



Sycamore Warbler



<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Volume 36, Issue 4

Winter 2011

You + CBC = Fun + Knowledge

Participation in a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is as simple as watching birds in your yard (if you live within the count area), or as intense as going owling in the wee hours and then canvassing your given territory until it gets dark. Most people opt for something in between that suits their level of activity and fun. But of course in addition to the fun of the surprising birds that turn up, the count produces valuable information about bird and bird numbers. Our local Lafayette Count holds the distinction of being the oldest continuous count held in Indiana—past data really documents changes in bird species and numbers. Did you know Canada Geese were rarely found in the earlier years? *I*

If you live in the Lafayette circle and see an unusual species at your feeders or elsewhere in the circle but can't participate on count day, be sure to let Ed Hopkins know the bird is there so someone can try to spot it.

The Lafayette CBC is the standard 15-mile circle as is the Willow-Slough Iroquois CBC. Participants only count birds seen or heard within the circle. The Crane Naval Count is different, using the base as the outline of its area. To prevent birds from being counted multiple times, each person or team is given a specific area. Many participants do the same area each year. Each CBC has a compiler who hands out the forms, keeps track of areas, verifies rare birds that may be discovered, and tallies the data.

Count dates & Compilers:

Lafayette CBC Dec 17 - Ed Hopkins (463-5927; 496-3493)

Crane Naval Depot CBC Dec 19 - Micky Weeks (494-3567; or 765-572-1175). Need to get base clearance in advance!

Willow Slough-Iroquois Reserves Jan 1 – Ed Hopkins (see p 6)



Common Redpoll
Carmen Garcia

Mulvy Pond Update

Thanks to the generous response of members contributing cash or items for the **bake & plant sale**, SAS succeeded in its goal and will be giving NICHES Land Trust and NICHES Endowment Foundation \$3,120 for the purchase and stewardship of Mulvy Pond.

Although the match money has all been used, people can still donate to the project. Simply write a check to SAS, mark it "for Mulvy Pond" and mail it to the PO box.

The birds certainly enjoyed the fifty-two acre wetland this Fall. On November 9th Wes Homoya and Jon Moore passed by and saw two Sandhill Cranes, 60 Green-winged Teal, six Greater Yellowlegs and other more common species. On November 27, Ed Hopkins reported seeing 164 Canada Geese, one Gadwall, three American Widgeon, five Black Ducks, 399 Mallards, six Northern Shovelers, thirteen Pintail, 128 Green-winged Teal, and a Great Blue Heron.

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COMPILATION PARTY:

On the evening of the Lafayette count, participants get together at 8 p.m. at the **Wild Bird Shoppe** to tally the birds each group found. Everyone brings something edible to share and the unusual incidents of the day are recounted along with the number and species of birds seen. SAS thanks the Wild Bird Shoppe for the use of their facility.

CHAPTER NEWS

Mulvy Pond Bake Sale

October's Bake & Plant Sale raised \$676.15 towards SAS's Mulvy Pond matching fund (see p.1) Our thanks to everyone who brought in plants or food items, with special thanks to Elsa Janle, Elisabeth Kornblum, Dorothy Jones, Marilyn Hinze, Karen Griggs, Mary Ann McGill, Sue Ulrich and Ning Wu for helping cashier and answer questions.

Monticello Nature Club

July 28, Rick Read gave a class on binoculars and birding to 24 students at Meadowlawn Elementary School in Monticello. Cindy Isom is the instructor for three after school Audubon Club classes at the four different elementary schools in the Twin Lakes School Corporation. The programs are sponsored by the Sycamore Audubon Society. Rick served as guest speaker for this one program.

Rick notes that the Monticello nature clubs started last spring and with the good response, SAS is continuing them this fall. He thanks Cindy and all the members of the Sycamore Audubon Society for helping to support the program.

Early bird hikes (EBH)

EBH are starting at Horticulture Park on Thursday March 29 and will continue every Thursday through spring. Meet Barney or his substitute at the east parking lot (in the grove of river birches) on McCormick Road at 8 am.

A REMINDER

If you want your newsletter sent via email/website rather than as a paper copy, contact sueandtedulrich@msn.com.

