



THE Warbler

INDIANA YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

SPRING 2013

A PUBLICATION OF THE INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY





CETH WILLIAMS

So Ceth, when did you become interested in birds?

When I was seven years old and my dad started taking me on trips to Eagle Creek in Indianapolis, IN.

Do you have a favorite bird? Or, birds? Why?

Baltimore Oriole and Blackburnian Warbler. I like the way their bright orange flashes – it really catches my eye!

How many birds are on your life list?

187 species.

What do your friends think about birding?

One of my friends is obsessed with owls, I try to get him to go birding with me but so far, he hasn't. Most of my other friends haven't really said much.

What is coolest bird you have seen to date?

Evening Grosbeak, it isn't really common to Indiana and it is so flashy! The Kirtland's Warbler is also pretty cool. I saw it at the Biggest Week in American Birding last year.

You've did some things at school to introduce other kids your age to birds right?

Yes, I was going to do some birding hikes on Earth Day, but the weather was bad. So, I ended up teaching the kids inside as much as I know using Cornell's All About Birds online.

I heard you have a big trip coming up for your 13th birthday. Where are you going?

Texas. My dad and I are going to the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival in-part thanks to a grant from the Indiana Young Birders Club and Indiana Audubon Society.



Why did you choose this destination?

I was thinking about going to Mexico but, the more I thought about it, the more I realized I could get both U.S. and Mexican birds in the Rio Grande Valley area.

What bird or birds would you most like to see on this trip?

Green Jay, it is common, but it will be one of my favorite birds. I am also hoping a Brown Jay will show up.

If you could go anywhere in the world to see birds where would it be?

Europe, because of a presentation I recently saw by Richard Crossley which showed some European birds in photos, for example: European Goldfinch.

What is the number one bird you would like to see in the world?

Red-crested Cardinal, because it was in the movie Rio and I think it would be neat to see a celebrity bird!

You have 4 siblings. Do they like birds?

My younger brother Evan does, but it is hard to get the others to go, my big sister doesn't want to go at all. However, she did want to go see an Indigo Bunting recently so we went looking for that.



What do you enjoy most about being a member of the IYBC?

I get to meet lots of people and go on trips to see birds with people I know.

Who are some of your favorite people in the world of birding?

Richard Crossley, Kenn Kaufman, and my dad. They are all really good birders.

Do you have a favorite field guide?

I like the Kaufman guide because it is easy to handle and is really simple to use in the field. The Crossley ID Guide helps too because it shows so many different angles of the bird.

Do you like taking pictures of birds?

I love it, because when I get a good one I can show it off to my dad.

I heard you were part of a Big Day recently. How many species did you see? Where did you go?

We heard and saw 128 species. My group stayed in Monroe County and Goose Pond.

Do you have any advice for other young birders that may be reading this article?

Keep on moving forward with your list and practice your sounds, which is something I need to practice a lot!

IYBC YOUTH ADVISORS

ALEXANDRA FORSYTHE



When did you join the IYBC?

I joined IYBC last year.

Why is the IYBC important to you?

I have never met any young birders anywhere else. Groups like the IYBC give young birders like me a sense of belonging, and that is very important.

What was your reaction when you were asked to be a IYBC Youth Advisor?

I was very surprised! I am grateful to Chad for giving me this opportunity and I hope I will not let him down.

What have you learned from being a Youth Advisor so far?

I am very new to this so I have a lot to learn about being a youth advisor. The one thing I have learned already is that it is a lot of fun being in a meeting room full of birders!

What is your vision for the IYBC? What are you looking forward to in 2013?

I would like to see the IYBC grow by leaps and bounds! I would also like to see IYBC field trips take place across the state in a variety of locations, perhaps with adult guides from each area to assist us.

What is one event that you want to add to the roster for 2014?

It would be wonderful if the IYBC could meet at Magee Marsh during the Biggest Week.

Any advice or a young birder that wants to get involved with a club such as the IYBC?

IYBC provides incredible opportunities to see new birds, visit new places and meet new people. Sign up and jump in! You won't regret it!

And finally, as of today, what is your favorite bird?

I really couldn't choose a favorite. Almost every bird has an endearing quality, from the Song Sparrow's beautiful voice to the Painted Bunting's brilliant colors to the American Woodcock's skydance. How could I choose just one?

