

Indiana Audubon Society

CARDINAL

NEWSLETTER • AUG-SEPT 2018 • VOL.49 No. 4

top **10**
**PLACES
TO BIRD**
in Indiana



WELCOME ABOARD!

NEW INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Indiana Audubon Society would like to welcome the follow members who joined in the 2nd quarter of 2018. Thank you for your support!

Lynn Wachtman
Kevin Friend
Kimberly McKenzie
Tyler Jaeger
June Jones
Robert Suseland
Michael Haley
Steve Price
Pamela Rager
Randy Jones
Don Crum
John Cassady
John Krieger
Elizabeth Haig

Lesli Baumer
Richard Good
Patricia McKinlay
Rebecca Haverstick
Erik Holvorson
Alexandra Auvinen
Marcella Larch
Emily Spicer
Jeff Kiefer
Mica Matney
Lesley Ballard
Trista Delgado
Jack & Mildred Bunyard
Tracey Blecha

Ellen Jacquart
Mike Matney
Joan Storey
John Nelson
Zalo Wilson
Bryan Barrett
Beth McCluskey
Debrs Lamoureux
Jeff Currie
Heather Logan
Andrew Thompson
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Allee Forsberg
Carol Goodall
Chad Williams

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.



JOIN -OR- RENEW TODAY



MEMBERSHIP PERKS	Individual \$30	Family \$35	Contributing \$50	Cardinal Club \$100	Life \$675	Library \$100	Fledgling \$5	Student \$20
Access to bi-monthly & quarterly newsletters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mailed printed copies of bi-monthly & quarterly newsletters			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Complete access to Birds of North America Database	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Discounted Field Trips & Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Special Access to Mary Gray Birding Sanctuary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

► Be a part of Indiana Audubon Society! Sign up at: Indianaaudubon.org/membership



MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY

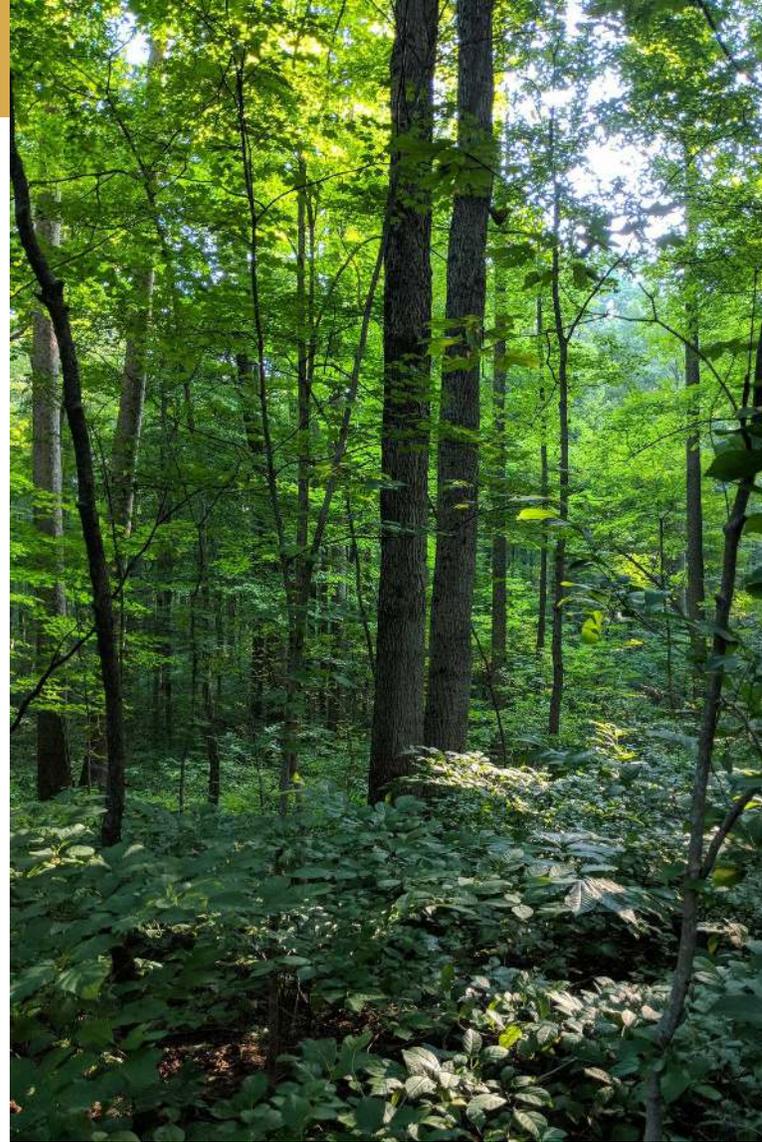
Awarded Dedicated Nature Preserve Status