BIRDING ON THE FLY & local bird alerts

Like to know when unusual birds or unscheduled field trip opportunities come up— such as the trip to see the Long-tailed Jaeger at Eagle Creek Park or Rick Read's eagle tours? Send your email to Barney Dunning (see p 7) to be put on the list to be notified.

Feast Fundraiser

This year's feast was slower than usual do to the threat of rain, but SAS still raised \$900+ to help keep the society out of the red this coming year. Many people stepped up to help which was greatly appreciated— our thanks to all. Rick and Debbie Read came down from Monticello to help set up the booth on Friday and Chuck Tuttle spent both days grilling the legs and ribs. Bob and Susan Rode, Celia Hennessy, Barney and Beth Dunning (along with Nate Dunning and friends Addie McKnight and Eddie Lautzerheisen), Susan Ulrich, Roberta Weiner, Evie Johnson, Micky and Liz Penrod, Jeff Ganley and son, Amy Wetzel, Aaron and Wes Homoya helped out as cashiers, servers, runners, and assistant chefs.

Leftover Frozen Turkey Ribs Available

For the first time, SAS didn't sell out of its turkey products. There are approximately 35 packages of turkey ribs left (come in packages of three 4-ounce servings of white meat turkey on a rib). They are in Chuck Tuttle's freezer and are available at cost for anyone interested. The ribs ran \$1 per serving so a package would be \$3. The ribs grill up very nicely and stay moist. Let Chuck know if you would like to get some.



Introducing Children to Birds

Susan Ulrich is giving a short program for the Children's Department of the West Lafayette Library on January 21. She will be showing and telling the children about some of our common winter birds and how to attract them to feeders.

SAS's board welcomes its newest member, Ning Wu.

Thank you very much for volunteering, Ning.

Bald Eagle Tours & Goose Pond Trip

Rick Read will again lead several Bald Eagle tours this winter, the first January 7, but all dates are not yet set. Contact Rick directly (see p.7) or sign up for *Birding on the Fly* (see above) to get dates and times.

Wes Homoya is organizing a trip to Goose Pond on January 14th. If you are interested in going, check with him (see p. 7) or sign up for *Birding on the Fly* to get the information.

See page 7 for more *Chapter News*

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 17
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 duplication. There is a compilation party for participants and anyone else who would like to attend at 8 p.m. at the Wild Bird Shoppe See page 1.
- Dec 20-25 Reminder: Indiana Audubon Society Winter bird feeder count period. Pick up a form at an SAS meeting or send in a stamped envelope or go to www.Indianaaudubon.org & print one off.
- January 7
Saturday Bald Eagle Viewing Field Trip led by Rick Read. Join us to view wintering eagles and eagle nests along the Wabash. Meet at the Monticello Library (321 W Broadway) at 2 pm. Group should return by 4 pm.
- January 12
Thursday PROGRAM: "Scandinavian Avians". Barny Dunning, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Purdue University, Dr. Barny Dunning spent the past July with a handful of students exploring and learning about sustainable resource use issues in Sweden, Finland, and Estonia. For this talk he will speak on the birds he encountered during his time there as well as some highlights from the sustainability program. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center. Refreshments & Free Parking.
- January 14
Saturday Goose Pond Trip. Still in the planning stages. Contact Wes Homoya (p. 7) if you are interested in going to visit this hotspot that has produced dozens of interesting species of birds.
- Jan 20-25 Reminder: Indiana Audubon Society Winter bird feeder count period .
- February 9
Thursday PROGRAM: "Attracting Purple Martins to Your Yard". Landon Neumann. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog Nature Area adjacent to the newly opened Lindberg Road bridge. 15-year old birding prodigy Landon Neumann will share some of his secrets to success in how to welcome these feathered friends of humanity to your property (they eat flying insects for us in return for providing them shelter!). The public is invited to come and enjoy the presentation. Refreshments & Free Parking.
- February 11
Saturday Winter Birds Field Trip. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog at 8:30. We will spend some time in the Celery Bog area (Cackling Goose, wintering waterfowl) and then go wherever we can to see winter specialties such as Rough-legged Hawk, Snow Buntings, and others. ½ day trip.
- February 16
Thursday Winter Birds & the Great Backyard Bird Count Program. An SAS presentation on birds that winter in the area and information about becoming a participant in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Cumberland Branch Library, Lindberg Road, WL 2 p.m. Free parking.
- Feb 17-20
Fri-Monday Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Try it. See information on back cover. You can cover any areas you wish and do so over all or one of the four days if you so desire.
- Feb 20-25 Reminder: Final Indiana Audubon Society Winter bird feeder count period. Send in your form to John Castrale.
- March 3
Saturday Waterfowl and Eagles Trip. The big push of migrating waterfowl should be occurring at this time. Also local Bald Eagle pairs will be on the nest. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog at 8 am to carpool. ½ day trip with various stops dependent on what and where birds are being reported.
- March 8
Thursday PROGRAM: "Big Sue's Birding Adventure in Cuba". Sue Arnold (**affectionately known as "Big Sue"**), a longtime Audubon member and nature enthusiast 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center . Sue will share stories and photos from her March 2010 excursion to "the forbidden island" that was only possible due to a Department of the Treasury license sponsored by the Caribbean Conservation Trust. Among the trip's highlights: the Bee Hummingbird—the smallest bird in the world! Refreshments and free parking.
- March 24
Saturday Lake Michigan Shore Trip. Meet at 6:30 am to caravan up to the lakeshore and chase whatever the "lakeshore regulars are reporting. **Should be good timing for waterfowl, loons, grebes and possibly the "longshore" movements of early migrant songbirds moving E-W** across the lakeshore. Timing of the start should allow us to stop at Jasper-Pulaski at dawn to see and hear the Sandhill Cranes roust themselves. An all day-trip although people can leave earlier.

