

Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

NEWSLETTER • FEB–MAR 2018 • VOL.49 No. 1

COVER STORY

What birds
will you
find in your
county?

[pg.3]



Production Team

Executive Director
Brad Bumgardner

Editor
Mark Welter

Graphic Designer
Annie Aguirre

Contributors
Annie Aguirre
Brad Bumgardner
Kim Ehn
Sarah R. McKillip
Mark Welter
Stefany Boleyn

The *Cardinal* Newsletter is a bi-monthly publication of the Indiana Audubon Society. Its purpose is to share stories and conversations so that members and the birding community beyond can stay meaningfully connected both to birds and to the people dedicated to their protection.



NEWS

INDIANA AUDUBON AWARDS

Nominate a fellow IAS member for the 2018 Brooks and Mason Awards. The IAS Awards committee recognizes individuals each year that exemplify the dedication and commitment to Indiana's resources. Consider nominating someone for either of these two awards.

The Mason Award goes to those who have dedicated themselves through service to the society. It is rare when the commitment exhibited by James H. Mason is seen in individuals. It serves as an inspiration and focus for others, to work with such individuals. This award recognizes and expresses heartfelt appreciation for those IAS members who evoke the memory and dedication of James H. Mason.

The Brooks Award is given to those that work "for the advancement of conservation of natural resources in Indiana". Recipients do not have to be a member of the Indiana Audubon Society to receive the award.

► For more information, contact the Awards Chair, Kim Ehn, at: kmehn@comcast.net

The Indiana Audubon Society would like to welcome the following members who joined in the 4th quarter of 2017. We thank you, and we appreciate your support!

Amy Kraus & Hardin Aasand	Jennifer & Eric Stockton	Kathy Thompson	John Wolfe
Barbara Criswell	Mary Kirbey	Dennis Zupan	Julie Woods
Barbara Underwood	Thayr & Ginny Richey	Janet Pearman	Rebecca Marcus
Linda Freud	Gail Lester	Jerrold Ulrey	Paul Labovitz
Frederick Ruckerfeldt	Gail Lester	Thomas Morse	Dawn Disher
Carol Anderson	Samantha Kinsman	Lisa Carlson	David Kemerer
Angela Archer	Cindy Emond	Robert Guth	Laura Demchuck
Kathy Lawhorn	Sharon Crust	Jan Henry	Jill Margala
Tai Gunter	Theresa Mathieson	Stefany Boleyn	Cindy Cohn
Philip English	Catherine Brilmyer	Gary & Beverly Overmyer	Richard Falkening
Greg Redding	Kathy Broshous	Jean O'Connell	William Wehner
Susie Marvel	Thomas Garrison	Jean O'Connell	Patrick Ohaver
Gail Beauchamp	Dentinee Wolfe	Gregory McIsaac	Jonathan Bontrager
Carol Johnston	Holly Meyers	Gail Bough	David Lewis
Stephanie Miller	Jane Downes	Jeff Timmons	Gary Overdorf
Kathleen Madden	Gregory Hejnar	Kimberly Mayrose	Janet Ridenour
Alyssa Johnston	William Smith	Kathleen Skurauskis	Rebecca Traylor
Patricia Steffen	George Clark	Martha Bayless	Becky McNichols
Ryan Sanderson	Frances Ginther	Wesley Homoya	Susan Niles
Laura Gilbert	Matthew Bowman	Jennifer Bass	Margaret Carson
Stephen & Jeanne Weddle	Renee Levans	Joan Dittman	Amy Starin
Julie Bruner	Debbie Christian	Chuck Hill	Charles Roth
Ann Maxwell	Karen Newhall	Dana Kazee	John Page
	Mary Nell Murphy	Mary Ann Crayton	
	Diane Carter	Jennifer McQuade	



MEET A MEMBER

STEFANY BOLEYN

Tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from? What is your family like?

I'm a silly person who loves birds, books, and being out and about and seeing our world. I'm mostly shy, but sometimes (in the paragraphs that follow, especially) you'll probably want to tell me to shut up. I work in outreach (bookmobiles!) for the Indianapolis Public Library by day, and I waitress and bus tables at Nine Irish Brothers and Sultana Café & Hookah Bar by night (intoxicated adults are oddly similar to three-year-olds). In the time that remains, I'm finishing up a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, and I'm trying my best to learn Romanian and Arabic. My family includes Daniel; my mom (Karen); my dad (Steve); two cats (Razo & Enna); one Siberian Husky (Lucketa); and a whole host of wonderful people who I'm not related to via marriage or blood. I grew up on the south side of Indy, and I've made my home downtown, which is a great place to see nighthawks.