LANDON NEUMANN



When did you join the IYBC?

I joined IYBC during the spring/summer of 2010 when I joined the Indiana Audubon Society.

Why is the IYBC important to you?

It's important to me because I think the club is a great way to meet other young birders. In addition to that, I think it's cool to be able to go on field trips to places I don't get to go a lot with other birders my age.

What was your reaction when you were asked to be an IYBC Youth Advisor?

I was excited to be part of the board and to help out with the planning and growth of IYBC. It is neat to be able to give our opinions to the adults of the board about what we want of the club to do and where we want it to go.

What have you learned from being a Youth Advisor so far?

I've learned with a little effort and with some help even young birders can do things that you wouldn't think they could do in the birding world.

What is your vision for the IYBC? What are you looking forward to in 2013?

I hope that eventually IYBC gets lots of members and that we have great turnouts at every event. I'm looking forward to all the trips and events this year especially the trip with the Illinois Young Birders Club and our first conference.

What is one event that you want to add to the roster for 2014?

I would like to see IYBC help out in a Christmas Bird Count. It could be anywhere in the state.

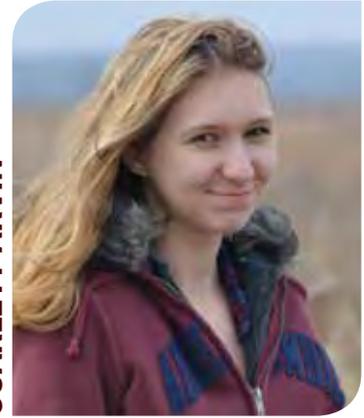
Any advice or a young birder that wants to get involved with a club such as the IYBC?

You should get to know other birders and learn from them. Also, never feel that there isn't a good birding spot in your area. It's out there you just have to find it.

And finally, as of today, what is your favorite bird?

That is a tough one! At this moment I do not have a favorite. There are just too many awesome species to decide which your favorite is. One of my favorite groups is shorebirds, but I like many other groups of birds too.

SCARLETT ARVIN



When did you join the IYBC?

I have been a young birder since 2011.

Why is the IYBC important to you?

I think that it is important for young people to be interested in birding. We are the new generation of birders and we need to keep the tradition of birding perpetual. It is also important for young birders to get together so that they know that they are not alone.

What was your reaction when you were asked to be an IYBC Youth Advisor?

I was over the moon when I discovered that I was going to become a Youth Advisor! I couldn't wait to help out the club in any way I could. I was also ecstatic to get to meet other young birders.

What have you learned from being a Youth Advisor so far?

I have learned so much! I have learned a lot about how an organization runs. I have also learned loads about bird banding.

What is your vision for the IYBC? What are you looking forward to in 2013?

I would like to continue to add members and to promote young birding throughout the state of Indiana. I am looking forward to being part of the IYBC Conference this coming August.

What is one event that you want to add to the roster for 2014?

I would like to go to Jasper Palaski Fish and Wildlife Area to go and see the thousands of sandhill cranes that migrate through every year. I have gone many times before. I think it would be an amazing thing for everyone to witness.

Any advice for a young birder that wants to get involved with a club such as the IYBC?

It is a great way to connect with other young birders. It is also a great way to learn about and find many different species of birds. Joining the IYBC is definitely worth your time!

And finally, as of today, what is your favorite bird?

My favorite bird is the gannet. I saw many while I was whale watching in Bar Harbor, Maine. I like the patterns on their faces and enjoyed watching them dive at high speeds, straight down into the water.