Indiana Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary received dedicated nature preserve status during the Indiana Natural Resources Commission's recent meeting in Indianapolis. The commission's approval makes the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary the 287th dedicated nature preserve in the state system.

Mary Gray has historically been listed as an important natural area, including in Alton Lindsey's book, *Natural Areas in Indiana*.

For years, members have learned of research being conducted at the preserve through bird banding during the spring and fall migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The sanctuary will also host the annual Hummingbird Migration Celebration on August 11. A turtle population research project has been ongoing there since 1985.

The newly designated area within the sanctuary consists of a high-quality mesic upland forest with a showy spring wildflower display. The forest is dominated by sugar maple and tulip trees. These community types contain many area-sensitive forest-interior plants and animals that depend upon large, unfragmented forest ecosystems.



An Introduction from the Resident Caretaker

BY STEPHANY BOLEYN

Hey there, IAS members! My name is Stefany Boleyn, and I'm the new Resident Caretaker for the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. I still can't believe I get to type that and have it be the truth! I'm really excited to get started in the new role! My husband, Daniel, and I are all moved in, but we've still got a lot of unpacking to do. I've been spending the past few weeks making adjustments to my work schedule at the Central

Library in downtown Indianapolis, and beginning my training at MGBS with Carl Wilms.

Though I'm a children's librarian by training and a birder by passion, I have always hoped that I could eventually do work that supports our environment. When my parents drew me into birding as an adult, I fell for it hard, studying species and learning about how to be an environmentally-conscious birder. That, combined with previous experiences in college, led me to take an Indiana Master Naturalist Course last year, which then propelled me on a series of volunteer opportunities that allow me to learn about our environment while assisting in its maintenance. Many of these volunteer experiences have been at the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.

My initial goal in my new position is to learn. I hope to learn about what the wants and needs are of the people who visit the Sanctuary. What are their goals, visions, and ideas for MGBS? What do they hope we can accomplish? How can I be a part of making that happen? In addition, I will make it a priority to delve into the history of MGBS, what goals have already been reached, what goals are ongoing, and what goals are envisioned for the future. I also hope to learn as much as I can from Carl and

Amy, really get comfortable with the machinery and what it takes to maintain the property, and to continue to grow my knowledge of birds and the numerous flora and fauna at the Sanctuary. From there, I hope to build upon the legacy of previous caretakers and managers who have implemented various educational opportunities and programs. I'm also excited for our upcoming Hummingbird Festival on August 11th. I hope to use that day as an opportunity to meet many of the Sanctuary visitors and IAS members and learn about what you all would like to see from me as the caretaker.

My husband, Daniel, is excited for the opportunity as well. He's more of a hiker than a birder, but he has an appreciation of birds and other wildlife, especially bats. In terms of our personal interests, Daniel and I are both theatergoers and actors, we love hiking and kayaking, and we're also big fans of tabletop and board games.

We're also both really friendly people, so if you're ever at the Sanctuary, feel free to stop by and say hi! We've got a lot of learning to do, but we're excited to serve IAS and the Sanctuary.



