



# Sycamore Warbler



<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Volume 35, Issue 4 Winter 2010-11

## SAS Forming Junior Nature Club

Pookie Memorial Fund supporting project

Exciting news! Sycamore Audubon is beginning a new program this coming Spring—a Junior Nature Club. The idea is to encourage young people to get out, learn about, and enjoy nature in all her diversity. The program is possible thanks to a generous donation by Jim Klatch in memory of his beloved dog, Pookie, who died earlier this year. Many will remember Pookie who joined Jim and greeted customers at Audubon's Seed Sales for many years. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can send a check marked "Pookie Memorial" to the SAS PO box.

## Area Christmas Bird Counts

Lafayette CBC : Saturday, December 18 Crane Depot CBC : Tuesday December 21  
Willow Slough-Iroquois Preserves CBC — Saturday January 1

It's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) time again, and there are three locally sponsored counts you can help with: Lafayette, Crane Naval Depot, and Willow Slough-Iroquois Preserves.

Participation can be as simple as watching birds in your yard if you live within a count circle, or as extreme as owling at 4 a.m. and then canvassing your given territory until dark. Most people opt for something in between, but it's amazing what birds you can find when you do some serious looking. And of course, you have the satisfaction of knowing you are part of one of the biggest and longest running citizen science projects ever undertaken (111 years).

The Lafayette Count is the standard 15-mile circle as is the Willow-Slough Iroquois Count. Participants can only count birds seen or heard within the circle. The Crane Naval Count is different as it uses the base's

boundaries as the borders for its count area. To prevent birds from being counted twice, each person or team gets a specific area. Many participants do the same area each year. A compiler oversees the count, handing out the forms, assigning areas, verifying any rare birds that are discovered, and tallying the data.

**TO PARTICIPATE** in the Lafayette or Willow Slough counts contact Ed Hopkins (463-5927) or sign up at December 9th SAS meeting. Note: ***If you live in the Lafayette circle and have an unusual species at your feeders but can't participate to tally it on count day, be sure to let Ed know about it so someone can try to spot it.*** For the Crane count, contact Harmon Weeks (494-3567). Do it early as names need to be vetted to get security clearance to the base.

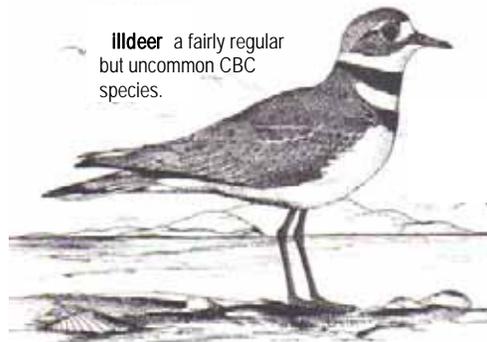


**Brown Creeper:** The Lafayette CBC usually tops the state CBCs for this species

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**Illdeer** a fairly regular but uncommon CBC species.



### COMPILATION PARTY:

The evening of the Lafayette count, participants get together at 8 p.m. at the Wild Bird Shoppe to tally the list of birds found by the various parties. Everyone brings something edible to share (drinks, provided) and exciting and fun incidents of the day are recounted along with the number and species of birds. **SAS thanks the Wild Bird Shoppe for the use of their facility.**

# CHAPTER NEWS

## TURKEY BOOTH

Thanks to great helpers, notably **Chuck Tuttle**, this year's feast was big success, raising \$1,337 for the Chapter. There **WAS** one problem this 3rd year: 10 days before the feast, our supplier told us they couldn't get enough pre-cooked smoked Turkey Legs to fill our order! Instant panic.

The supplier only had eight boxes of the 23 boxes of legs ordered (about 440 of the 1,265 legs SAS planned on selling). The best option was substituting pre-cooked (but not smoked) turkey drummetts (the single-boned upper part of the wing). Chuck experimented to invent a basting sauce for flavor. The wings took more volunteer time to cook and handle than the legs but we sold out and the wings drew favorable comments. Chuck acted as head chef and grilled most of the legs and wings. Audubon also sold water and 28 gallons of apple cider to thirsty customers.

Many thanks to Rick Read and Susan Ulrich who got the booth ready on Friday, to Chuck Tuttle, Jean Emmons, Jeff Stevenson, Barny & Beth Dunning, Diane Packett, Mickey & Liz Penrod, Jeff Ganley, Asansaya Pondet, Cecelia Hennessy, Valerie Clarkson, Roberta Weiner, Wes Homoya, and Paul Brooks who helped during the feast.

