

Indiana Audubon Society
CARDINAL

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**SPRING INTO
BIRDING**

Experience the best
of warbler migration
this May at Mary Gray!

[pg 8]

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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 protection.



On the cover:
Kentucky Warbler
(*Geothlypis formosa*)

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Discounted Field Trips & Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Special Access to Mary Gray Birding Sanctuary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
15% discount on all IAS online store merchandise				✓	✓			
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► Be a part of Indiana Audubon Society! Sign up at: Indianaaudubon.org/membership



UPCOMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Join Indiana Audubon for an assortment of field trips and workshops being offered this spring. **Visit indianaaudubon.org/events** for more information or to register for any of these upcoming activities. Additional events are listed on the website—many fill early!

APR 7: FEATHERS & FERMENATION: EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS

ASH AND ELM CIDERY [INDIANAPOLIS, IN]

MAY 4: IAS SPRING GATHERING

MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY [CONNERSVILLE, IN]

MAY 16-19: INDIANA DUNES BIRDING FESTIVAL

INDIANA DUNES VISITOR CENTER [CHESTERTON, IN]

APR 20: BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES FIELD TRIP

SCOTT STARLING SANCTUARY [INDIANAPOLIS, IN]

NEWS

IAS SPONSORS INTERPRETIVE SIGN IN COSTA RICA

In February, Indiana Audubon members were fortunate to join Juan Diego Vargas from Lifer Nature Tours in helping to dedicate a new interpretive sign located at Parque Nacional Volcan Arenal in Costa Rica. Funds for the sign came from IAS tour participants as well as the Mumford & Keller Grants and Scholarship Program.



The beautiful new interpretive sign welcomes visitors and educates them on two important motmot species and the current research to document hybridization between them.

Indiana Audubon felt the need for education in the Costa Rica national park system was worth reaching out to the membership to help fund a second sign in the national park at the head of the Antiptta Trail. Birds truly unite everyone, all over the world!

Please visit gofundme.com/arenal-interpretive-sign if you would like to donate to help educate more visitors to this wonderful park in a wonderful country.

You can also join the next IAS Costa Rica birding adventure this October! More information is available online at indianaudubon.org/events.



INDIANA HAS A NEW NATIONAL PARK

With the recent designation of Indiana Dunes National Park, Indiana can now claim a piece of what writer Wallace Stegner called "America's best idea." You have no doubt seen the news. The buzz has filled social media and traditional print media alike. But what does all of this interest mean?

While the 15,000 acres and 15 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline that make up the property formerly known as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will physically remain the same, the name change itself is significant. There are more than 14 types of National Park Service properties, including national monuments, seashores, historic parks, preserves, cemeteries, lakeshores, and

others. The title of National Park is generally reserved for those with the most unique and diverse natural resources within the NPS system. Indiana Dunes National Park becomes the 61st property to bear this title. Its vast acres of prairie, wetland, oak savanna, and dune and swale host more plant and animal species than a vast majority of the other National Park properties around the nation.

So why the push to designate the Indiana Dunes as a National Park, and not the three other National Lakeshore sites around the Great Lakes (Sleeping Bear Dunes and Pictured Rocks in Michigan, and the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin)? In a word – marketing.

Tourism and marketing agencies know well that the National Park brand is big for bringing people to a particular region. The Indiana Dunes area is already the most popular tourism destination in the state, and the state park and national lakeshore combined bring in nearly 3 million visitors each year. The new designation will help to further tourism in the area, and that increase in tourism will mean more "heads in beds," whether people are coming to seek out a space on the sand, or a Summer Tanager in the high dunes. That not only means a better bottom line for local businesses, but also more money for park programs, facilities and Indiana Dunes conservation.