INDIANA YOUNG BIRDERS CONFERENCE

INDIANAPOLIS AUG 18

BY CHAD WILLIAMS

The Indiana Audubon Society and Indiana Young Birders Club will hold the 6th annual Young Birders Conference on August 18 at Cool Creek Nature Center in Carmel. Adults and youth interested in birds and nature will find a variety of activities available at this daylong event, including early morning bird watching, presentations by young birders, quizzes, and a raffle. The keynote presentation at this year's event will be given by Teodelina Martelli, a seventeen-year-old California birder who has been drawing birds since she was three. She will present "Notes on the Condor," highlighting her experience with the conservation of one of the country's rarest birds, the California Condor. Teodelina was recently awarded the American Birding Association's "Young Birder of the Year" award.

Register online with early bird rates of \$20 for adults, \$12 for youth 12-18 years of age, and free for children under 12. Registration for the day includes lunch catered by Moe's Southwest Grill.

► For more information on the event, opportunities for sponsorship, and to register, visit: indianayoungbirders.org



Teodelina



Ceth



Jonathon



Matthias



Corbin



Juan



Lorena



Catalina



Serena



Evan



Luis



Keegen

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

The Indiana Young Birders Conference would not be possible without generous support from businesses as well as from individuals in the birding community. IAS members should consider supporting the 6th Indiana Young Birders Conference via a monetary or bird-related merchandise donation. Your generosity will be highlighted on the IYBC website, newsletter, and official conference agenda.

Supporters will be listed under the following levels:

- Cerulean Warbler** – \$500 or greater
- Kirtland's Warbler** – \$250-\$499
- Wood Thrush** – \$150-\$249
- Evening Grosbeak** – \$50-\$149
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – Up to \$49

Corporate donors will receive a link to their website from the IYBC website, and contributors at the Wood Thrush level and above will also have their company logo included.

► For additional information or to discuss a contribution, please send an email to: iybc@indianaaudubon.org

All donations, either monetary or merchandise, may be sent to:

5720 Long Ridge Pl,
Indianapolis, IN 46221

If donating merchandise, please include the total retail value so that your sponsorship level can be calculated correctly. Your consideration and support is greatly appreciated.





LOOKING AHEAD

Exciting trips are planned for this fall. Sign up today—spaces fill fast!

Reserve your spot online at: <https://indianaaudubon.org/events>



**INDIANA BIRDING:
Crash Course!**

SEPT 9



SEPT 29



OCT 13

FIELD TRIPS

SEPT 9

**INTRO TO BIRDING
CRASH COURSE:
POKAGON STATE PARK
(ANGOLA)**

SEPT 29

**FALL BIRDING IN
THE H.E.E. PROJECT
(NASHVILLE)**

OCT 13

**ZIMMERMAN
WETLANDS
FIELD TRIP
(NASHVILLE)**



Fans of all things hummingbirds and nature are invited to attend the upcoming Hummingbird Migration Celebration at beautiful Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, August 11. The event is a festival dedicated to the tiny gem, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Multiple sponsors and partners provide opportunities for everyone to learn about these amazing little birds, how to attract them, and how to keep them coming back year after year. Activities include hummingbird banding demonstrations to view hummingbirds up close, guided nature walks, a native plant sale, live birds of prey, programs about birds and other pollinators, kids activities, vendor booths, live music, and more.

Discounted tickets are available before the event at hummingbirds.indianaaudubon.org and volunteers are still being sought for this incredible event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carl Wilms at carl.wilms@indianaaudubon.org



MEET A MEMBER

ALLEE FORSBERG

Q TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF? WHERE ARE YOU FROM? FAMILY?

Originally from the Mitten State of Michigan, my family moved a lot but gravitated toward Clare/Mount Pleasant. I was a horse-obsessed kid, stealing any time I could with my uncle's horses. I didn't notice birds beyond protecting Killdeer nests from mean neighbor kids, or watching hummingbirds visit our feeder. I remember my Mom pointing out birds, like Sandhill Cranes in farm fields, but I would brush her off.