## AA CLASSES A HIT

What a response this year from teachers wanting **Audubon Adventures**, the Environmental Education program from the National Audubon Society.

## FOOD & PLANTS AID CELERY BOG WEBCAM

Dan Dunten decided a webcam focused on the wetland at Celery Bog would be a great idea. He mentioned this at SAS Sept. meeting and the board decided to commit \$500 from the Fall Bake and Plant Sale to the project. SAS ended up making \$724 thanks to people's generous donations of plants and baked goods. The extra funds will pay for 5 of the 19 Audubon Adventure Classrooms mentioned below. MANY thanks to **Elsa Janle, Diane Packett, Mary Ann McGill, Susan Ulrich, Elisabeth Kornblum, and Marilyn Heinz** plus several Purdue Students for stepping up.

**Rick Read** has been extremely successful, with 49 classes (at \$46 per class) signed up. Funds come from the Turkey Leg Booth at the Feast as well as extra funds raised at the Spring and Fall Bake & Plant sales.

## BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS, SAYS GOODBYE & THANK-YOU TO ANOTHER

There are several Board changes on page 7. Chuck Tuttle is now treasurer, replacing Roy Applegate. Roy is stepping down for personal reasons. Our thanks to him for his many years of dedicated service. His volunteering has been greatly appreciated. Jeff Ganley and Wes Homoya have joined the board. Jeff is serving as Secretary, and Wes Homoya as a member at large, assisting where needed.

## HOLIDAY COOKIE PARTY

Refreshments for December's meeting are provided by SAS's traditional cookie party. People are asked to bring a dozen or two cookies or other edibles to share. SAS provides beverages and napkins.

People are still needed to sign up to provide refreshments for the February, March, April and May meetings. Contact Susan Ulrich (p 7) to volunteer.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Everyone enjoyed the great dinner and the programs which started with Russ Mumford's slides of butterflies & caterpillars at Celery Bog. Rodney Flowers followed with outstanding photos of birds & wildlife, Wing Nu then showed images from a trip to China, followed by Rick Read's pictures from a trip to Mexico and one to the International Crane Center in Wisconsin. Next Jim Anderson had pictures from his and Marilyn's trip to Africa (SAS's February Program). John Skene ended with bird photos from Celery Bog, Galveston, & Weiler-Leopold Preserve.

## *Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-22*

You can count in your yard, neighborhood, local park, or wherever, and keep different tallies each day for one or more sites. SAS has a field trip to scour areas on the 19th.

## Fall-Winter Sycamore Audubon Calendar

*Save the Dates!* Program meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:15 PM in the Lilly Nature Center in West Lafayette. People are invited to join other members and the speaker for "Dinner and Conversation" starting at 6:00 PM at the MCL Cafeteria (SR 52 in West Lafayette). Field trips times vary, see below.