What drew you into birding and birds?

I wish I could say I had a spark bird, but what I do have is a series of very fortunate events that culminated in me becoming obsessed. Growing up, my parents had essentially cultivated a wildlife habitat in their backyard. I was about 16 years old when I really started to notice birds on my commute to IUPUI, and I really connected with the Turkey Vulture. I'd always see them on top of a Masonic lodge with their wings spread early in the morning. I came to expect them and worried if they weren't there. But even that wasn't enough to draw me into it. At some point, I developed an interest in owls, never dreaming I'd ever get to see one. I started watching the Cornell Lab Bird Cams and following downtown Indy's resident Peregrine Falcon, KathyQ. Then, about two years ago, my parents essentially dragged me into it (or pushed me out of the nest, if you'd rather). After months of telling me to watch "The Big Year," they sat me down and put it on. I was hooked instantly. I started noticing ALL of the birds around me and wanted to find more. I went on a Sunday morning walk at Eagle Creek, and that sealed the deal. The rest is history.

Any personal birding goals for 2018?

I'd love to get more comfortable birding independently, especially so I can bird internationally. I'd also love to improve birding by ear.

In terms of actual birds, I have two goals: one realistic and one not-so realistic...

you decide which is which. I've recently had a lot of excuses to travel out west, so I've made it a goal to see a California Condor. My second goal is to see all of the birds from the song "Birding" by the rap group the Swet Shop Boys. Himanshu Suri (Heems), one of the rappers, supposedly wrote the song (in collaboration with Rizwan Ahmed [Riz MC] and Thomas Richard Calvert [Redinho]) to honor the Mughal pastime of birdwatching (not recommended for our younger birders).

Any current bird issues or threats you are most passionate about?

I believe it's impossible to bird without taking an interest in conservation. I've recently wrapped up the courses for the Indiana Master Naturalist program, where I learned about a whole host of issues that affect birds. I still have so much learning left to do, but I do have a couple of issues that I've taken an interest in. The main issues I'm concerned about are a lack of awareness and support for natural wildlife habitats, activities that support birds, and avoiding activities detrimental to bird conservation. Most recently, I've become concerned about the proposed changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In terms of action, I'm still trying to find ways to be the best birder I can be, but I've recently joined the Lights Out Indy initiative. I've also started incorporating birds and outdoorsy themes in my storytimes, which the ~300 children I see a month have absolutely loved (one of their favorites was "Bird, Bird, Bird! A Chirping Chant" by April Pulley Sayre).

Favorite bird?

Turkey Vulture, hands down. They're our unofficial clean-up crew, and they are frequently unloved, unappreciated, and don't get the support they deserve. They're a welcome and familiar sight to me, and they are such interesting creatures, all around. Also, they are constantly being put down because of their quite useful looks, but if you haven't seen the adorable interpretation by @thehorsepuppy on Instagram, that might change your mind.

Any advice for new birders just getting into the hobby?

Write things down, read about things that interest you, don't splurge on all of the fancy gear, find a place you love to go, try new places, go on IAS trips and walks, meet other birders, and don't be afraid to get something wrong. Check out *Good Birders Don't Wear White* for a great laugh and some good advice. Lastly, find what works for you and don't feel like there is any one way to be a birder. As long as you aren't harming them, I don't think there's a right or wrong way to bird. Just have fun!

THE **BIG** COUNTY YEAR CHALLENGE!



Home is where the heart is—and the birds! For 2018, Indiana birders are invited to celebrate birding on the local level by taking part in the Big County Year Challenge!

Birders are challenged to explore their local counties to seek out as many species of birds as possible and/or any of the 92 counties statewide. The contest began January 1 and continues through December 31.

HOW TO COMPETE

To play, birders must seek out as many bird species as they can in a single county, with the goal of exceeding the target number of species set for that county. Each county's target number, which ranges from 60 to 175 species, was calculated using statistical models based on eBird data for the average number of species recorded the county annually, and the number of birding locations or "hotspots" it contains.

HOW TO QUALIFY

To be eligible for prizes, you must beat the county target set for that county. Multiple entries are allowed simply by beating the target for each additional county you bird in 2018. Participants reporting their totals are strongly encouraged to log their checklists into eBird and download their county year lists for easy reporting at the end of the year. Individuals may also keep track on their own personal spreadsheets if desired. A form will be available at the end of the year to report your county totals for contest entry.