In the Fall of 2013, I went birding by accident – photographing birds around Seney National Wildlife Refuge in the UP. The nature center volunteer identified the birds in some of my photos, and the species he listed off fascinated me. I joined eBird and began listing that January in Venice, Florida, where I pushed my life list over 100 species. I've always been a list-maker, from to-do lists to bucket lists, so that aspect of birding highly appealed to me.

My daughter, Lily, turns 10 this summer and I'm trying to spark her interest in birds like my own Mom did for me. She seems to respond best when she can log her own eBird checklist, or while viewing an owl. Lily and I now reside in Noblesville, Indiana, with our little blended birder tribe of Kevin Cornell and his daughters, Anna (rhymes with fauna) and Mikki. I work as a nanny in Westfield, and was excited when the two-year-old I watch pointed to birds on the lawn and said, "Allee, Robins!"

Q WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEMBERSHIP FEATURE?

I joined IAS to get discounts for tvbhe 2017 UP Winter Owls Tour and South Dakota Black Hills trip, so I love that aspect of being a member. But the benefits have gone way beyond the surface level for me.

I've spent most of my life overcoming anxiety, rarely venturing outside my comfort zone. As a new birder, I suffered from "imposter syndrome," worrying that experienced birders would spot me from a mile away and tell me I didn't belong there. Thanks to eBird, I knew local birders by name but painstakingly avoided them, opting to skip viewing a rare bird rather than approach people. Not until meeting some friendly birders, such as Annie Aguirre, could I be persuaded to participate. So, I helped with banding demos at the Dunes and joined events like Matt Beatty's warbler walk, and met other members. Over time, familiar faces became acquaintances, and acquaintances became friends. Today when I meet a shy new birder, I ask them the question, "Do you want to be a birder?" When they timidly say, "Um, well, yes?" I confidently respond, "Then you're a birder."

Ultimately for me, being a member of IAS is about personal growth. This January, I gained a seat on the IAS Board of Directors. I initially feared I could never be a productive member, but now I'm finding myself drawn to help with tasks that used to scare me. I've gained the confidence to come out of my shell and do things I never thought myself capable of.



Q FAVORITE BIRD?

This question seems near impossible to answer, but if I had to go on gut instinct alone I would say Snowy Owl. It was the first bird that caused me to experience a physiological reaction the first time I saw one—adrenaline, racing heart, disbelief at finding one, and genuine fear it would disappear like a ghost. I've always wondered why white animals tend to have a near-mythical quality for many of us. Think about seeing a white horse, an arctic fox, or white Bengal tiger—there's just something magical about a Snowy Owl. Even nonbirders notice this bird.

Q WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE BIRDING DESTINATIONS, BOTH STATEWIDE OR WORLDWIDE AND WHY?

Within my own small scope, I would say Florida, and because 19 Owls has domestically broadened my horizons, Arizona and Minnesota. For me, Florida was a great place to be a new birder. I'm fond of the Gulf side—Venice, Sarasota, Siesta Key, Cape Coral. I've always called Florida "ditch birding" since the targets are generally large and accessible, even in ditches along the road or in the parking lots of businesses. You can find a great sampling of birds regardless of time of year.

Arizona has quickly become a favorite destination, leaving me hungry for more. Those four short days looking for owls produced almost 140 species, at least 50 of which were lifers for me. The chance for a wandering rarity is very real if you can afford some stakeout time. Bang for your buck, it's a great place to explore. I particularly loved Madera Canyon.