BIRD QUIZ



Photo by Kyle Arvin



Photo by Kyle Arvin



Photo by Kyle Arvin



Photo by Kyle Arvin

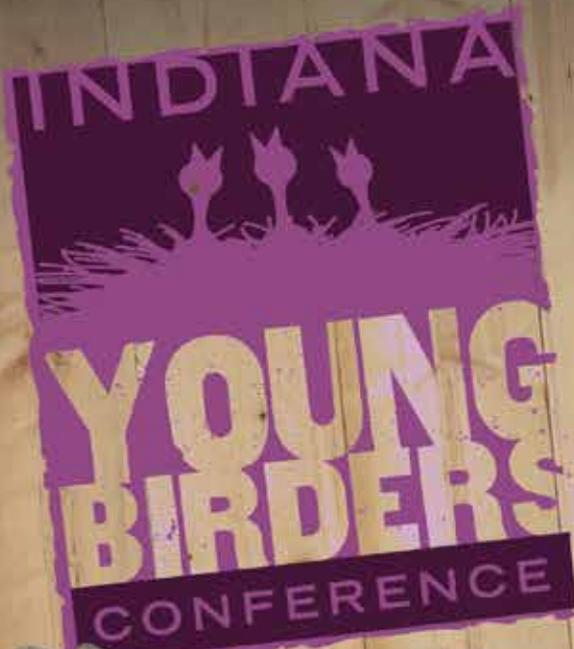


Photo by Kyle Arvin



Take a good look and put your skills to the test. Email your answers to iybc@indianaaudubon.org complete with your name and address. A drawing will be held for all correct entries. One guide will be given away. Entry deadline, July 20.

This contest is open to all young birders up to age 18. You do not have to be member of the IYBC to enter.



AUGUST 24

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL INDIANA YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

YOUNG BIRDER PRESENTATIONS! YOUNG BIRDER OF THE YEAR! RAFFLE GIVEAWAYS! LIVE RAPTORS!

Field Trips in 2013

- June 22 Kankakee Sands/Willow Slough - Leader Chandler Roberts - This trip is with the Illinois Young Birders Club
- Sept. 7 Indiana Lakefront - Leader Nick Kiehl
- Aug. 24 First Annual Indiana Young Birders Conference at Cool Creek Park in Carmel, IN.
- Oct. 4-6 IAS Fall Festival at the Indiana Dunes

Register online at www.indianayoungbirders.org

Other Programs

- 2013 Field Guide Giveaway
- IYBC Birder of the Year



indiana
youngbirders





Species
Profile



Wood Duck by Matthias Benko

All of a sudden, I hear a splash just a little ways off. I look around until I find the source of the noise. I take a deep breath in because of the sight that meets me eyes. I have just seen a male Wood Duck in vivid, striking, elegant, and full plumage.

Wood Ducks are birds of swamps, sheltered ponds, and serene rivers in the Eastern and Northwestern parts of the US and Canada. The male is usually 20 inches long and weighs 1.5 pounds, and the female is 19 inches long and weighs 1.4 pounds. The female, like other species of duck, has drab plumage, a white eye patch, and a bit of a crest. The male has a chestnut-brown chest with white dots, a brown tail and back, and a lighter brown hide. The male's head is a mix of iridescent greens and purples, with a ruby

eye, and a vivid red bill with a white patch on the middle and a black tip on the end. This bird is one of the easiest species of waterfowl to identify. However, there is much more to know about the Wood Duck.

