

Indiana Audubon Society
CARDINAL

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WAYS FOR HOOSIERS TO SUPPORT BIRDS

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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



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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

INDIVIDUAL

Self: \$30
Family: \$35
Contributing: \$50
Life: \$675

FLEDGLING (UP TO AGE 11)

Self: \$5
Student (Ages 12-18): \$20

CARDINAL CLUB

Self: \$100
Library (Business/Organization): \$100

Only Contributing and Cardinal Club members are eligible for mailed copies of publications; all other membership levels receive electronic publications via Email.

Additional information on membership benefits is available on the Indiana Audubon website.



JOIN / RENEW TODAY!

► [Online](http://indianaaudubon.org) at indianaaudubon.org

► or [by mailing a check](#) (payable to Indiana Audubon) to:

Sally Routh, Membership Chair
12284 Daugherty Drive
Zionsville, IN 46077



MEET A MEMBER

Denise Gardiner



Tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from? Family?

I grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, but have lived in Bloomington and worked on the professional staff at Indiana University for 25 years. My day job is Director of Finance for IU's Office of the Vice President for International Affairs. While I'm not married and don't have children, I am close to my extended family across the U.S. and Canada, and travel frequently to spend time with them. My Mom's family comes from a farm in Gibson County, Indiana, and I have cousins in the Fort Branch area and Evansville. Last summer, that side of the family held a week-long reunion near Michigan City and I lined up Brad Bumgardner (on his first week as IAS Executive Director) to guide us on a morning walk through Cowles Bog, where I saw my first Veery! My Dad is Canadian, with most family up there living in Alberta. Childhood trips to visit my grandparents were spent fishing in summer and goose hunting in fall. Last September, my folks, my uncle, a friend and I took a big trip across the province of Newfoundland, where I added a dozen new species to my life list. The boat tour of Witless Bay and visit to the Gannet colony at Cape St. Mary's were highlights. I have one sibling, a brother who lives in southern California. At Christmas in recent years we've gathered near his home, where the weather is fine and there is some great birding. Our most recent discovery is the Bolsa Chica Ecological

Reserve in Huntington Beach, which was just amazing in late December (my first Reddish Egret). My next trip with Mom and Dad is planned for June, to visit family and do a little birding in the Seven Sisters area of Manitoba.

What advantages do you find in being both a local Sassafras Audubon chapter member and an Indiana Audubon member?

I've been on the Sassafras Audubon Society (SAS) Board for four years now, and an Indiana Audubon member for two. My favorite part of involvement in both organizations is becoming a part of the community, where I've met so many like-minded, kind and interesting people who share my joy in birding. My skill level is intermediate at best still, so I appreciate the opportunities provided by these organizations to get out and learn from more experienced birders. I regularly go on the monthly third Saturday walks that SAS organizes, as well as take part in the annual events we co-sponsor (Eagle Watch weekend at Monroe Lake, Marsh Madness at Goose Pond, the Wildflower Foray in Brown County). I've been on two IAS events so far, Kankakee Sands and the Spring Gathering at Mary Gray, but look forward to doing more. It's especially important as a relative beginner that I go on my first visit to a hotspot with an organized and guided trip – it makes it so much better when I later go back on my own to know what routes to take and birds to look for.

What's your favorite birding area locally and why?

My first real birding trip was to Goose Pond in February 2013, organized by City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation and SAS, where we paid \$20 to take an old school bus down to the property. David Rupp led that trip. We saw fields of Sandhill Cranes, filling the air with their

wonderful sound as groups flew in and out. That was also my first time to see a Whooping Crane. I continue to go back to Goose Pond, about every other month, and there is always something that makes it worth the trip. For hiking and birding, the Sycamore Land Trust properties around Bloomington can't be beat – Beanblossom Bottoms, Porter West, and the Branigin Peninsula are my favorites.

What's your favorite bird or group of birds?

I think I have to say the long-legged wading birds – cranes, herons, and egrets. They are easy to identify, beautiful, and fun to watch. Maybe in a few years when I am better at telling them apart I'll say shorebirds as well. I also still get excited every time I see a Bald Eagle in the wild.

What's the biggest issue facing bird conservation right now, in your opinion?