Minnesota in February might not sound appealing, but I promise that even though the list will be relatively short, the quality of species found is high in Sax-Zim Bog. Make sure to pop into the Visitor Center to chat with the staff, buy some toe warmers if you forgot to bring them, drink a cup of hot cider and watch the feeders. Recruit a team and do plenty of research (or join an Audubon trip!), because you can waste a lot of valuable time trying to figure that place out. But I promise it's worth it. If you don't believe me, go see a Great Gray Owl and report back. Even my daughter was floored by that one.

Nominate, Nominate, Nominate!



HELP RECOGNIZE THE HEROES OF
OUR CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

THE EARL BROOKS AWARD

Dr. Earl Brooks (1883-1968) served as president and editor with the Indiana Audubon Society, and was the executive director of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary from 1946-1959. He authored the book *Common Birds of Indiana* in 1945.

The Earl Brooks Award was established in 1969, and is presented annually to “a deserving Hoosier who has contributed to the cause, advancement, or has had a direct impact on conservation of natural resources in Indiana.”

Nominees need not be a member of the Indiana Audubon Society.

THE JAMES H. MASON SERVICE AWARD

The James H. Mason Service Award was established in 1990, and is presented annually to members of the Indiana Audubon Society who have dedicated themselves to the Society through their service.

“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 (1912-1989), past president and indefatigable crusader for conservation.”

Recipient must be a member of the Indiana Audubon Society.

Interested in nominating someone?

- ▶ Visit the “Awards and Events” section at: indianaudubon.org/about-ias to nominate

Submission Deadline

- ▶ Nominations are due by September 1st for consideration by the Awards Committee.

Apply Now!

FOR THE MUMFORD & KELLER GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Mumford and Keller Grant/Scholarship Program is an annual award given to individuals and organizations seeking funding for activities related to Indiana’s natural resources, particularly those related to Indiana’s avifauna, that promote the Indiana Audubon Society’s mission. This program was created in 2010, and receives some funding from the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival’s silent auction.

Russell E. Mumford is a Past President of the Society, as well as an author, teacher, and biologist. Charles E. Keller, also an author, was editor of the Society’s publications for 25 years. In 1984, they co-authored the book, *Birds of Indiana*.

How to Apply

- ▶ Visit the “Awards and Events” section at: indianaudubon.org/about-ias to submit an application

Submission Deadline

- ▶ Submissions are due by September 1st for consideration by the Awards Committee.

If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Awards Chair, Kim Ehn at: kmehn@comcast.net

Award Recipients from recent years:

- Landon Neumann
- The Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services
- The Northwest Indiana Migratory Bird Association
- Lauren Smith
- Hummer/Bird Banding Collaborative (HBRC)
- Tim Tolford
- Alexandra Forsythe
- Chad and Ceth Williams
- Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center
- Amy Wilms
- Mathias Benko
- Friends of the Limberlost
- ACRES Land Trust
- Indiana Young Birder’s Club North Chapter

top 10 PLACES TO BIRD in Indiana

Birding in Indiana is truly spectacular. With the state set between several major migration flyways, the diversity of species seen (now more than 420) provides bird enthusiasts a chance to find interesting species throughout the year. We are also blessed with many ecoregions, including forest, prairie, and wetlands, but also some unique habitats such as Great Lakes beaches and cypress swamps. With all these great options, finding the best of the best birding locations isn't easy. It can be very subjective. Your favorite site may be your own nearby park. Recently, we asked Indiana Audubon members and several state birding experts what they believed were the best birding locations in the state. Clearly, we can't pick everyone's favorite, but ten sites stood out as deserving to be on your Indiana birding bucket list. If you're in the mood to expand your birding horizons, consider checking out the favorites from our panel. All that is left is to point your binoculars in the right direction and bird on. **Happy birding!**

10

MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY 700 ACRES | CONNERSVILLE

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary is owned and operated by the Indiana Audubon Society and is located south of Connersville in Fayette County. Alice Green Gray gave the initial 264 acre property to the Indiana Audubon Society in 1943 as a living memorial to her daughter Mary, who preceded her in death.