THE IAS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Carl Wilms

What does it take for an organization like Indiana Audubon to thrive rather than just survive? The membership rolls of IAS have fluctuated during its 120 years of existence. Over the past decade, membership has increased significantly from 400 to more than 800 members. One of the standing committees of IAS is the Membership Committee. This volunteer group is dedicated to keeping track of all membership information. This includes updating membership rolls, sending renewal notices (snail-mail and email), and working with the website coordinators to facilitate registrations for all IAS events. This is a huge task. Without its efficient execution, the organization would rapidly fall into chaos. Access to issues of *The Cardinal* and IAS Quarterly, and event registrations would cease to exist. Who is responsible for managing this vitally important responsibility?

Many, if not most, IAS members recognize the photographic work of Shari McCollough. Her stunning photographs grace many pages on the IAS website, which also features the photographs of many other talented

IAS members. Fewer members may know that Shari is also an IAS Board member, and recently assumed the position of IAS Membership Chair (assisted by committee members Teri Cochran, Brad Bumgardner, and Amy Wilms). I chatted with Shari about her growing relationship with IAS and her reasons for getting even more involved as the Chair of the Membership Committee.

When asked about the most challenging aspect of being Membership Chair, Shari mentioned the continual maintenance that the membership files demand. It is a process that requires constant attention, especially during spring. When the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival (IDBF) is approaching, many IAS members take advantage of discounted pricing and early registration for the IDBF. This means they may join or renew their membership one day, and want to register for the IDBF activities the next. If the online membership features are not up to date, registration problems can arise. Additionally, many members do not take advantage of membership auto-renewal, thus requiring Shari to email and/or snail-mail them notifications when their memberships lapse.

Although Shari is a board member and the Chair of the Membership Committee, her tenure with IAS has been rather brief. Having been an IAS member for only 3 years, she felt the need to get involved and pitch in to help the organization thrive. "When I saw my first Cardinal, I studied the list of officers and immediately knew that I wanted to be among those responsible for the organization. I knew it would be an opportunity to grow personally as well as help develop my birding skills." Shari strongly believes that the fellowship generated by participation IAS has been a tremendous boost to her personal growth. Sharing the commonality of birding interests provides a focus that transcends political or personal divisions that can frequently

become obstacles to developing friendships.

Looking beyond her contributing role as Membership Chair, I asked Shari to comment on what she sees as essential elements for keeping IAS a vibrant organization. Her first response was to commend Brad Bumgardner for his efforts in reaching out to birders and others throughout the state who are interested in the natural world. Also, by providing venues that address focused and diverse interests of Indiana birders, IAS will continue to grow and meet its mission. Additionally, she said the Society needs to continue to provide "hooks" to invite members to remain engaged, or get engaged, in activities which unite our common interests. The access to social media venues that IAS provides allows connections between members. These opportunities are impressive and generate friendships that transcend the organization.

When asked for her recommendation for an aspect of birding that she feels all IAS members should experience, she rapidly replied, "Everyone should experience a bird banding event." Such events are not only educational, but viewing birds in-hand provides a unique opportunity to appreciate the fine distinctions and subtle characteristics of birds may be nearly impossible to distinguish in the field. Although terrific photographs of individual birds may be stunning and seem to catch the bird's essence, seeing the bird in-hand provides an even greater level of insight.

Shari's involvement in IAS provides the Society with essential services that keep the organization alive. Her love of bird life, photography, and connecting with others who share these passions coincides with her desire to support IAS with her dedicated volunteerism. Shari loves to chat with folks, and is a delightful person with whom to share stories and adventures. 🍂



meet a **MEMBER** ANDY BELT



Q TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF. FAMILY? WHERE DO YOU LIVE & WORK?

I've lived in Indiana my whole life. I grew up in Southport and am the oldest of three children. My parents instilled a love of nature in me by taking us on trips to the forests of southern Indiana and to the shores along Lake Michigan. Ultimately, this factored in my decision to get my Master's Degree in environmental science and public affairs at SPEA after earning my undergraduate degree at IU Bloomington. I took on seasonal positions at Ft. Harrison State Park with DNR and at Fish Springs NWR with USFWS before going to work at IDEM, where I am a senior environmental manager in the Office of Air Quality. I still live on the south side of Indianapolis, but now I live in Franklin Township.