I don't want to speak to "biggest issue," as that is beyond my level of knowledge. However, a bird conservation effort dear to me this year is the International Crane Foundation (ICF) outreach program to promote awareness of Whooping Cranes in Greene County and statewide. I was one of the SAS board members who attended the Whooping Crane ambassador training at ICF headquarters in Baraboo, WI last summer, and have been active in behind-the-scenes work throughout the winter season when they had a program assistant in the field here. A key factor to prevent illegal shootings of this endangered species is to raise the level of awareness and pride among members of the local community in having these amazing birds in the area. People of my generation typically have almost no knowledge of Whooping Cranes. Perhaps a faint memory of George Archibald's guest appearance on Johnny Carson's show in 1982, or press coverage of the ultralight-guided Operation Migration efforts of 2001-2016. I take every opportunity I get to tell friends and acquaintances the Whooping Crane's conservation success story, and encourage people to visit Goose Pond and see these rare and gorgeous birds for themselves.

BIRD BANDINGS

AT MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY

See the birds up-close at during a bird banding session at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Bird banding provides a wealth of information – on habitat, on migration, and breeding habits for species found throughout the preserve. In the case of inclement weather, the banding will be canceled for the safety of the birds.

TO OBSERVE:

Observers may arrive as early as 7 am, but banding demonstrations will continue through 10 am at the preserve's large shelter. Participants are encouraged to bring bug spray, hiking shoes, and to dress in layers, as early mornings on the preserve can be cool.



UPCOMING DATES: JUNE 16, JUNE 23, JULY 7, JULY 14, JULY 21, JULY 28, AUGUST 5

► To RSVP for a banding session, contact Amy Wilms at: wilmsab@indianaaudubon.org or call or call (765) 309-2958



LOOKING
AHEAD

FIELD TRIPS

JUNE 30

**Cane Ridge Field Trip
(Princeton)**

JULY 14

**Birds and Butterflies
at the Scott Starling
Sanctuary Field Trip
(Indianapolis)**

JULY 28

**Lakefront Shorebirds
Field Trip (Gary)**

JULY 28

**Birds and Butterfly
Photography 101 Field
Trip (Connersville)**

CALL FOR VENDORS

The Indiana Audubon Society will be hosting the inaugural Hummingbird Migration Celebration at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, August 11. This event will draw hummingbird enthusiasts from around the Midwest to Connersville, IN for a one-day celebration of all things birds and hummingbirds. Participants can expect an assortment of activities on the beautiful Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary grounds.

As part of the event, vendors are being sought to showcase the region's diverse arts, crafts, and outdoor related services. Vendor applications are now available on the Indiana Audubon website. Vendor fees are \$50 for the day-long event. Companies, individuals, and civic groups are encouraged to apply.



► Visit the Hummingbird Migration Celebration event page on the IAS website for more information or to apply.



Honest Birding around the Boyhood Home of Abe

BY DAVID DUGAS

Young Abe Lincoln spent part of his youth in the woods and fields of far southern Indiana, and the 2,026 acres of Lincoln State Park, which was established in 1932 as a memorial to the 16th president's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, serve as both a great regional recreation area and a birding destination.

Lincoln State Park is composed primarily of mesic upland and bottomland forest dominated by eastern hardwoods – consisting of various oaks, hickories, maples, tulip, walnut, sycamore, elms and others – to create a deciduous setting, while White Pine, Eastern Red Cedar, and other pines represent the dominant conifers. Taken together, these species make for a well-mixed habitat for birds and other wildlife. The understories are typically occupied by Dogwood, Redbud, and immature stands of oaks and hickories. Topographically, the site is made up of steep slopes and ravines, such that seasonal ponds and swampy areas are created in the bottomlands from accumulated runoff. Old field habitat exists in many areas of the park, often with second growth forest.

Lincoln State Park is perhaps best known for the Mississippi Kites that have nested there throughout the last twenty years. The first sighting was in May of 1992, when two kites were found near the entrance of the park – one of the birds apparently carrying nesting material. Evidence of nesting success finally came in the summer of 1995 when the first fledgling was observed in the park, then in the summer of 1999 when an actual nest was discovered. In the summer of 1997, a second pair of Mississippi Kites was observed in the area of Weber Lake, but no nests or young were found that year. In late August of that same year, a few lucky birders were treated to a playful aerial display involving the resident pair of Mississippi Kites and an adult Swallow-tailed Kite! The annual return of the kites to Lincoln State Park occurs around the 6th of May, a time when they are typically observed in their highest numbers. They usually depart by the second week of September, though birds have been seen as late as early October. Upon entering the park, follow the signs along the paved road to the Lakeside Shelter House. This popular roosting location presumably has been the site of previous Mississippi Kite nests. The Weber Lake area on Trail 4 and the beach at Lincoln Lake are other prime locations from which to search out the kites.