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- December 9  
Thursday **CBC SIGN UP.** Come at 6:30 before the meeting to get an area or to be a feeder counter for the Dec 18th Lafayette Christmas Bird Count. See Count info below and on page 1 for more details.
- December 9  
Thursday **PROGRAM: "Urban Bird Conservation". Don Gorney,** Amos W. Butler Audubon Society and program director for **Lights Out Indy.** Don has worked on many issues that affect birds in urban environments involving Common Nighthawks, Chimney Swifts, DNR habitat preservation at Fort Harrison State Park, and **Lights Out Indy**, which has the goal of preventing bird deaths due to building collisions. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area, WL. (dinner at 6 p.m. see above).
- December 18  
Saturday **Lafayette Christmas Bird Count.** All-day bird census covering the 15-mile diameter count circle in Tippecanoe County. **Field counters & feeder counters needed.** Volunteer info on page 1. Each volunteer or group covers a specific territory to prevent duplicate counting. Thanks to Judy Gasvoda of the Wild Bird Shoppe who kindly allows SAS the use of their upper room, there is a compilation party for participants and anyone else who would like to attend at 8 p.m.. See page 1.
- January 9  
Sunday **Bald Eagle Viewing Field Trip** led by **Rick Read.** Tour White County & nearby locations for wintering Bald eagles. Meet at the Monticello Library at 2 p.m. Group should be back by 4 p.m.
- January 13  
Thursday **PROGRAM: "Birding Ecuador". Michael Retter,** tour leader for Tropical Birding Company, staff member of "Birding" magazine, and ABA blogger (see p.6) Learn more about the diverse habitat and avifauna of this South American County. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area, WL.
- February 10  
Thursday **PROGRAM: "The Great Migrations of Kenya". Jim and Marilyn Anderson.** The Anderson's went to Kenya this past year during the massive wildebeest/zebra migration. They will share their photos and experiences with us. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area, WL.
- February 19  
Saturday **Celebrate the Great Backyard Bird Count** by joining us in search of winter birds. Data will go on line and join thousands of other counts around the county. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog\* and we will spend the morning looking for winter specialties: ducks and gulls along the Wabash River, Rough-legged Hawks and Snow Buntings in the farm fields, Long-eared Owls in the thickets. Whatever is being reported in the area. Half-day trip.
- March 6  
Sunday **Timberdoodles Ahoy!** A field trip to see/hear displaying American Woodcock at the Purdue Wildlife Area. We will look and listen for these "timberdoodles" at dusk. Meet at Celery Bog\* at 6 PM to car-pool or be at the Purdue Wildlife Area on the N side of SR 26 west of 750 W at 6:30 p.m.
- March 10  
Thursday **PROGRAM: "Avian Auditory Processing: The Other Side of Song". Jeff Lucas,** Biology Professor at Purdue. Seasonal variations in what birds hear and the songs they sing. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area, WL. (dinner at 6 p.m. see above).
- March 26  
**Migrating Waterfowl Field Trip.** Looking for ducks, geese and swans (among other waterbirds) at Celery Bog and other local wetlands. Some early spring migrants such as Yellow-rumped Warblers might be present too. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog\* at 8:30 am.
- April 14  
**PROGRAM "Streams and Aquatic Fauna in Indiana". Michael Litwin,** Fishery Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bloomington. Learn about all the critters living in our waterways. The presence or absence of aquatic fauna reflects a water's quality. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Nature Area, WL. (dinner at 6 p.m. see above).

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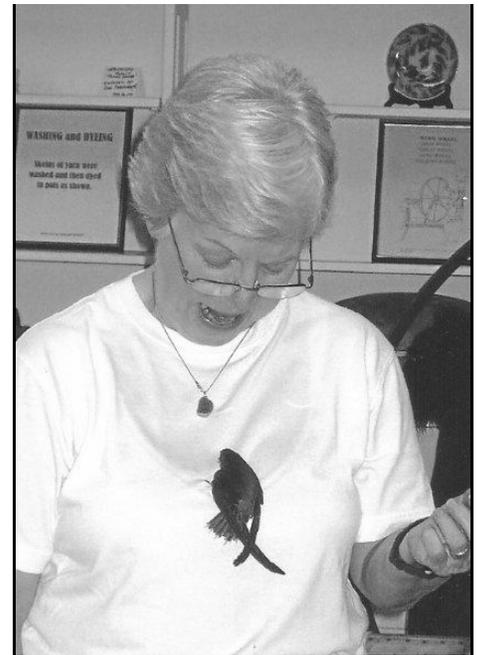
\* **NOTE:** In spite of the bridge construction over Celery Bog, access to the Lilly Nature Center along Lindberg Road will be maintained from the intersection with McCormick Drive to the west until June when it will be closed for several weeks. Thus we still plan on using the gravel parking area at Celery Bog as SAS's carpooling spot. If the drive to the nature center is inaccessible, our backup meeting space is the Payless Shopping Center along SR 52 in W Lafayette, in the corner near the former Movie Gallery video rental store, up near the road.