Q WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN BIRDING?

I've always been interested in birds, but it wasn't until I took a class during my senior year at IU that I found out about birding. We'd learn the basics of bird ID and what we'd expect to see in Indiana before taking field trips to various places around Bloomington to put those skills to use. I never suspected that this would be the beginning of a lifelong obsession, as I added more lifers and met other birders over the years.

Q YOU'RE THE NEW CHAIR OF THE INDIANA YOUNG BIRDER'S CLUB. WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP THE YOUNG BIRDER MOMENTUM GOING??

I want to generate interest of new members by first connecting with their parents. From there, I hope to get families involved with outings at local parks around Indianapolis. I want to expand on events about nature, not just about birds, and reach out to other organizations to gauge interest. I want to help kids connect early on with nature in order to instill lifelong passions, whether it's in birding and other activities, or in fields like ecology and conservation.

Q ANY ADVICE FOR NEW BIRDERS JUST GETTING INTO THE HOBBY?

Don't be afraid to make mistakes! IDing birds can be a challenge, but as with other hobbies, the key is practice. Study your field guide but go out in the field as much as you can to not only study a bird's appearance but also to observe different behaviors and listen to calls and songs. Remember that there is always a community willing to help you.

Q DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BIRDING AREA IN INDIANA, OUTSIDE OF INDIANA?

Within Indiana, my favorite place to go birding is Eagle Creek Park. The park is less than a half hour away from my home, and I love how you can spend hours at a time there and still not see everything. I recently got into kayaking, which gives me another opportunity to explore the reservoir from a different point of view. A close runner up is Southwestway Park, which is where I've spent many days during migration looking for warblers, thrushes, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows.

Outside of Indiana, I love Bunche Beach Preserve in Ft. Myers. Shorebirds are my favorite group of birds, and I was blown away when I first went there at sunrise. I couldn't believe the unbelievably close views I had of Willets, Western Sandpipers, Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, and Piping Plovers. 🍁



UNIVERSITY PARK

GREENWOOD'S HIDDEN BIRDING PATCH

.....BY RHIANNON THUNELL.....

University Park is a relatively small (~40 acre) park in the middle of an apartment complex near where I live. I started going to the apartment complex with friends to fish in their retention ponds. I noticed they had a nice little park in the middle of the area, so I started birding there.

I love birding here for many reasons. I suggested the location as an eBird hotspot, so I've made it a personal challenge to see and photograph as many birds there as I can. I have found more species than I ever expected to find here and hope to find many more. There is good habitat diversity, including forest, marsh, a grassy area, and the retention ponds. Having so many habitats in a small area supports high species diversity.

One thing I have really noticed is the concentration of woodpeckers, due to the number of standing dead trees on the property. I have seen all the expected woodpeckers for Indiana here, including

nesting Red-headed Woodpeckers. The wooded area has a stream passing through it, along which I have found many Ovenbirds and a Northern Waterthrush.

Last spring, I found one of my favorite birds here. I was walking off the trail, through the woods trying to photograph warblers. There were plenty of the common warblers like Yellow Warbler and American Redstart. I was photographing an American Redstart when I noticed movement in a tree in front of me. It was a beautiful Cerulean Warbler foraging. Later in the summer, I discovered a pair of Great Horned Owls in the park. One evening, I got to watch the two owls calling to each other right above the trail.

Some other great birds I've found here include Bufflehead, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, and many species of warblers, including a photogenic Black-throated Blue Warbler. Additionally, at one of the nearby retention ponds, some Ross's Geese stopped by with a flock of Canada Geese.

