together now for a few years. Their participation in Indiana Audubon events helps them contribute to birding and to further their enjoyment of nature and birds. Meet Tom and Cheryl!

1. Tell us a little about yourselves?

Tom-I have worked for General Motors for 47 years. Cheryl-I am retired from 27 years of teaching dance, and sponsoring dance seminars both in Hawai'i and on the mainland. We are both members of The Garden Club of Marion (Cheryl is President) and the Mississinewa Audubon Club. We are both Advanced Indiana Master Naturalists. Tom designed the national award-winning Butterfly Garden of Matter Park that the garden club members created, planted and maintain, and where they present educational programs promoting Indiana native plants for the survival of native pollinators and birds.

2. What drew you both into birding and birds?

Since we married in 1969, we have both had an avid interest in nature. We have visited many state and national parks and nature preserves. We have always loved to view birds, but were only familiar with the more common species. We took Indiana Master Naturalist classes in 2014 to learn more. We joined the Mississinewa Audubon Club two years ago to really concentrate on learning how to find and identify birds, to contribute to the bird data provided by birders around the world. We have gone on many enjoyable & educational bird walks with the Robert Cooper and Amos Butler Audubon Societies. We attended the Big Week at Magee Marsh in 2015, and the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival in 2016. We have since gone on several bird walks with Dunes birders, absorbing as much knowledge as we could from the experts there.



3. Favorite birds?

Tom: I choose the Bald Eagle because I am still awestruck every time I see one, and I have seen many. Cheryl: I choose the Bald Eagle because, for me, it is the symbol of what we can do to save a species.

4. You visited the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival last year. How was it?

We loved every minute of it. The festival was very well planned and executed. We attended as many events as time would allow. The birding experts generously shared their wealth of knowledge with a couple of enthusiastic beginners. We have our hotel booked for 2017, and are waiting for registration to open.

5. What IAS member benefit do you enjoy most?

Tom: Access to the Birds of North America website (birdsna.org). Cheryl: Early registration and discounts for IAS events.

6. What is your dream birding destination? Tom & Cheryl: Costa Rica!



BECOME A BIRD TOWN

By Kimberly Ehn



Last year, I started an idea in my head that I would work on helping my town (Porter) become a Bird Town Indiana. First, I downloaded and printed all of the great information from the IAS website. I like hard copies to make notes on. Next, I realized I needed to research my town by finding out the boundaries, looking up Town Council contact information, and reading through the town code. Then, I listed all organizations within my town that could be possible partners. Last, I completed most of the application and prepared to present it to the Town Council.

The Bird Town Indiana link on the IAS website has 4 tabs. "Bird Town Basics" gives 5 reasons why a town should want to become a BTI. "Bird Town Specifics" gives the exact requirements. There are 4 categories

with 21 criteria of which 7 must be met for a town to qualify. "Bird Town Resources" gives links to outside resources that can help explain some of the criteria. "Current Bird Towns" gives the names of current Bird Town Indiana communities. Each tab screen includes the Bird Town Indiana Application and Bird Town How-to forms.

The Town of Porter had a boundary map and the ordinances online. I discovered a national lakeshore, an outdoor education center, a public and a private school, and a county tourism center, which I identified as potential sources of support for this BTI initiative.

I came up with a list of potential partners and started with the ones I was most comfortable approaching. Brooke Allen from the county tourism office was on another committee with me, so I asked if the office would provide a letter of support. Then I asked the superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, as well as the executive director of the Dunes Learning Center. I also emailed a local charter school, but they never responded.

I sent the completed application with a cover letter by email to each of the Town Council members and the Bird Town Indiana Committee Chair. And waited. Then I called and left messages with each member. And waited. Then I received a phone call. They wanted to know more; one member had some questions, and I was asked to present my information to the Town Council at their next meeting. So I showed up, they agreed to support the initiative after their attorney had a chance to look it over. And I waited. I was contacted by the attorney, answered some questions, and it was determined they wouldn't have to pass a law or anything heavy like that. And I waited. I checked on their check. I called the treasurer and left a message. Then I received a call from the town planner who said they would issue a check, thus ensuring the Town of Porter would become the next Bird Town Indiana!

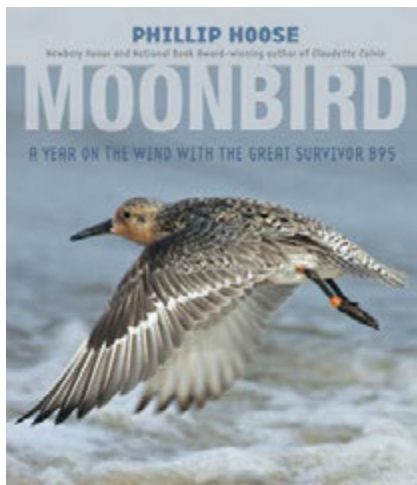


BOOK REVIEW

Moonbird:

A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95

By Terri Gorney



If you are up for an adventure of 325,000 miles from Argentina to the Arctic by a 4 oz super athlete, I think you will enjoy this book. It is written about the oldest Red Knot on record. He is the Legendary B95, who has been caught and banded four times. He has been seen numerous times on his flight from his wintering grounds at the bottom of the world to his breeding grounds at the top of the world. In Argentina, he is called the Moonbird, hence the title of the book.

Biologists banding and tracking the Red Knot are creating a greater understanding to of its annual migratory pattern and feeding stops along this route. Unfortunately, some of these refueling places have been altered by human activity. The book brings attention to the plight of

the Red Knot, and shorebirds in general.

At the end of the book is a great piece about what young birders have done to help save the Red Knot. Phillip Hoose, the author, is a native of South Bend. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Forestry, as well as a musician, and conservationist. He has been actively helping to save the Red Knot.

2016 Gifts to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

Roberta Gentry

(In memory of Colin & Edward Gentry)

Richard Cauldwell

Jeff Coleman

Greg & Abby Filter

Wayne & Marjorie Carmony

Robert Pfeifer

Dawn & Ryan Slack

Louise Fessenden

Ted & Sue Ulrich

Gary Breitenbach

Lee Ann Robinson

(In memory of Mary Jane Fuchs)

Kappa Kappa Kappa (Connersville)

Smarrelli General Contractor

(In memory of Hiram Wayne Collins, Jr.)

Belden Inc.

(Richmond, IN, In memory of Hiram Wayne Collins, Jr.)

Vickie Knollman

Terry Gorney

Bill Cummings

Tom Schmidt

Troop 174, BSA

Betty Munsee (Gift of the Estate)

Lambert Family Endowment

Fayette County Foundation

Robert Cooper (First Merchants Trust)

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Endowment Fund