## Nature Notes & News

- Sept 10 a group led by **Gus Nyberg** at Granville Sand Barrens found an **Ornate Box Turtle**, a state endangered species related to the common Box Turtle.
- Sept 27th **Ning Wu** saw a **Merlin** on a dead tree at Celery Bog
- On the Sept 30 field trip, **Barny Dunning** had his first-of-season **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, along with **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and **Blue-headed Vireos**
- That same day **Rick Read** had his first fall **Osprey** along with 9 **Ruddy Ducks** on Lake Freeman.
- On his 1st day of retirement, Oct 1, **Russ Allison** visited Celery Bog. The highlight was Wing's **Merlin** which was being chased by two Blue Jays & 2 Northern Flickers. Ten days later Russ saw his first **Pileated Woodpecker** in his yard where he's lived for 40-years.
- Oct 2 while at the feast, **Paul Brook** spotted a **Bald Eagle** over the apple dumpling booth.
- Oct 4 **Rick Read** wrote "Birders will occasionally have a magical moment - I had one today. I walked through a grassy field where a few swallows were flying. As I walked I must have been stirring up the insects they were already attracted to. I am used to having a couple of **Barn Swallows** fly around behind me while mowing the lawn. But today, I had scores of **Tree & Northern Rough-winged Swallows** circling around me. All chipping, diving and cutting, and very close. It was almost dizzying. Really, really neat." Rick still had a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** on Oct 8.
- Oct 6th **Grant Martin** saw **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Lakes Shafer & Freeman. On the 27th he had a large flock of 30-60 **Franklin's Gulls**. "I wonder if they may have been blown our way by the super-strong cyclonic storm that went through the upper Midwest yesterday. It's fun to get a new species, especially when you don't have to try! The black face patch around

their eyes gives them a panda-like appearance at a distance."

- Oct 10 **Chuck Tuttle** wrote, "on a day nearing 90 degrees, I came home from the SAS hike to find a pair of **Northern Juncos** in the backyard." The Field Trip Chuck mentions was at Celery Bog. One interesting bird seen was a juvenile **Red-shouldered Hawk**.
- November 3rd was a good day for **Pine Siskins**. Both **Rick Read** and **Marianna Sadowski** had their first ones of the winter show up.
- On the 4th, **Michael Retter & Wes Homoya** visited Pine Creek. Highlights included 2 **American Golden Plovers**, 2 **Long-billed Dowitchers**, 2 **Bonaparte's Gulls**, 4 **American Pipits**, 8 **Lapland Longspurs**, and 255 **Rusty Blackbirds**.
- Nov 7 **Barny Dunning** was painting his garage (taking advantage of the warm days). He happened to look up into the sky in time to see a soaring **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.
- **Ed Hopkins** visited Pine Creek Nov 11. He had 2 **American Golden Plovers** along with a **Cattle Egret**. On trips to Celery Bog he found **Greater White-fronted Goose** on the 9th and **Cackling Geese** on the 11th.
- **Barny** and **Wes Homoya** visited Pine Creek on the 12th, few ducks due to lack of water but they had their first fall **Rough-legged Hawk** and **American Tree Sparrows**, along with a number of **Wilson's Snipe** and **Dunlin**.
- **Diane Packett** was sad to report a **Hermit Thrush** died after hitting their window on Nov 13.
- **Ning Wu** and **Barny Dunning** visited Celery Bog Nov 13. Their birds of interest were an **American Woodcock**, a close encounter with a flock of **Rusty Blackbirds**, and a first-of-season **Brown Creeper**.
- **Twenty Tundra Swans** including 1 immature, were **Ed Hopkins** re-ward for visiting Pine Creek Game-



Shirley Needham with young Chimney Swift. Shirley talked about swifts at last April's SAS program.

bird Habitat Area Nov 15.

- **Del Arvin's** feeders were jumping in November. On the 16th he had **19 Pine Siskins**, **15 Fox Sparrows**, **4 Purple Finch**, **19 White-throated Sparrows**, and a lingering **Chipping Sparrow** along with the regulars. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** has been visiting his feeders, and there's a **Cooper's Hawk** around too. On Nov 9 Del had an **American Woodcock** standing in the middle of one of his trails. It allowed him to get very close before ambling off into the woods.
- **Kevin Arvin** has an interesting feeder visitor—a **skunk!** It started showing up in mid-November.
- **Susan Ulrich** flushed a flock of 30-40 **Wild Turkeys** in her woods on Nov 15 and saw a **Winter Wren** along the stream.
- A friend in Benton County told **Amanda and Brian Beheler** about finding owls in their 20-acre alfalfa field. They went to look and found 5 **Short-eared Owls** along with **Northern Harriers**, a **Rough-legged Hawk**, and a coyote. The owls (up to 12 individuals) had been there for three weeks.