The park hosts many other birds of interest, including Bald Eagles, Common Loons, Osprey, shorebirds,



herons, egrets, and waterfowl – all of which occur seasonally on Lincoln Lake. Good southern Indiana specialties like Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers can be found at the Sarah Lincoln's Woods Nature Preserve on Trail 3. Also check there for nesting Cerulean Warblers in the spring. In addition to being a good location for kites, the Weber Lake area on Trail 4 is excellent in spring and fall for a variety of migrating thrushes and warblers. Prairie Warblers nest there in the summer, as well.

Trail 2 leads away from the gatehouse and goes through the back country of the park, passing through stands of pines and old strip pits. The trail has produced such birds as Least Flycatcher, Worm-eating, Connecticut, Canada, and Golden-winged Warblers, and Black-billed Cuckoo. The pine areas are typically reliable for nesting Yellow-throated Warblers and Barred Owls. The strip pits often produce Wild Turkeys, Acadian Flycatchers, and Summer Tanagers in season. Wild Turkeys can also be found at the picnic and shelter areas of the park, as can Eastern Kingbirds. Finally, Trail 2 is also a good area to find wintering finches.

Other noteworthy bird records for the park include Swallow-tailed Kite, Yellow-crowned Night-heron, Cattle Egret, Loggerhead Shrike, and Caspian Tern.

Maps are readily available at the park office. More than two hundred campsites are available in the state park, and hotel accommodations can be found in the nearby town of Santa Claus.



Since 1898, Indiana Audubon has been serving Hoosier birders by promoting education, conservation, and research. IAS is dedicated to fostering the appreciation of migrant and resident bird species that are present in Indiana and other regions of the world. The organization also strives to support educational efforts that will promote future generations to continue this tradition in perpetuity. Appreciating the aesthetic contributions that birds provide is an important mission of the Society. As Indiana Audubon celebrates 120 years and prepares for the future, it's important to look at all the ways that we as conservation minded individuals can support the birds. There are truly so many ways...120 to be exact.

1. Speak with your town council about becoming a Bird Town Indiana.
2. Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count each February.
3. Donate to the DNR Nongame Fund to help endangered birds.
4. Make your own homemade suet for year-round bird feeding.
5. Call or visit your favorite nursery and tell them you want bird-friendly native plants.
6. Build a Barn Owl box and donate it or help find a suitable barn for it.
7. Plant a native tree for Arbor Day in your backyard habitat.
8. Network with other birders at the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival.
9. Volunteer at a young birder's event near you or ask to host one.
10. Say no to balloon releases and excess garbage waste.
11. Plan a visit to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary to learn about bird banding.
12. Join the National Audubon Society, Indiana Audubon and/or your local Audubon chapter.
13. Take a new person birding.
14. Buy a Federal Duck Stamp (even if you don't hunt!).
15. Donate gently used optics and field guides to the IAS Share & Connect program.
16. Donate supplies or money to a local bird rehabber.
17. Report new eagle nests to the DNR.
18. Nominate someone for the IAS Brooks or Mason Awards.
19. Participate in a local Christmas Bird Count.
20. Adopt a kestrel nest box through the American Kestrel Partnership.
21. Volunteer at a local or state nature center or park.
22. Suggest a new birding hotspot on eBird.
23. Offer to lead a birding hike or tour with Indiana Audubon to showcase a special place.
24. Share bird facts with friends and co-workers.
25. Vote for representatives that support conservation initiatives.
26. Find a new birding patch and see what's present.
27. Inform cat owners of the effects feral and outdoor cats have on bird populations.
28. Wear IAS gear to show your support for birds.
29. Decrease your use of outdoor chemicals and pesticides.
30. Leave baby birds where you find them.
31. Document a rare bird for the Indiana Bird Records Committee.
32. Use mouse traps instead of poison.
33. Respect closed beaches and habitat for nesting birds.
34. Go camping at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.
35. Encourage parks to limit mowing both during and after the nesting season.
36. Put up decals to limit bird collisions on your windows.
37. Wear binoculars into businesses to raise awareness for birders' impact on local economies.
38. Set up simple bird feeders outside your home and record what comes to visit.
39. Visit Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary during the Hummingbird Migration Celebration.
40. Stay on park trails when birding.
41. Write a birding book review for an Indiana Audubon publication.
42. Advocate for "lights out" programs in your town or city to address light pollution.
43. Use eBird to report all the birds you observe.
44. Integrate birding into your summer vacation.
45. Actively remove invasive plant species on your property.
46. Communicate to your legislators your support for bird-friendly legislation.
47. Install LED lights in your house.
48. Carpool when birding.
49. Join the discussion in the Indiana Audubon Facebook Forum group.
50. Drink bird-friendly coffee.
51. Attend the Indiana Young Birder's Conference each August.
52. Start a compost pile on your property.
53. Visit an IAS sponsored saw-whet owl banding station and adopt an owl.