Nature Notes & News

● Wes Homoya and Jon Moore's **Benton Co Pine Creek** surveys for Barny Dunning turned up the 1st **Wilson's Warbler** and **Lincoln's Sparrow** of the Fall on Sept 16. On Sept 28's survey, 5 Red-necked Phalaropes were present. Their Nov 9 visit produced 32 American Pipit, and over 300 waterfowl including 5 Common Goldeneye.

● Sept 23 Marianna Sadowski found a window-killed Ovenbird on her welcome mat. In the afternoon she had a juvenile Turkey Vulture in her backyard feasting happily on some frozen (and badly freezer burned) meat she had tossed out. The TV hung around all afternoon and much of the next morning. "A really interesting bird to observe close"

Black-throated
Green Warbler



● Celery Bog was buzzing on Sept 29. Matt Hale had loads of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and at least 50 Black throated Green Warblers along with 63 additional species. He found less activity on the 30th but still had lots of birds passing through.

● Also on sept 29 Mike Triplett saw 5 Osprey along the Tippecanoe River near Buffalo.

● Chuck Tuttle reported 133 Blue Jays on the Oct 1 early bird hike at **Purdue's Horticulture Park** along with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and 30+ other species.

● While at a soccer game at Lafa-

yette Jefferson HS, Barny Dunning observed about 200 Chimney Swifts swirling around an old chimney nearby, finally disappearing inside by 8 p.m.

● Landon Neumann had two Blue-headed Vireos at Cass County's **Spring Creek Nursery** on Oct 7.

● In early Oct a Long-tailed Jaeger stayed over at Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis drawing dozens of birders including Barny Dunning, Ning Wu, and Russ Allison.

● Duck migration was underway in mid-October. Ning Wu found 4 recent arrivals at Celery Bog in WL on Oct 20: American Black Duck, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead.

● Rick Read went boating on Lake Freeman Oct 22. He was delighted to find loons, cormorants and lots of **Bonaparte's Gulls**. There was also a stream of Turkey Vultures that seemed to kettle over the high banks for altitude before continuing their migration. The next day he found Ruddy Ducks and a Common Tern.

● Oct 22 Ed Hopkins went to Pine Creek and found an adult female **Brewer's Blackbird** feeding with meadowlarks. The next day he walked part of the wetlands flushing seven Snipe and three **Lincoln's Sparrows**. Earlier, on Oct 2, he found two Sanderling—his second property record for the species.

● A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was still around and calling in Barny **Dunning's** yard on Oct 23.

● Rick Read & Bud Dodrill birded around Monticello briefly on Oct 28. The highlight was an Eastern Screech-owl which was whinnying when they met at the

Monticello Library at 8 a.m. The bird was in a knot-hole and was still there at 10 a.m. so the library staff could enjoy it too.