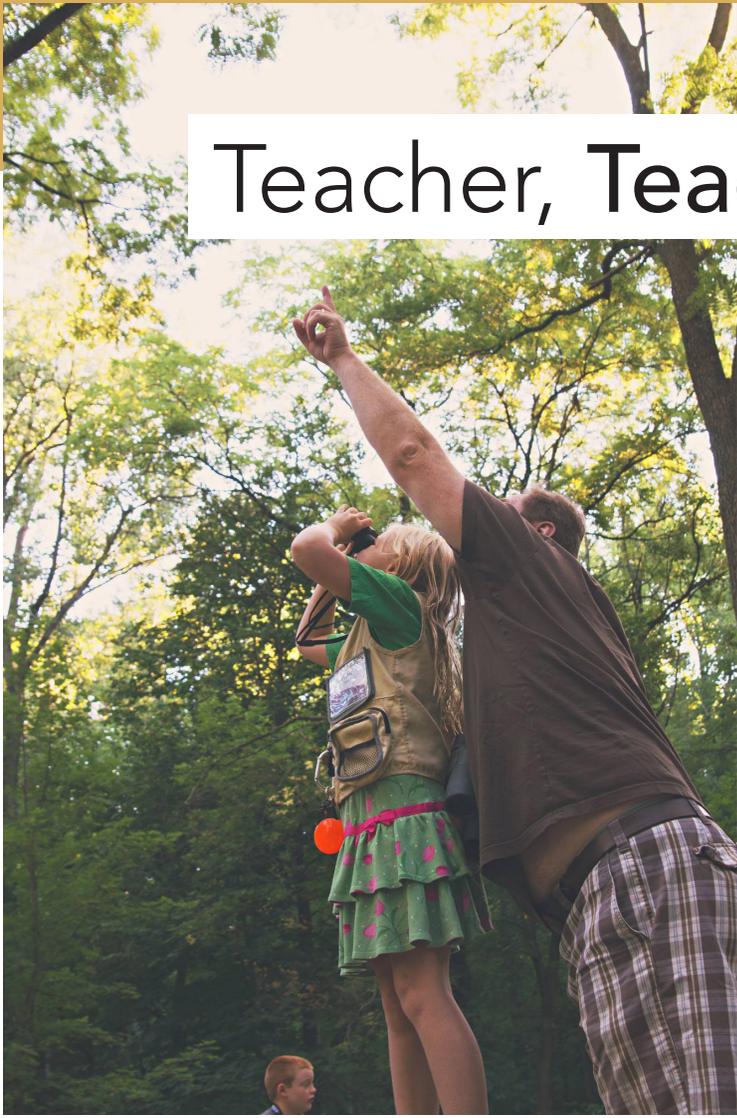
GRAND PRIZE

The grand prize drawing will be a custom commissioned print produced by Kristina Knowski Arts.

Start birding today!



Teacher, Teacher, **TEACHERS!**



No, we're not talking Ovenbirds here! But, the new Indiana for the Birds curriculum available from Indiana Audubon. Thanks to a generous grant from the Efroymsn Family Fund, 50 classrooms in Indiana will be able to request the new Indiana for the Birds educational curriculum. Each educational kit comes with a set of bird feeders, free, high quality bird seed, and a "birds at the feeder" identification guide. Select classrooms in the Indianapolis area can also receive a free live bird of prey program presented at your school.

► To request your copy, visit: indianaaudubon.org

Want an even more in-depth experience, contact us to bring your classroom for a field trip to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary this spring. Field trip slots are filling fast!

► See page 5 for upcoming trips!

THANK YOU

IAS & THE MUMFORD AND KELLER GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP FUND

BY KIM EHN, ON BEHALF OF IYBC NORTH

I started the North Chapter of the Indiana Young Birders Club (IYBC) in 2015 as a way to connect families with young children to the outdoor activity of birding. While the IYBC that generally meets around Indianapolis includes many youth in their teens, the North Chapter is primarily moms and dads bringing their younger children to events in Lake, La Porte, and Porter counties. Sarah Pavlovic, a local teacher, helps involve the youth in exploring nature. The monthly events are always on a Sunday from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Beginning in 2016, area expert birders were invited to assist the group at each event by sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm in locating and identifying birds. That tradition continues this year. On March 18, we will meet at Streibel Pond in Michigan City (La Porte County) with Randy Pals. On April 18, we will meet at Highland Rookery (Lake County) with Matt Kalwasinski. Matt shared one of the reasons he enjoys helping out at IYBC North events. "To many of us experienced birders, we might not take the time to stop and watch a male Common Yellowthroat sing. But when I am leading a trip with young birders, it is great to watch their excitement as this colorful little bird sings away. It is also great to be able to show them birds that they never knew existed," he explained. Other expert birders who have assisted at IYBC North events in the past include Matt Beatty, Brad

Bumgardner, Lynea Hinchman, and Kristin Stratton.