120

WAYS FOR HOOSIERS TO SUPPORT BIRDS





54. Use only reusable water bottles and coffee cups.
55. Build a bluebird box and put it up.
56. Write a bird of the month article for IAS.
57. Gift an Audubon membership to someone you know.
58. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
59. Serve on an IAS board or committee.
60. Attend a local parks and recreation board meeting to promote birds.
61. Volunteer at a local bird event or festival.
62. Support a bird feeding station at your local school.
63. Donate to Indiana Audubon to help leverage grant funds for bird-related projects.
64. Clean your hummingbird feeder regularly.
65. Talk less, listen more when in the outdoors.
66. Choose to walk rather than drive when possible.
67. Learn more about birds through Birds of North America Online, available to IAS members.
68. Let gardens stand all winter for native birds to use.
69. Clean up discarded fishing line when you see it.
70. Bird a location you haven't been before.
71. Take a kid bird watching.
72. Take part in the Indiana Big County Big Year Challenge in 2018.
73. Provide a clean water source for birds in your yard.
74. Participate in the Audubon Big May Day Bird Count the second Saturday in May.
75. Contact a local school to ask if any teacher would like a short presentation about birds in your area.
76. Only use 1:4 ratio sugar water for hummingbird feeders. No dye.
77. Share this list with local scouts to use.
78. Support your local food markets.
79. Join an organization that promotes native habitat and manages invasive species.
80. Return half of your yard to native habitat.
81. Write up an article for the Indiana Audubon Cardinal.
82. Compete in a Birdathon to raise money for a local cause.
83. Take a new birder to see their first Snowy Owl.
84. Donate a field guide to the IYBC giveaway.
85. Participate in the Indiana Marsh Monitoring Program.
86. Like Indiana Audubon on Facebook.
87. Seek out bird art exhibitions.
88. Attend your local Audubon chapter meetings to find out what they're doing.
89. Use less salt when you shovel to avoid excess going into local waterways.
90. Don't buy illegally caged birds.
91. Keep your distance when photographing birds.
92. Take an IAS Birding in Indiana Crash Course to learn more about birds.
93. Install a Prothonotary Warbler box in a local swamp or wetland.
94. Tag #indianabirding on your bird related Instagram posts.
95. Download a birding app to help you learn birds.
96. Go fishing at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.
97. Show off your bird call at the Bird Calling Contest at the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival.
98. Install a screech owl box in your local woods.
99. Spread the word about the effects of climate change on birds.
100. Share your love with birds during the Marsh Madness at Goose Pond FWA.
101. Help with a conservation work day at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.
102. Buy an Indiana environmental license plate.
103. Donate a feeder and seed to a local nursing home.
104. Count birds for the Indiana Audubon Big May Day Count.
105. Take a night hike looking for owls.
106. Become a sponsor of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival.
107. Report banded birds when found.
108. Become a volunteer at your local zoo.
109. Contribute a new birding site guide location on the Audubon website.
110. Research ways to lower your carbon footprint.
111. Advocate for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
112. Buy an Indiana State Park pass.
113. Attend a Project WILD educators workshop.
114. Share your spotting scope with new birders.
115. Buy only sustainably sourced seafood to reduce negative impacts on seabirds.
116. Purchase a hunt/fish combo license to support habitat for birds on state properties.
117. Record photos and audio files for your eBird checklist.
118. Share your northern Indiana bird sightings to the Michiana Birding Hotline for Amish birders. (574-642-1300, ext.4098)
119. Keep your cat indoors.
120. Just go birding!





INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY

HUMMING BIRD

AUG 11 2018

MIGRATION CELEBRATION



FEATHERS and FERMENTATION

SAT. JUNE 16, 2018
8 AM - 12 PM

WITH BIRD EXPERT
WES HOMOYA



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