While the Sanctuary's bird list is shy of 200 species, the property is truly dedicated to birds. Audubon events, bird banding research, conservation efforts, education and community outreach programs make this one of the state's premiere sites for bird-related work being done. Bird banding occurs on most Saturdays during spring and fall migration.

NOTABLE SPECIES: In Summer, the Sanctuary bands Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (offered nearly every evening from 6-7:30 pm). October–November also bring Northern Saw-whet Owl banding, with the public invited on select nights to observe and learn about this secretive migrant.

SITE SECRET: IAS members wanting to get the best start on a birding day at Mary Gray can stay overnight in the rustic campground.

9

LAKE MONROE 10,000 ACRES | BLOOMINGTON

One of the largest reservoirs in the state, Lake Monroe is located about 10 miles southeast of Bloomington with water property in both Brown and Monroe County.

In addition to open water and wetland habitats that are otherwise scarce in the rolling karst topography of southern Indiana, large tracts of oak woodlands provide for a good variety of migrating and nesting songbird species. When adding all of the birding areas together, nearly 300 species have been recorded around the lake. Lake Monroe's largest claim to fame remains its eagle population. In the early 1980s, Lake Monroe was used as a "hacking site" for the reintroduction of Bald Eagles into Indiana. This highly successful program has allowed nesting eagles to spread statewide, but Lake Monroe remains a dependable area to find them year-round. When the Bald Eagle population swells with the arrival of wintering birds each year, "eagle watch weekends" provide an excellent opportunity for birders and the general public to see these magnificent raptors around the lake.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Reports in recent years include Sabine's Gull, Red-throated Loon, Chuck-wills-Widow, and Roseate Spoonbill at nearby Stillwater Marsh in 2018.

SITE SECRET: Check the Sassafras Audubon's site for frequent field trips to really explore this immense birding area.

8

WILLOW SLOUGH & KANKAKEE SANDS 10,000 ACRES & 7,000 ACRES | MONROE

Birding one of these sites without visiting the other is truly doing yourself a disservice. Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area borders the Nature Conservancy's restoration at Kankakee Sands, both in northwest Indiana. Nearly 300 species of birds have been recorded at the two sites, making the area a year-round birding destination – and an easy side-trip if you're traveling to or from the dunes area. As is typical with Fish & Wildlife Areas, access can be difficult as few trails exist, but great birding at Willow Slough can be done from the car and by scanning the sprawling J.C. Murphey Lake from the park office. A great assortment of waterfowl, including ducks, grebes, and pelicans, be seen in the spring. This can include rarer species such as Long-tailed Duck, Eared Grebe, and scoters. Summer birding can find specialties such as Bell's Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager in the various wooded areas on the property. Kankakee Sands is keystone for a larger habitat restoration in what was formerly one of the largest inland lakes in Indiana.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Today, more than 7,000 acres of primarily wet prairie provide a home for many unique species, including Western Meadowlark, Henslow's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Lark Sparrow, and Dickcissel. The site has also proven to be a reliable location for migrating American Golden Plovers each spring. Winter visitors may spot Short-eared Owls against the backdrop of feeding American Bison that were introduced just a few years ago.

SITE SECRET: Drive slowly along the county roads early in the morning to find American Bitterns in the ditches right at the roadside!

7

CANE RIDGE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA 440 ACRES | PRINCETON

Cane Ridge Wildlife Management is a unit of the larger Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. Cane Ridge, along with the adjacent Gibson Lake and Indiana DNR-owned Tern Bar Slough, comprise an Audubon-recognized Important Bird Area.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Although more than 250 species of birds have been recorded, the site's most famous residents are its nesting colony of federally-endangered "interior" Least Terns. The site also holds several notable state records, including Mountain Bluebird, Northern Wheatear, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Additionally, the area provides crucial wetland habitat for both migrating and wintering waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds. Bald Eagles and Peregrine falcons are local nesters. Birders visiting in late winter through spring can find a good diversity of birds, as well as high volumes of waterfowl and shorebirds. Summer birding will not only find nesting Least Terns and Black-necked Stilts, but many other wetland and grassland species, such as King Rail, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole and more.