● Oct 29 Purple Finch showed up at **Sue & Ted Ulrich's** Warren Co feeders. A few are still present. Then on Nov 25-6 (just making the IAS winter feeder count) a migrating Rose-breasted Grosbeak stopped by.

● **SAS's field trip** to Prophetstown turned up an array of winter sparrows plus 8 migrating Savannah Sparrows, and a lingering Gray Catbird. 35-species overall.

● Landon Neumann had a Red-breasted Nuthatch (not many around this year) in his yard Oct 31.

● Russ Allison enjoyed Celery Bog on Nov 11, seeing two or three Bald Eagles and lots of waterbirds including **100's of Common Coots**, over 80 Shovelers, 21 Gadwall and 5 Ruddy Ducks.

● Landon Neumann visited France Park Nov 19 and found a Cackling Goose in a flock of 200 Canada Geese. It was a new county record.

● Viewing the Wal-Mart end of Celery Bog Nov 24 Ning Wu noticed a late-lingering female Common Yellowthroat. He also noted an interesting mammal, a Mink.

● Nov 26 Jon Chapman of Winamac birded parts of Cass Co by car, turning up 47 species. Highlights included Great Horned Owls, Rough-legged Hawks and Northern Harriers.

● In late November many people reported numbers of migrating Sandhill Cranes. Michael Retter reminds people to "look for White Ones" just in case a Whooping Crane is mixed in. There were many more Sandhills moving Dec 9. Russ Allison counted 171 at Prophetstown State Park along with two Northern Harriers, and

Rick Read saw 250 flying over while outside at Lake Freeman. Rick also saw a Horned Grebe feeding in the lake.

- Saturday, Nov 26 while birding in NE Benton Co, Ed Hopkins discovered a **Ross' Goose**.
- A local falconer reported seeing an American White Pelican at the Frankfort Lagoons (sewage treatment plant) on Dec 7. A couple trying to track it down didn't find the pelican but did find a **Ross' Goose**.
- A more reliable unusual species to chase is at **Del Arvin's** property near Buck Creek. Del found a Northern Saw-Whet Owl back in mid-November. The bird is fairly reliable but moves his roost so isn't located every day. In December the number of these small, tame owls present increased to between 2 and 5 individuals. Anyone wishing to see the owl should check with Del for directions and to see if one of the birds was found that day. Del also has a Long-eared Owl and numerous other species around.
- Speaking of Owls: Snowy Owls are invading this year. Individuals are being reported from all over the state so keep your eyes open.

Sandhill
Cranes



CONSERVATION NEWS

Call/email for Everglades Restoration

The National Audubon Society is asking for your help as Congress considers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore our Gulf Coast. The RESTORE Act would dedicate billions of dollars of the penalties paid by BP and other companies responsible for last year's oil disaster to a massive effort to restore the Gulf Coast. BP's and the other companies' damage was done in the Gulf, so it is appropriate that much of their fines should be used for its restoration.

If Audubon is going to succeed in getting the RESTORE Act passed, your Senators need to hear that Gulf Coast restoration matters to you and your state. Please call and ask them to RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act (S.1400)

Billions of birds— (this is not an exaggeration) — including colorful songbird species found in backyards and forests, waterfowl from the Prairie Pothole Region, shorebirds from high in the Arctic, raptors, the iconic colonial wading birds of the South, and endangered Whooping Cranes and Piping Plovers—depend on Gulf Coast habitats each year. And don't forget the seafood and those millions of American jobs that result from the Gulf Coast's natural riches. Your support for Gulf Coast restoration has kept the RESTORE Act moving through Congress. The next few weeks are critical to make sure that it passes. Senators need to know that this issue continues to matter to ALL Americans.

Tar Sands Pipeline Update

The Tar Sands pipeline project reported in the last *Warbler* has been tabled for now, thanks to a massive outpouring of opposition. Although the pipeline has not been approved this isn't a final victory. The project will be reappraised after the 2012 elections. Let's hope the issue hasn't been kicked down the road simply to avoid the voter backlash its approval would have caused.... And while we're hoping, how about hoping for a Congress that cares about the environment and can understand the environmental and economic consequences of its actions?