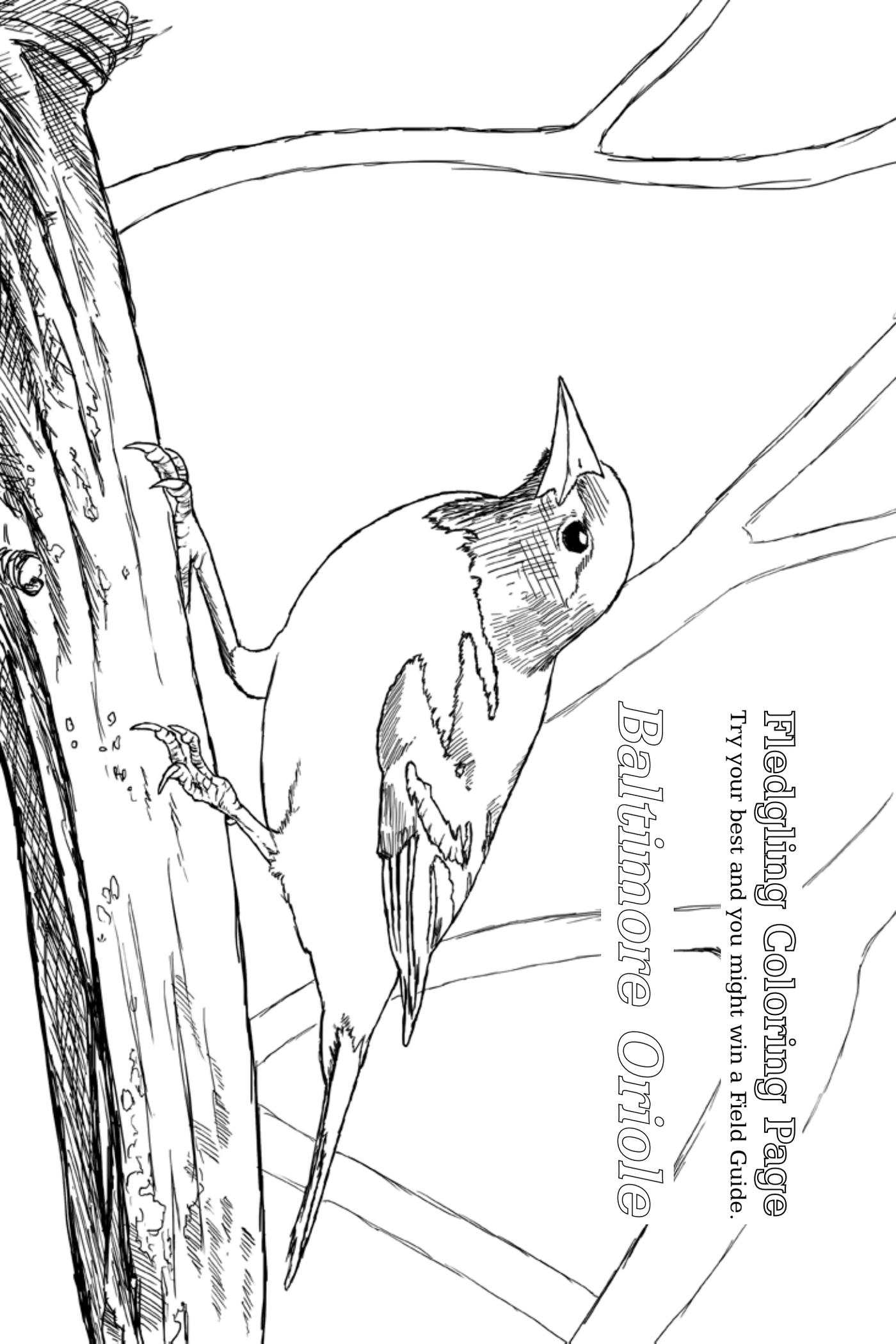
Wood Ducks, unlike other ducks, nest in cavities of trees and nest boxes. If the pair chooses to nest in a tree, they usually find a place between 2-60 feet above the ground. A clutch of shiny white or tan eggs can be as large as 18, or as small as six. Wood Ducks diet is 80% plant matter, as well as seeds, fruits, and insects. These ducks dabble, but they don't dive. Some cool facts include that they are the second-most hunted species of waterfowl behind Mallards (unfortunately), it is the only North American duck to produce two broods annually, and

that their ducklings jump from the tree cavity (which can be pretty high) and hit the ground without injury. Indeed, there is much to know about Wood Ducks, and they are probably holding some secrets from us that we Indiana Young Birders may discover.

To see a Wood Duck, I would recommend Eagle Creek Park's Ice Skating Pond from mid-March to September, Radnor Lake in Tennessee, and Reifel Bird Sanctuary in Vancouver, BC, Canada. To learn more about Wood Ducks, I would recommend *Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America* by Kenn Kaufman, *Birds of Indiana* by Stan Tekiela, visiting Cornell Lab of Ornithology's website, or watching *A Duckumentary* by PBS

Fledgling Coloring Page
Try your best and you might win a Field Guide.

Baltimore Oriole



Send your completed coloring page to iybc@indianaudubon.org or mail it to: IYBC, 5720 Long Ridge Place, Indianapolis, IN 46221. The winner will be selected for a guide. Deadline July 20. This contest is open to all young birders up to age 18. You do not have to be member of the IYBC to enter.

PHOTOS FROM PAST EVENTS



Fun was had by all on the bird walk at the property of Dr. Delano Arvin on April 20. Many species were seen including some of the unfeathered kind such as snakes and salamanders.



Myths Surrounding the Raptors of North America: A Young Birder's Presentation, by Alexandra Forsythe was an excellent program at the Spring Festival.



IYBC members pose next to the sign at the entrance of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary at the Spring Festival.