SITE SECRET: Some of the most notable species can be found in summer, but be sure to arrive early—extreme southern Indiana can get quite steamy by midday.

6

MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

7,724 ACRES | SEYMOUR

Muscatatuck, Indiana's first National Wildlife Refuge, was established in 1966 from Funds from the sale of federal "duck stamps" which were set aside to provide resting and feeding habitat for migratory waterfowl. Muscatatuck is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of over 500 refuges whose habitat is managed specifically for wildlife. More than 280 species of birds have been recorded within Muscatatuck's borders.

Hiking trails vary from .2 to 4 miles and make the property easy to access for birding. The property also includes a 4-mile auto tour loop that begins and ends near the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center itself features a small bookstore staffed by knowledgeable volunteers, as well as an observation window overlooking a generous feeder array. The refuge hosts an assortment of birding events throughout the year, including the Wings over Muscatatuck Festival.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Bottomland forest hosts Barred Owls, Prothonotary Warblers, and a large population of Wood Ducks.

SITE SECRET: Obviously, migration is the best time to visit Muscatatuck, but summer mornings can also be productive at this large birding destination.

5

MILLER BEACH LAKEFRONT

50 ACRES | GARY

The great expanse of sandy beach that lies on the exact southernmost point of Lake Michigan provides one of the most stellar lists of bird species in the state. Nearly 300 species of birds have been recorded from this area, which includes two distinct sites – Marquette Park (and concession stand) and Lake Street Beach. Despite the great birding potential, actual birding here can be fickle. Success can be dependent on knowledge of weather systems, and often requires a sedentary style of birding known as "lakewatching" that doesn't fit the style of some birders.

The newly remodeled areas around Miller Beach provide for safe parking and birding after paying the regular recreation season parking fees (pro tip: parking fees are not assessed after Labor Day, or very early in the morning during season).

NOTABLE SPECIES: By far, the most popular birding time is in the fall, when an assortment of "Big Lake" specialties can be found, including: Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Red Knot, Piping Plover, Purple Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, and Willet. During days with stronger winds, birders often move to Marquette Park to scan the lake for migrating waterfowl and jaegers. In fact, Miller Beach may be the best site in the entire Great Lakes region to spot all three jaeger species that occur in the United States. If you have the time (and the legs!), you may want to walk the mile of beach west from the Lake Street Beach parking lot in search of hidden species, or peek into the nearby dunes for migrating songbirds. You can also visit Michigan City Harbor, just 20 minutes away, for similar birding and an equally impressive bird list.

SITE SECRET: Watch weather and wind forecasts closely to time your best fall birding here.



4

CELERY BOG

105 ACRES | WEST LAFAYETTE

Nestled alongside Purdue University and the city of West Lafayette, Celery Bog and the property's Lily Nature Center benefit from quality forest and wetland habitat, and no shortage of birders! Though not a true bog in the typical sense, the agricultural origins of the land can still be seen with traces of pioneering tools and drainage tiles around the property.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Celery Bog's five wetland basins are home to a variety of wildlife, particularly in spring and fall, when migrating birds rest in the marsh. Bitterns, herons, shorebirds, and rails can be seen with some regularity. The site is also a magnet for waterfowl, and hosted the state's first fall record for Cinnamon Teal a few years ago. In total, more than 250 species of birds have been recorded at Celery Bog, making it worth a stop if you're in or passing through Tippecanoe County. Those wishing to round out their birding checklist would do well to visit the nearby Prophetstown State Park for a diversity of grassland and early successional species, including Dickcissel and Henslow's Sparrow, as well as wintering Long-eared Owls near the park's fens.