Email Conservation Updates

Anyone wanting timely info on environmental issues can sign up to receive conservation alerts and updates from SAS via email. Just send your email to Barney Dunning (see p 7) The effect of a number of emails on an issue to a representative or senator can make a difference. It's better to write and share your views than just sit and complain.

Chapter news continued

Homoya Program Attracts a Crowd

December's talk, *Wildflowers and Trees of Indiana Woodlands*, by Mike Homoy, Division of Nature Preserves, drew over 60 people who greatly enjoyed his lively and informative presentation. **SAS had 20 copies of Mike's new book.** The books sold out and SAS will reorder. Cost is \$20 which is less than the cover price. If you want to sign up for a copy simply email Wes Homoya (see p. 7). We will let you know when the books come in. Royalties go to the Indiana Heritage Trust.

Community Outreach

SAS has engaged in several outreach events lately. Barny Dunning and Wes Homoya manned an information table during the first showing of the movie, *The Life List*, in West Lafayette. The Society then co-sponsored a program on mountain top removal with Sierra for the *Appalachian Treasures Group* October 19, and lastly co-sponsored a talk November 15 by the Director of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, who was invited to campus by the Purdue Department of Forestry and Wildlife to promote a new film on Aldo Leopold and his Philosophy of Conservation.

Indiana Audubon Festivals

Indiana Audubon Society's Spring Festival is at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary May 4-6, 2012. their next Fall Festival is at Brown County State Park's Abe Martin Lodge on October 5-7, 2012.

More on Willow Slough:

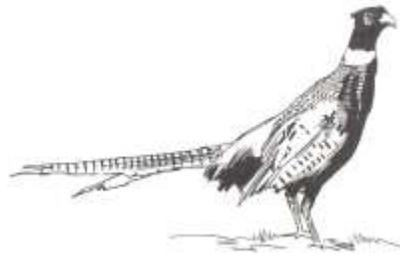
Ed asks past participants to email in advance so he knows their areas are covered. New participants let him know you are going so he knows to wait for you at the Willow Slough boathouse at 8 AM EST/7 AM CST. See the web page below for forms, etc.

web.ics.purdue.edu/~hopkinse/christmas_bird_counts.htm

New Game Bird Habitat Area

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels gave hunters and birdwatchers an early Holiday Present by announcing that 1,250 acres at a former state prison farm in Porter County is going to the Department of Natural Resources to establish the state's largest public game bird habitat area. The land had been scheduled for surplus sale at a public auction in January, but the Governor ordered it removed from the auction list and set aside for conservation, noting the size and uniqueness of the area. The next largest game bird habitat area is the 825-acre Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat in Benton County which SAS members know well as the site of many unusual and rare bird species. The new property is located on the eastern border of Porter County between I 90 and I 94.

"The acreage of wetlands and waterways we've protected has broken all records and won Indiana national recognition" said Daniels. "But this is our first big opportunity to expand our upland game preserve and bring our large-scale conservation program to Northwest Indiana." The property will be managed by the DNR who will restore grassland habitat to benefit birds such as Bobwhite Quail and pheasant. Around 100-acres will be used for contract farming with the revenue going to fund the restoration and maintenance of the remaining acreage. This is the second time Governor Daniels has transferred land from the Department of Correction to the DNR. In September 2010 almost 2,000 acres from the Putnamville Facility became the Deer Creek Fish & Wildlife Area.



For additional information contact

Phil Bloom, (317) 232-4003
pbloom@dnr.ingov or
Marty Benton (317) 233-3853
mbenson@dnr.in.gov.

Wednesdays In the Wild

All the following programs are in Lilly Nature Center. There is still some flexibility in the schedule so double check closer to the date.

Jan 11, 1-3p.m., "Fire: Friend or Foe - An Ecological Perspective": Drew Daily, Wildland Fire Supervisor, IDNR Div. of Forestry

Jan 18 "**Free Ranging Cats and Conservation**" Mick Weeks, Purdue Dept. of Wildlife

Jan 25, 1-3p.m. "Killer Asteroids & Comets: The Kentland Connection" Dr. Jay Melosh, Purdue Dept. of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences

Feb 1 1-3p.m., "Is it an Opossum or a Possum? The Life History of the Virginia (O) possum" Bill Beatty, Graduate Student, Purdue Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources

Feb 15, 1-3p.m., "An Overview of the Healthy Rivers Initiative" Angie Tilton, Healthy Rivers Initiative Liaison.