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## EPA Rejects Ban on Toxic Lead Fishing Gear

**Agency Refuses to Address Preventable Poisoning That Kills Millions of Birds and other Wildlife Every Year**

Ignoring long-established science on the dangers of lead poisoning in the wild, the Environmental Protection Agency denied a petition to ban toxic lead fishing sinkers that frequently kill loons, swans, cranes and other wildlife. A coalition of conservation, hunting, and veterinary groups had petitioned the EPA in August to ban lead in fishing tackle and in bullets and shot for hunting. The agency issued a partial denial of the portion of the petition dealing with regulation of lead ammunition in September and has now issued its final determination which also denies the portion of the petition on fishing sinkers.

Spent lead from ammunition and lost fishing tackle needlessly kills and harms an estimated 10-20 million wild birds and other animals every year. It also endangers public health. "Under the Obama administration, the EPA seems to have lost its will to regulate toxic substances, even in the face of overwhelming scientific information about the harm to wildlife and threats to human health," said Michael Fry, of the American Bird Conservancy.

"The EPA's failure to act is inexcusable, given what we know about how toxic lead is to wildlife and the extensive science linking lead poisoning in wildlife to ammunition and fishing weights," said Jeff Miller, with the Center for Biological Diversity. "There are plenty of safe and available alternatives to lead products for these outdoor sports, so there's no good reason for this poisoning to continue."

The petition referenced nearly 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers illustrating the widespread dangers of lead poisoning from these sources. More than 70 organizations in 27 states support the lead ban, including groups representing birders, hunters, zoologists, scientists, American Indians, physicians, veterinarians, and public employees.

Ironically, the EPA declared the week prior to its decision, "National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week" to raise awareness about the dangers of lead exposure to humans. Exposure can cause a range of health effects, from acute poisoning and death, to long-term problems such as reduced reproduction, inhibition of growth, and damage to neurological development. Efforts to control lead in paint, gas and other products have reduced lead in the environment, but spent lead from hunting and fishing is still a widespread killer. Miller concludes, "The agency has attempted to punt on this issue, but we're not going to let it walk away from taking action on the preventable poisoning of birds and other animals."

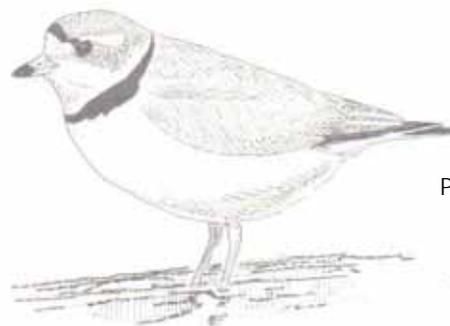
## HOG ISLAND 75TH ANNIVERSARY REGISTRATION OPEN

The legendary Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island offered its first session in 1936. Now, Project Puffin announces the beginning of registration for the Camp's 75th anniversary year. The 2011 Hog Island season begins with a service learning program in which participants help census a Maine seabird colony and ends with another service program where participants create habitat for terns on Eastern Egg Rock. For more on the 2010 session and for details for 2011, visit: [www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html](http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html).

## DONAL O'BRIEN HONORED WITH AUDUBON MEDAL

Donal O'Brien received Audubon's highest honor at the Audubon board meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut.

"Few Americans have contributed as much to conservation as Donal O'Brien," said Audubon Chairman B. Holt Thrasher. "He not only introduced critical new conservation initiatives to the western hemisphere, he also provided some of the steadiest and inspired leadership that Audubon ever had." O'Brien served 25 years on the Audubon Board, 15 of them as Chairman. O'Brien follows in the footsteps of Robert Redford, Dr. E. O. Wilson, Ted Turner, Richard Louv, and Rachel Carson, previous winners of the Audubon Medal.



Piping Plover

## Paving the Way for Gulf Coast Restoration

Public pressure to act after the BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf prompted the U.S. House to pass the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR). Two amendments to that bill mean big benefits for Gulf Coast restoration and habitat protection.