In 2017, IYBC North applied for and received funding from the Mumford and Keller Grant and Scholarship to purchase two pairs of binoculars. The pairs purchased were the Atlas Optics Radian 8 x 42 by Eagle Optics. They are waterproof, weigh just 26 ounces and include a lifetime warranty. Two Vortex lens cleaning kits were also purchased. The binoculars are available for temporary loan at each IYBC North event. Youth are given instruction on use and care of the binoculars. They have been used at events at Indiana Dunes State Park (Porter County), Grant Street Wetlands (Lake County) and Michigan City Harbor (La Porte County).





LOOKING AHEAD

WORKSHOPS + FIELD TRIPS

IN DUNES BIRDING FESTIVAL

It's coming. The festival you've been waiting for all year – and it's jam-packed with even more birding events than ever before! Birders, this is one spectacle you do NOT want to miss!

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival Registration is LIVE February 25 for IAS Members!

If you've been holding off on signing up or renewing that IAS membership, *now is the time.* Seriously, trust us on this one – this is a steal. The 2018 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival is fast approaching, **May 17-20.** The fourth year of this epic event promises to bring *more* programs, *more* field trips, and *more* of everything that over 700 participants have come to grow to love. In total, more than 140 individual tours, presentations, and workshops will welcome birders to the Indiana Dunes region this year. Many trips and workshops fill fast, and being an Indiana Audubon member allows you to not only register early, but (as implied earlier) get a steal of a bargain from us. C'mon, you know you could use those extra bucks on those high-end optics you've been saving up for...

The 2018 festival will also feature the return of Dunes Birds in Art, a special month-long exhibition of native birds from local and regional artists. The Migration Marketplace will showcase bird related vendors, including optic dealers, bird feed stores, and artists on Friday and Saturday of the festival.

And for those who enjoy microbrews with a touch of birder silliness, Birds and Brews returns with the 3rd annual Bird Calling Competition set for Friday night at the Craft House in Chesterton. Time to start practicing that Barred Owl call in the shower!

This year's Saturday night keynote presentation will feature famed Big Year birder, Greg Miller. Miller will present what you need to know for a do-it-yourself Big Year, while highlighting his adventures from his own big year and subsequent Hollywood movie adventure.

Mark your calendars for 9 a.m., February 25 for IAS Priority Registration. Make sure your IAS membership is up to date (and that you have one) and don't forget to spread the bird word! Tell your friends to join to take advantage of this special rate! Ready, set...GO!

► **FLY OVER TO:** indunesbirdingfestival.com

INDIANA BIRDING: CRASH COURSE

Get to know your local birds and take your beginning birding skills to the next level! This hands-on workshop is designed for both beginning bird watchers and general nature enthusiasts looking to learn more about the birds around their neighborhood and where to enjoy birds statewide.

MAR 17

McCormick's Creek State Park

FEB 24

Limberlost State Historic Site

IAS FIELD TRIPS

Join Indiana Audubon for exclusive birding tours around the state! Every tour offers something different and trips fill up fast, so sign up today!

MAR 10

Summit Lake Waterfowl

APR 7

Prairie Chicken Field Trip

APR 7

Falling Springs Early Warblers Field Trip

APR 14

Lye Creek Burn Field Trip

Join Indiana Audubon for an assortment of field trips and workshops being offered this spring. Visit indianaaudubon.org/events to register for any of these upcoming activities.

Hummingbird Migration Celebration



Mark your calendars now for the inaugural Indiana Audubon Hummingbird Migration Celebration at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, August 11, 2018. This one of a kind event will feature bird tours, presentations, live hummingbird banding, a vendor marketplace, native plant sale, live birds of prey, and more! Pre-sale tickets are only \$5 per person. Plan to join hummingbird enthusiasts from around the Midwest for this amazing day at Mary Gray!



WINTER WALK IN THE NEW DUTRO-ERNST URBAN WOOD MUNCIE, IN

BY SARAH R. MCKILLIP

I had the pleasure of touring the recently opened 31-acre Dutro-Ernst urban wood in Muncie, Indiana, on January 6. Dutro-Ernst Woods was the vision of Josie Fox, a Muncie native and philanthropist, in honor of her Burriss High School science teacher, Ruth Dutro. Initially slated for commercial development, the property was opened to the public as a nature preserve in November 2017.