Many young birders braved the cold during the Heron Rookery outing. Several herons could be seen moving about around the clusters of nests



Four Saw-Whets as well as a few Barred Owls were seen by those who attended the owl trip this past winter. Here, Kyle Arvin describes the process of finding them.



This owl was very cooperative and let photographers take some great shots.

Join us for one of our field trips. You're sure to make some new friends, see some great birds, and have a wonderful time.

IYBC BIRDATHON

by Landon Neumann

This year on April 27th Chad and Ceth Williams, Rob Ripma and I conducted the very first annual Indiana Young Birder's Club birdathon. The purpose of the birdathon was to help raise money for Amos Butler Audubon Society's various conservation projects. Here is a summary about our awesome day that consisted of a lot of birds and great way to help support bird conservation.

We actually started at 6p.m. on April 26th so that we could bird a full 24 hours since the plan was to end at 6 the following evening. Of all the places to start we started at Wal-Mart to meet up with everyone. From there we headed down to Bloomington where we started at Kent Rd that would lead us to Northfork point. For the next 2 hours we worked the road, which produced a lot of migrants for our list and we also picked our first of many Barred Owls that we would have that evening. After that we got a bite to eat and headed to our camp site in Yellowwood State Forest where we would spend the night.

After a very long four hours of trying to sleep in a van we awoke at 3a.m. and began to search to get nocturnal birds before the sunrise would rise. We first stopped by a spot that Rob knew had Eastern Screech Owl; however, the bird didn't show for us. Next, we headed to Friendship Rd to get Chuck-Wills-Widow. We got lucky and thanks to Rob he was able to call the bird for us. Also, at Friendship we tried for rails and bittern, but we struck out on both. After that, while heading out we picked up Great Horned Owl en route back to the Eastern Screech Owl spot. This time thanks to Chad we were able to pick up the faint call of one in the distance. Then, we headed into Bloomington to get some breakfast before sunrise.

By now the sun had begun to rise, so we headed to our first stop of the morning, which was Paynetown. There we picked up quite a few songbirds, but the best pickup was Black Vulture and a Broad Winged Hawk that Ceth found. After that we headed to Cutright which gave us Blue Headed Vireo and Cliff Swallow. Then, after that quick stop we headed to Gross and Friendship Rd to get Cerulean, Hooded, Kentucky, and Worm Eating Warblers. We got all three and also finally picked up an Ovenbird. By now we were getting close to 100 species.

Around 11p.m. so we headed over to Lake Lemon. Our first stop there gave us some common birds that we had missed in the Bloomington Area, which were Hairy Woodpecker and Brown Thrasher. After that we headed to Riddle Point; however, when we reached the spot we found that a canoe race was occurring so we didn't check the area. Then, being close to 100 species we headed to our final spot, which was Goose Pond.

After an hour drive that gave us Rock Pigeon and Red Headed Woodpecker we arrived at Goose Pond. For the next four hours we searched the area for new species. We picked up a lot of new species like American Bittern, Sora, and Grasshopper Sparrow and so on; however, our best birds were fourteen Marbled Godwits that Rob found. This was most unexpected bird of the day. Then, after searching the area for another hour, which didn't give us any more species, we called it a day at around 4p.m.

Overall the first annual IYBC Birdathon was great success. Throughout the entire day we were able to find 128 species! I can't wait for next year and hopefully we can get an even higher total.



Nominate a young birder for the IYBC's "Young Birder of the Year" details will be online soon. www.indianayoungbirders.org



Indiana Young Birders Club
5720 Long Ridge Place
Indianapolis, IN 46221

SPECIAL THANKS

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IYBC YOUTH ADVISORS

Scarlett Arvin
Landon Neumann
Aiden Rominger
Alexandra Forsythe

IYBC COMMITTEE

Chad Williams, Chair
Rob Ripma
Eric Ripma
Scott Arvin
John Velasquez
Brad Bumgardner
Amy Wilms

Are you interested in writing for our newsletter? Do you have a picture or drawing you would like for us to share? Or, would you like to blog about some of your birding adventures with us on our blog site? If so, please email us, we would love to hear from you.
iybc@indianaaudubon.org

The IYBC is a community for young birders across the State of Indiana to come together and support birding as a sport and to promote conservation initiatives that help sustain bird populations throughout the Americas.

*email: **iybc@indianaaudubon.org***
*website: **www.indianayoungbirders.org***