## CriticalHabitat Designation for Piping Plovers Upheld

A federal judge has ruled in favor of designating critical habitat areas for wintering Piping Plovers in North Carolina in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

## Wednesdays in the Wild

These free programs are open to the public. Their aim is to share the wonders of the natural world and increase participants knowledge and understanding of that world. Winter programs start January 12- Schedule still being worked out. Tentative Schedule follows:

- JAN 12 Bed Bugs - Lilly Nature Center (LNC)  
 JAN 19 & 26: Anthropogenic Noise Effects on Wildlife - Lauren Briery or Purdue Graduate Student LNC  
 Nuisance Wildlife - Dean Zimmerman - LNC  
 FEB 2 1-3pm Groundhogs - 1-3pm Mary Cutler - LNC or Battle Ground  
 FEB 9 1-3pm Maple Sugaring at Home - Don Bickel - LNC  
 FEB 16 1-3pm Eagles Over the Wabash - John Castrale - Ross Camp  
 FEB 23 4-6pm Birding for Beginners - Amanda Beheler LNC  
 MAR 2 & 9: Bobcats/Mt Lions/Coyotes - - Scott Johnson - LNC  
 Changing Seasons/No Child Left Inside - Sam Postlethwait & Mary Cutler - LNC  
 MAR 16 Indiana Rocks and Minerals - Debbie Dale/Other? LNC  
 MAR 23 1-3pm Bird Nests & Wren House Workshop - Mary Cutler & Brenda Moore - LNC  
 MAR 30 Ecology of Invasives + ID'ing & Managing - Mike Jenkins & others LNC  
 APR 6 Chickadee Language/Bird Song - Jeff Lucas - LNC

### FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP,

contact: Mary Cutler 765-567-2993,  
 Joan Mohr Samuels 765-567-7023 or mohrsamuels@comcast.net

### PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY

Tippecanoe Co Parks & Rec Dept.; W Lafayette Parks & Rec Dept.; West Central Chapter of NPA S Sycamore Audubon Society; NICHES Land Trust.



Anybody with access to the internet can check out The ABA Blog. Click on <http://blog.aba.org>, and you're there! To navigate the website, take a look at the options on the right panel, where you can select entries by general topic, specific title, and even individual responses to any particular entry.

### Rusty Blackbird Blitz

January 29 thru February 13th,

The Rusty Blackbird has been steeply declining, with an estimated 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. Your help is needed in mobilizing a "blitz" to locate Rusty Blackbirds and create a map of wintering Rusty Blackbird "hot spots" that will help focus research, monitoring and conservation attention. Learn more at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rustyblackbird/blitz.cfm>.

### Duke Eagle Weekend

This year's Eagle Day's at the Duke Energy plant in Clinton Indiana are scheduled for the last weekend in January. It's a nice family event, great for Children and a good chance to see a number of wild eagles along with an indoor program featuring a variety of rehabilitated raptors.

## Board Member's Photo A Winner

Paul Brooks picture, "Lake Superior Sunset" won the scenery category at the Chequamegon Bay Bird & Nature Festival Photo Contest in Wisconsin. Congratulations. You can see it at [birdandnaturefest.com/index.php?id=46](http://birdandnaturefest.com/index.php?id=46). [We tried to copy it to include in the newsletter but were unable to do so. -editor]

## American Birding Association Blog

The ABA is proud to announce a new resource for bird lovers worldwide, the ABA Blog (<http://blog.aba.org>). Launched in early October, The ABA Blog has quickly become one of the most frequently visited of all birding blogs. The key to its success is that it is multi-authored. Whereas most other birding blogs bring you the commentary of a single author, The

ABA Blog delivers daily content from a dozen of the best-known names in modern birding: Lynn Barber, Mike Bergin, Ted Eubanks, Ted Floyd, Jeff Gordon, Laura Kammermeier, Michael Retter, Bill Schmoker, Brian Sullivan, Sharon Stiteler ("BirdChick"), Nate Swick, and Rick Wright.

In the weeks ahead, we look to add other heavy hitters to our lineup of bloggers, so stay tuned!

Another reason for The ABA Blog's success is its interactivity. Anyone is welcome to post follow-up comments to any contribution to The ABA Blog. "It's great to see so many comments from our readers," says David Hartley, Director of Communications for the ABA, "and a great many of the comments are thoughtful and thought-provoking."

**SNAIL or E MAIL? We are still asking anyone who would rather receive their newsletter by email/website to let us know. It saves paper and also saves SAS mailing and printing costs. Just email the editor at [sueandtedulrich@msn.com](mailto:sueandtedulrich@msn.com).**

## Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

You can support Sycamore Audubon Society's local educational programs and field trips by becoming or renewing as a Friend of the Sycamore Audubon Society (SAS). Friends become chapter members of the Sycamore Audubon Society and receive our quarterly newsletter, *The Sycamore Warbler*.