Birders should take the time to check out and bird their local city parks and other birding "patches," no matter how tiny. So, get out there, find a patch, and start birding! You never know what you might find there. 🍁

[University Park is located at 200 Legacy Blvd, Greenwood, Indiana 46143]

THE AUDUBON AMAZING BIRD RACE

Want to go birding in 2019 and win prizes just for doing what you love!? Take part in the Indiana Audubon Amazing Bird Race in 2019. Locate special bird groups from January 1–December 31 to be entered to win. Send your game card by January 8, 2020 to be eligible for one of many prizes. One prize drawing will be held for each species group.

HOW TO PLAY: It's like Monopoly, but with birds! The Amazing Bird Race is a fun birding adventure across Indiana to locate as many birds in each family or group of bird species. Complete a group of birds and you'll be entered to win the prize assigned to each category. All birds must be seen or heard in Indiana in 2019. The deadline to locate birds is December 31, 2019.

To play, simply visit indianaudubon.org/audubonbirdrace. A special thanks to this year's many sponsors: Audubon Great Lakes, Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, Dunes-Calumet Audubon, Stockbridge Audubon, IndiGO Birding Nature Tours, Sassafras Audubon, and Wild Birds Unlimited.



JOIN US AT THE IAS SPRING GATHERING!

The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary welcomes everyone to enjoy a weekend of birding, learning, and great fellowship with friends. Stay the weekend and experience the best of spring migration. The MGBS is the flagship property owned by the Indiana Audubon Society, Inc. With over 700 acres of property, participants can walk the many trails, enjoy welcoming back the migrating birds, and celebrate spring! Camping is available for IAS members free of charge in the MGBS campground and lodging can also be found a short distance away in Connersville. All formal events will be held on Saturday.

REGISTER: Visit indianaudubon.org/event

PRICE:

EARLY BIRD ADULT: \$32 (includes all programs, lunch, and keynote dinner)

EARLY BIRD YOUTH: \$20 (includes all programs, lunch, and keynote dinner)

REGULAR ADULT: \$42 (includes all programs, lunch, and keynote dinner)

REGULAR YOUTH: \$25 (includes all programs, lunch, and keynote dinner)

ADD BREAKFAST SATURDAY: \$7

**Early bird rates through April 14. Youth rates apply to all children 17 years of age and under.*

WHERE TO STAY:

CAMPGROUND: The Sanctuary has a primitive campground for use during your stay (at no additional cost). Pit toilets are located in the campground. Water and modern restrooms are nearby and will be available for your stay.

WOODRIDGE INN: The Woodridge Inn is located about 20 minutes away if visitors prefer to stay in a hotel. Depending upon your room choice, rates are between \$80-\$95 per night. Contact the hotel directly by calling 765-825-4800.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All times are Eastern Daylight Time

6-8 AM | HOT COFFEE, PANCAKES, BACON & FRESH FRUIT

Please join us while we start the day with a warm breakfast of pancakes, oatmeal, bacon, eggs and fresh fruit in the Markle Barn overlooking the ponds. Bird friendly coffee and juice will also be provided.

6:30-10 AM | MOUNDS SRA MIGRANTS BIRDING TRIP

IAS Executive Director, Brad Bumgardner, will take a willing early contingent of birders to explore the southern end of Brookville Reservoir and the sloped woodlands of Mounds SRA. Participants will caravan approximately 30 minutes to seek out the neotropical warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other birds hidden in the both early and older successional forests along the reservoir.

7-10:30 AM | WHITEWATER MEMORIAL STATE PARK BIRDING TRIP

The north side of Brookville Reservoir can be good for long distant scans for shorebirds, birds of prey, and many aerial bird species. Participants joining IAS board director Richard Garrett will stop by Quakertown SRA first to seek out Osprey and Black Vultures before finishing the morning seeking migrants in the state park. Total commute time about 30 minutes.

7:30-10AM | WONDERFUL WARBLERS OF MARY GRAY TRIP

Nearly all of Indiana's regular 36 species of warblers have been found at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. IAS board director April Raver will seek out as many warblers as possible on this morning venture through the woodlands, wetlands, and prairies of the sanctuary. The trip will end at the wetland for those wanting to watch bird banding.