SITE SECRET: This site is fantastic year-round, but waterfowl migration is what this site is known for! Plan to visit the peak months (Fall: Oct-Nov | Spring: Mar-Apr).

3

GOOSE POND FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

8,000 ACRES | LINTON

Since its creation in 2005, Goose Pond has quickly elevated Indiana's birding profile with its highly successful large-scale wetland restoration, and the bird diversity has been drawn to property in a Field of Dreams-esque way ("build it, and they will come"). Though spring and fall are the most popular periods at the property, the summer breeding birds and wintering congregations are also worth visiting.

NOTABLE SPECIES: Early spring counts of Snow Geese have approached 100,000 birds, providing the most spectacular place in the state to observe these and other migrating waterfowl. American White Pelicans regularly post state-record numbers here, and spring Sandhill Crane numbers rival Jasper-Pulaski to the north. The holistic success of Goose Pond has also altered the wintering habits of the introduced Whooping Cranes from the eastern partnership, resulting in some of the largest winter congregations of this fragile population. Winter also treats visitors to raptors such as Rough-legged Hawks and Merlins, as well as Short-eared Owls when the sun sets. Goose Pond is also one of the only Indiana Christmas Birds Counts to consistently record 100 or more species for the day.

Birders often forget that besides the wetlands, there are also acres of great grassland and woodland on the property, and the nearby Greene-Sullivan State Forest and reclaimed strip mine areas provide additional habitat to explore. Henslow's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Bobwhite and Bell's Vireo are "sure things" for the summer visitor.

SITE SECRET: The Goose Pond vicinity hosts the highest nesting density of Barn Owls in the entire state!

While birding Goose Pond can prove daunting due to its immense size, lack of trails, and popularity with hunters in-season, visitors should still make it a point to visit the property, whether alone or with an IAS birding trip.

2

EAGLE CREEK PARK & RESERVOIR

4,400 ACRES | INDIANAPOLIS

Eagle Creek Park and Eagle Creek Reservoir are located just outside of the I-465 loop on the northwest side of Indianapolis. The Lilly pharmaceutical family began acquiring and maintaining the land as a nature preserve in 1936, continuing further land acquisitions for 22 years. Now, the park is one of the nation's largest city parks, with over 10 miles of trails and a wide variety of habitats. The site also benefits from a good audience of birders, giving it constant coverage for both common and rare birds.

NOTABLE SPECIES: The current checklist includes over 275 species of birds. Recent rare birds in the past few years include Pacific Loon, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Fish Crow, and Red Crossbill.

SITE SECRET: Visit to the park's Ornithology Center, which features scenic overlooks on the north end of the reservoir, taxidermy displays, photo collections, a birding library, live birds of prey, a feeder station, and educational programs year-round. Stop by on Sundays at 9 am for the park's weekly bird walk.

1

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE & STATE PARK

15,000 ACRES | CHESTERTON

Hands down, the collection of sites contained within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park contain some of the best diversity and volume of birds to be seen, especially during migration. More than 300 species of birds have been seen in the state park alone, giving it the highest total species list of any site in the state. The National Lakeshore is broken into several units and is less contiguous than the state park, but contains some real gems for birding, including Cowles Bog, Beverly Shores, and the nearby Heron Rookery unit.

NOTABLE SPECIES: During migration, the shoreline of Lake Michigan from the dunes can be a great spot to search for hard-to-find waterbirds, such as Red-throated Loons, White-winged Scoter, Black-backed Gull (both Great and Lesser). In summer, a number of unique nesting species can also be encountered, including colorful Prairie and Prothonotary Warblers, Clay-colored Sparrows, and Red-Headed Woodpeckers. The dunes area is also at the forefront of the semi-regular winter finch invasions that enter the state, making the dunes area a year-round birding destination.

SITE SECRET: Visit the state park longshore tower on a south wind day in April or May to witness migration flights of raptors, shorebirds, and warblers in breathtaking numbers.



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