Feb. 8 & 22 these two topics will be presented, but the order is not determined.

1-3p.m., "Bringing Back the Bluebird" (Plus Bluebird Box Building) Mary Cutler & Brenda Moore

1-3p.m., "Sea Otters & the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill" Dr. Paul Snyder, Purdue Dept. of Veterinary Medicine

Feb 29 1-3p.m. "Nature's Calendar: The Fascination of Phenology"

March 7 1-3p.m. "Native Prairie & Barrens Plant Communities Distribution in Indiana: The Historic & Prehistoric Climatological & Geological Influence". Chad Evans, WLFI -18

Join	Sycamore	Audubon	Society!
<p>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, <i>The Sycamore Warbler</i>.</p> <p>You can support national conservation efforts by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). When you join NAS, you will receive <i>Audubon</i> 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.</p>			
Membership Application			
Name: _____		Email: _____	
Address: _____			
City/State/Zip: _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of the Sycamore Audubon Society		\$15/year x ___ year(s) \$	
<p><i>Note:</i> SAS's membership year runs September 1 through August 31.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p>I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by: <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail or <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> National Audubon Society membership		\$20 for first year \$	
<p>Special introductory offer for new members (renewals are \$35/year)</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional contribution to SAS		\$	
<p>For _____ (if specific purpose)</p>			
		Total enclosed \$	
<p>Send checks to : Sycamore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2716, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2716. CIZ H10 OZ</p>			

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WALLA offering "Life of Birds" Class

Dorothy Jones has organized an 8-session Wabash Area Lifetime Learning course around David Attenborough's PBS series, *The Life of Birds*. Following Attenborough's schema, the course will consider how birds evolved to assume mastery of the air and adapted to occupy ecological niches on land and water. Each class includes spectacular video from the series, as well as time for comments and discussion. Backyard photographers are encouraged to collect their own shots of feathered friends from around home or from their travels. These can be shared during comment and discussion time.

Participants will be welcome to accompany Sycamore Audubon Society birders on local early morning field trips in April. The course will wrap up with a guided trip to spot spring migratory birds. Dates for the course are March 19, 23, 26, 30 & April 2, 5, 9, 12. For more information call Dorothy at 765-497-2348 or email her at dorjones@me.com.

- Session 1: Being a bird: Mastering flight.
- Session 2: Fueling flight: Birds as vegetarians.
- Session 3: Fueling flight II: Birds that eat meat and fish.
- Session 4: Bird communication: Signals and songs.
- Session 5: The mating game: "Birds do it..."**
- Session 6: Walking on eggs: Bird's nesting habits.**
- Session 7: Avian parenting: Diligence, vigilance and free fall.
- Session 8: Pushing the limit: Extreme bird habitats.

Tidbits

◆ An American Golden-Plover makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any shore-bird. It winters in the grasslands of central and southern South America and migrates all the way to the high Arctic of Alaska and Canada, including the Arctic Refuge.

◆ Trees By the Numbers:
 An acre of trees can remove 2.6 tons of carbon dioxide from our air supply annually. Trees renew our air supply by absorbing the carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.

The oxygen created by that acre of trees during a year equals the yearly oxygen needs for 18 people.

A single tree can produce 260 pounds of oxygen each year.



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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.



Dates for the 2012 GBBC are February 17-20

The 2012 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2012. We're looking forward to it and we hope you are too! The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology along with their Canadian partner, Bird Studies Canada, sponsor the event. Go to birdsource.org/gbbc to find out about the latest developments as the big event gets closer and to enter data.

Participants in last February's GBBC submitted more than 92,000 on line checklists and identified nearly 600 different species. It's easy to participate, go out, bird an area or watch your feeders, then go to one of the websites, find the Great Backyard Bird Count and fill in a submission form for your data. Repeat the process other days or at different areas on the same day. Even if you don't participate, the website is worth visiting just to see the ever changing maps of what others have found and how the data stacks up nationally.

SAS is giving a program on winter birds and the GBBC February 16th, the day before the count begins, at the Tippecanoe Co Klondike Branch Library in West Lafayette (NW corner of Lindberg & Klondike Rd). Program starts at 2 p.m.