In 2012, Ms. Fox worked with Red-Tail Land Conservancy to bring the urban wood to fruition. During the acquisition and planning stages, Dutro Woods became Dutro-Ernst Woods when the adjacent Ernst family land, which formerly held a popular tree and landscape nursery, was donated to the project.

In my notebook that afternoon, I recorded Blue Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a Red-tailed Hawk, and a flock of Canada Geese overhead. To my delight, I also noted snow-capped nests in the short-grass prairie, mazes of small mammal tunnels in the snow, and numerous deer and squirrel tracks crossing the trail. One of the most distinctive features I came upon was

in the southwest corner of the wood, where mature trees lined the path, creating a natural archway that provided a reprieve from street traffic.

Micayla Jones, stewardship director for Red-Tail Land Conservancy and a Robert Cooper Audubon Society (RCAS) board member, shared with me the long-term goals of the preserve. “[Further] habitat restoration will begin in the Spring of 2018. The trail will traverse through variable habitat types including a native short-grass prairie, shrub-scrub wetland, and early to mid-succession woodland. We also anticipate installing interpretive signage aimed at urban wildlife programing. I am hoping to partner with RCAS for bird hikes this year. Folks can follow us on facebook or sign up for our email newsletter to get more information on volunteer events, guided hikes, and follow our continued efforts to restore the site.”

According to Ms. Jones, the one-mile trail is ADA accessible and compliant. She also explained a curious feature on the northeast side of the preserve: “The ‘bird’s nest’ near the parking lot is a nature playground where families

of all ages can come and children can have a natural area with moving parts to play and explore their creativity and imagination.”

In my conversations with Ms. Fox, she related a question that seemed to come up regularly in the beginning: “Why this particular spot?” The landlocked location left many skeptical, but Ms. Fox, with the help of Red-Tail, persisted. Simply put, she liked the large trees she observed, and the ease of accessibility.

Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted held these ideas in the same high regard. When speaking of his planned parks, he said, “We want a ground, to which people may easily go after their day’s work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets. Where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them.”

Walking the easy, one-mile loop on snow-covered paths, I believe such a respite will be the lasting legacy of Dutro-Ernst Woods.

DUTRO-ERNST WOODS

KILGORE AVENUE / STATE ROAD 32

SCRUB-SHRUB WETLAND

SHORT-GRASS PRAIRIE

RESTORATION ZONE

UPLAND WOODS

1 Turn around here for a 1/2 mile (round-trip) hike

2 Turn around here for a 1/4 mile (round-trip) hike

3 Explore the entire loop for a 1 1/2 mile (round-trip) hike

URBAN WILDLIFE - Do you see signs?

- RED FOX
- BISON
- DOMESTIC CAT
- TURKEY VULTURE
- HUMAN
- GREAT DANE
- ARMADILLO

Property Usage Guidelines:

- PLEASE HELP MAINTAIN THIS SANCTUARY IN ITS NATURAL STATE
- OPEN FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET
- ALWAYS STAY ON THE TRAIL
- PETS MUST REMAIN ON A LEASH
- ALL TRASH MUST BE PACKED OUT
- PLANTS AND WILDLIFE MUST BE LEFT UNDISTURBED
- PLACEMENT OF GEOCACHES BY PERMISSION ONLY
- HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING, CAMPING, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND VEHICLES OF ALL KIND ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED

STOP
IMPORTANT PLEASE READ!

RED-TAIL
Land Conservancy

Red-tail's work of protecting and preserving special places like Dutro-Ernst Woods can only be accomplished with financial supporters and volunteers.

Visit our website to become a member, volunteer, learn about our other nature preserves, and support land conservation in east central Indiana.

www.ForTheLand.org

Visitors are encouraged to contact our main office at (765) 288-2587 to inform us of any management issues.

YOUR AD HERE

email bbumgardner@indianaudubon.org for details



Premier
Sporting Optics
& Footwear LLC



Your Spotting Scope
& Binocular Headquarters

FREE Shipping on
orders over \$200.00

Hours:
Mon - Fri 9-5 • Sat - 9-1
Closed Sundays

115 E Warren St • Middlebury, IN 46540
ph 574.825.7106 • fax 574.825.5465



Vortex Razor HD
8042 \$1,179.99
10042 \$1,199.99



Vortex Viper HD
8042 \$989.99
10042 \$-899.99



Zeiss Victory HT
8042 \$2,199.99
10042 \$2,149.99
\$315 Rebate until 05/04/14



Zeiss Conquest HD
8042 \$989.99
10042 \$989.99
\$75 Rebate until 05/04/14



Zeiss Terra ED
8042 \$349.99
10042 \$399.99
\$50 Rebate until 05/04/14