You can support national conservation efforts by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). When you join NAS, you will receive *Audubon* magazine **along with automatic chapter membership in SAS**. Since NAS dues primarily support national projects, we encourage national members to ALSO become Friends of SAS. As a Friend, you contribute directly to our local chapter and its projects.

### Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friend of the Sycamore Audubon Society**      \$15/year x \_\_\_\_ year(s) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: SAS's membership year runs September 1 through August 31.

New member      Renewal

**I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter  
by: e-mail or paper copy.**

**National Audubon Society membership**      \$20 for first year      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special introductory offer for new members (renewals are \$35/year)

**Additional contribution to SAS**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_ (if specific purpose)

**Total enclosed**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send checks to : Sycamore Audubon Society,  
P.O. Box 2716, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2716.

COZ H10 OZ 7XCH8

## Sycamore Audubon Society

### 2010-2011 Board of Directors

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## River Otters: Coming to a Site Near You

The River Otter was a common inhabitant of Indiana in the early 1600's. However unregulated taking, habitat loss, and other adverse impacts of human settlement led to their decline. By 1942 River Otters had disappeared from Indiana.

Improved water quality and restored wetlands encouraged the state to reintroduce this charismatic species. Efforts began in 1995 with the release of 25 River Otters captured in Louisiana. Over 300 more were released in next five years. Purdue Veterinary School treated the

otters before release to ensure they were as healthy as possible. Like the Bald Eagle reintroduction, the otter recovery program has been quite successful. Otters are reproducing well and core populations are secure.

River Otters are extremely mobile and are now moving into areas far from the original dozen release sites. By 2009 Otters were reported from 73 of Indiana's 92 counties. In this area some counties on the Wabash already have 10-20 officially reported sightings for the species. River otters have even been seen at Celery Bog Nature Park inside the city limits of West Lafayette.

## Know a Child that Loves the Outdoors?

The new DNR Kids Page introduces children to Indiana's natural resources - wildlife, trees, artifacts, outdoor activities and more. There are plenty of pages full of information for all ages. There are also activities ranging from coloring pages and word searches, to hands-on arts and crafts, to outdoor games.

Help a kid get outdoors today. Take them online to see the DNR Kids Page. Go to [dnr.IN.gov/kids](http://dnr.IN.gov/kids).



Sycamore Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 2716  
West Lafayette, IN 47996

*RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED*

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Permit #252

**The Sycamore Warbler** is published four times a year by the Sycamore Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society serving Audubon members in Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties in central northwest Indiana.

A subscription is included with membership in National or Sycamore Audubon Societies.

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## **Congressional Sea Change Needn't Swamp Environmental Progress** - David Yarnold, NAS president & CEO

"Americans may have voted for change in Congress, but no one voted to increase pollution. Senators should use their lame duck session to dedicate Clean Water Act fines paid by BP to the immediate restoration of America's Gulf Coast. After reporting a 1.8 billion dollar profit for the last quarter, BP cannot be allowed to stick taxpayers with the bill for its disaster. Senators can also ensure that the Land and Water Conservation Fund receives full funding. These vital steps will demonstrate bipartisan cooperation at a time when it is needed more than ever.

The new Congress can also realistically defend America from the risk of diminished air quality by opposing efforts to block EPA enforcement of the Clean Air Act.

Passage of a nationwide renewable energy standard can still fuel new cooperation after the new Congress convenes in January. Other climate legislation may face a tough road ahead, but a nationwide renewable energy standard that puts us on a clean energy path can make a dent in our energy use and climate-altering emissions.

Audubon stands ready to respond by focusing conservation and environmental protection efforts at the state, community and individual level. The election of 2010 brought a sea change to Congress, but our grassroots supporters are committed to ensuring it doesn't swamp the chances for progress toward a healthy planet for birds, wildlife and people everywhere." [For support of his position, see below— editor]

## **Voters Approve Over \$2 Billion for Conservation:**

On Election Day, voters sent a strong message that conservation remains a top priority, even in a bad economy. Statewide conservation ballot measures in Oregon, Iowa, Rhode Island and Maine won by large margins. Only the largest statewide measure, a vehicle license fee in California to fund state parks, went down to defeat. Mark Ackelson, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, was part of the coalition spearheading Iowa's Water and Land Legacy amendment. He says, "our coalition had over 130 organizations representing 300,000 members. We are a coalition of jeans & suits, tennis shoes & waders, and camouflage & blaze orange. This victory will change the face of Iowa."