11AM | EXPLORING WARBLERS WITH THE WARBLER GUIDE!

Warblers are some of the most highly sought-after birds each year at the festival. IAS past president, Jeff Canada will offer this hands-on headliner presentation will explore the many uses and features of the new Warbler Guide App. We'll focus on the app but will also include information about the Warbler Guide book, website and foldout guide.

12 PM | LUNCH AT THE BARN

Join us at noon or beyond for a great lunch! Lunch is provided by the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary Committee and is included in your weekend registration costs.

1 PM | IAS BOARD MEETING IN THE BARN

Our board of directors will meet for one of three annual meetings. The public is welcome to sit in.

1 PM | STEFANY'S HIDDEN SANCTUARY HIKE

MGBS Caretaker, Stefany Boleyn, will offer a hidden look into her favorite trail to hike in Mary Gray during this hour stroll in search of early afternoon birds and a chance to walk off lunch. Meet outside Brook's Hall.

2 PM | BIRDS & BUTTERFLIES WITH MATT BEATTY

Matt Beatty is both an IAS board director and Nature Conservancy conservation practitioner and loves exploring more than birds. Join him for an afternoon hike in search of all things with wings, both birds and butterflies. Meet at the Large Shelter.

2 PM | THE MAKING OF AN INDIANA PARADISE: FALLING SPRINGS BIRD SANCTUARY

What happens when two dedicated conservationists seek out and find the potential for their little slice of heaven? You get the birth of a great birding destination that John and Karen Lindsey have chosen to share with the birding community. Explore the caves and ravines that gave birth to the Falling Springs Bird Sanctuary in this special program. Meet at Brooks Hall.

3 PM | BIRDING SCAVENGER HUNT WITH KIM EHN

Within the 700 acres of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary lies some real secrets and treasures. Here's your chance to learn some of the secrets with this interactive hour with Kim Ehn. Meet at the Large Shelter.

3 PM | 90 MILES SOUTH: THE AMAZING BIRDS OF CUBA

Birding inspires us to travel the country and world in search of amazing places and spectacular birds. Brad Bumgardner invites you to see the beauty of an island paradise just 90 miles south of Miami, and why IAS is leading it's third fully booked birding tour there in 2020. Meet at Brooks Hall.

4 PM | BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY 101

Learn how to manipulate the settings on your camera to capture stunning bird photos. This workshop includes an indoor presentation about the basics of camera settings like shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. Then, we will go outside and practice taking pictures of birds of Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Presented by IAS board director Rhiannon Thunell. Meet at Brooks Hall.

5 PM | DINNER AND KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: 50 YEARS OF INDIANA'S DEDICATED NATURE PRESERVES!

The 1967 Nature Preserve Act has in just over 50 years, provided Indiana with an amazingly diverse set of natural places. From Indiana's first dedicated nature preserve at Pine Hills, to the most recent in the Mary Gray Nature Preserve, we now have over 280 nature preserves that set aside a look at early Indiana, but also a great place to find birds. Join the Division of Assistant Director, Tom Swinford, for a fun look at what we have in our own great state.

8:30 PM | MARY GRAY'S 3 OWL SEARCH

All three year round resident owls make their home at Mary Gray. Audubon night owls will seek out our nocturnal residents in a final hour search into the growing twilight this evening. Bring bug spray, a light jacket, and a flashlight for the walk back and join us into the darkness.

A Spring Birder's Mecca: MARY GRAY BIRD SANCTUARY



BY BRAD BUMGARDNER

Just as Dr. Seuss' Lorax speaks for the trees, few places in Indiana speak for the birds like the Indiana Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Together with its rolling forests, prairie, wetland, and ponds, the 700+ acres of sanctuary and state-dedicated nature preserve are a spring birder's dream.

Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, or MGBS as it's known to the locals, has been described as one of Indiana's brightest jewels, hidden in plain sight. Located southwest of Connersville in Fayette County, MGBS was the gift of Alice Gray. Alice provided the initial 264 acres in 1943 as a living memorial to her daughter, Mary, who preceded her in death. Congressman Finley Gray willed additional acreage to Indiana Audubon a few years later. Since then, the property has slowly grown from a simple sanctuary for peace and calm to a thriving resort hosting conferences, festivals, and weddings, as well as becoming a hub for birding research in the state.

One needs only visit their favorite trip review website to read what people say about MGBS. "A must see," "Nature lover's haven," and "Mary Gray never disappoints," are just a few of the comments the sanctuary receives on a regular basis. For the first-time visitor, the drive down the entrance road is enchanting. Like visiting the oldest of our state parks, the ravines and large oaks along the way call to mind the stories we've been told of early Indiana. It's as if we're visiting the landscape the first settlers saw as they entered the Indiana territory. It's hard to believe that much of the property was farmland when Indiana Audubon took ownership of it. As you pass the campground and enter the main parking area, the diversity of habitat makes it apparent why MGBS is a draw for bird enthusiasts and researchers. With more than 200 species of birds recorded on the property, MGBS is one of the best birding destinations in eastern Indiana.

BIRDING AROUND MARY GRAY

As an open sanctuary, MGBS welcomes visitors 365 days a year. While you don't have to be an Indiana Audubon member to visit and enjoy the property, a few perks are reserved for members, including free use of the primitive campground and fishing in the various ponds. But for birders, the crown jewel of MGBS is the birding, particularly in the spring.

By mid-March, the sounds of spring begin to come alive. Tufted Titmice and Northern Cardinals begin practicing their spring songs, like an elementary school choir making their first tentative sounds and gradually improving with daily practice, looking forward to their first big performance. Once April comes, the dawn chorus sees a new diversity of added voices, with Fox Sparrows bringing in their sweet bubbly warbles, White-throated Sparrows with their high, pure whistles, and the rough and explosive Eastern Phoebe chiming in their territorial claims.

Yet none of this can compare with what's to come. The slow northward march of the neotropical migrants will not reach the sanctuary until late April and early May, and it's then that visitors to Mary Gray can hear the full spring symphony, as each morning finds a new arrival announcing its presence in the treetops. Of course, we're talking about the warblers.

Nearly all 36 of Indiana's regularly encountered warbler species can be found either breeding at or migrating through MGBS during a given year. The property's diverse habitat allows birders to log a full suite of warblers for their checklists, or simply spend quality time studying or photographing a few obliging individuals. The sanctuary's old growth areas are great for listening to the sounds of Yellow-throated and Cerulean Warblers, while dense tangles host Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. Other areas of the property host early successional specialties, like Blue-winged Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat (the former black sheep of the warbler world, recently recategorized into its own distinct family).

While the birding is always best in the morning, late afternoon and evening walks along the sanctuary's many trails can offer birders a good selection of avian friends to find. The trails close at dusk, but those camping overnight and wishing to do some pre-dawn or after-sunset birding can seek permission to do so.

LEADING THE WAY IN ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

One of the Indiana Audubon's missions is to facilitate scientific and educational pursuits that will assist in the protection and conservation of our natural resources, especially birds. The Society accomplishes this through statewide efforts such as the Indiana Bird Records Committee, as well as through local initiatives and partnerships that can have broad impact, such as the research that is conducted at MGBS.

Research initiatives at MGBS include long-term projects and collaborations with universities and school group extensions. Some of the most visible and most popular include:

Bird Banding

Bird banding is an excellent way to gauge the movement and overall health of bird populations. Banding has been taking place at MGBS for more than a decade in order to assess spring and fall migration through the property, monitor productivity in the nesting season (MAPS program), assess movement patterns of the secretive Northern Saw-whet Owl in the fall and early spring, as well as research the large local population of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that utilizes MGBS in both the breeding season and in migration. More than 1,500 hummingbirds have been banded at MGBS over the last few years. This work has become the centerpiece for the popular Hummingbird Migration Celebration that takes place at the sanctuary in August.

Motus Tower

Another aspect of bird research at MGBS involves the placement of the state's only active Motus tower. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry arrays to study movements of small animals, including birds. The tower was installed in 2018, and the first specially tagged birds are now being recorded as they fly over the sanctuary. Volunteers at MGBS and researchers around the world can access this bird movement data without ever having to recapture the bird again.

Turtle Research

A long-term population study is being performed at MGBS by Gary Breitenbach of Indiana University East. Two species of aquatic turtle are being studied at the sanctuary. Beginning in 1985, populations of painted turtles and common snapping turtles were marked individually using non-invasive notching of marginal scales. Each animal was provided a



WARBLERS OF MARY GRAY

Ovenbird
Worm-eating Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Golden-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Canada Warbler
Wilson's Warbler



unique identification number. Some animals originally marked in 1985 are still being recorded at the sanctuary!

In addition to its research value, this study is also being used for educational purposes. Hundreds of college undergraduates have participated in this project, learning the procedures of "mark-recapture" population studies. Additionally, thousands of school children have seen presentations of this study as part of outdoor education programs. Moreover, educators have participated in professional development courses and activities using turtles and other MGBS species over the years.

To many visiting MGBS who may catch a glimpse of a turtle in one of the ponds, it's just another turtle. But in fact, these quiet reptiles are furthering scientific knowledge, helping shape future scientists and educators, and providing an outdoor experience for the population at large.

WILDFLOWER RESEARCH

Dr. Peter Scott of Indiana State University's Department of Biology, and undergraduate biology major Jason Wenning, are studying the reproductive biology of two *Dicentra* species at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. The study is titled: Is low seed set of a forest wildflower due to lack of compatible mates? A test using long-distance pollinations.

Dr. Scott's research with Dutchman's breeches (*D. cucullaria*) and squirrel corn (*D. canadensis*) set no seed unless suitable pollen is transferred by queen bumble bees. In west central Indiana, near Terre Haute, Dutchman's breeches have very good seed set and squirrel corn does very poorly. Yet the natural population of both species at MGBS has shown about 75% fruit set for Dutchman's breeches and 25% for squirrel corn; the number of seeds per flower averages 4 and 0.5, respectively. Thus, research at MGBS is documenting big differences in fruit and seed production from other areas in the state.

MAINTAINING THE GROUNDS FOR PEACE AND SERENITY

There is no charge to visit Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Since the sanctuary's inception, donations, legacy giving, and an endowment fund with the Fayette County Foundation have been the primary sources of funding that have allowed MGBS to become what it is today.

Recent estate gifts from Federick Test and Ray Sayre have allowed significant capital improvements and have added to the Endowment Fund for long-term sustenance. Other trusts have been established by individuals and families in support of MGBS.

Not only does MGBS have great natural resources, but careful maintenance by the sanctuary's property managers and caretakers has allowed for the preservation and improvement of the manmade structures that can be found on the property. Both the Brooks Hall and Markle Barn are classic examples of early work towards not only conservation, but the educational opportunities and community

connections that Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary plays host to. Funding for remodeling and exterior work on these facilities has allowed MGBS to expand its offerings; the sanctuary now hosts scout jamborees, ornithological conferences, weddings, and several Indiana Audubon festivals and gatherings.

There were goals set forth by Dr. Earl Brooks (IAS President 1928-1936) that MGBS is only now beginning to realize. His vision of MGBS serving as an educational mecca for school groups and nature enthusiasts has been limited to a degree by funding to support such endeavors. With increased donations, support, and other funding, progress is being made along many lines. Facilities, habitat, and public notoriety are on the rise.

With the continued support of IAS members and the public at large, Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary will remain not only a place to find rest and relaxation, but a safe haven for resident and migrating birds, and a destination for those who love to study and enjoy them. 🍁



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