

Sycamore Warbler

Volume 41 Issue 2 Summer 2016

Wabash River North Reach Plans Revealed

Barney Dunning attended the public meeting for the "Wabash River North Reach" development plan on behalf of SAS which has been providing input into this process since it began. He has a copy of the map showing the various areas and trails and can send it to anyone interested. Here are some of the highlights:

- Two pedestrian bridges will cross the Wabash, one along the existing Sagamore Parkway bridge (added when the old car bridge is replaced) and a second one across from where Happy Hollow Road comes down to N. River Road.
- The north area of the old Golf Course will be mainly natural looping trails & wetlands.
- The southernmost area will have softball fields, a mountain bike trail, and a "great lawn" (the old dump) as well as a model airplane flying area.
- In between the two will be a mostly natural area buffer.
- The riparian corridor will be widened to 300 feet (EPA suggested width). Invasive species will be removed and controlled.
- Three areas on North River Road are slated for mixed-used development. Private developers will buy the land and do the development with the new property taxes helping to defray the \$50-60 million cost.

Don't Forget the Summer Breeding Bird Count

from June 1 to July 31.

Data is collected by county and data from every county in Indiana is wanted.

Send info on birds and nests for Tippecanoe County to Barney Dunning & for Warren County to Susan Ulrich. (see p.7). Info from other counties can be sent to the Indiana Audubon Society

For more details go to indianaudubon.org

Outdoor Explore!

June 11 is the date for "Outdoor Explore! - a Beyond Your Backyard Sampler". It is a free, all ages event (21 booths) to expose folks to a variety of outdoor activities they can try out over the course of the day: geocaching, archery, mountain biking, outdoor cooking, etc. Experts provide an introduction to the various activities and answer questions. The event is 10-4 at the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater (4449 SR 43 N West Lafayette). Food available on site. Check it out on Facebook or email Mary Cutler at mcut@msn.com.



Birds of the Bog Season One

Many of you already know about Dan Miller's great nature pictures many of which were taken at Celery Bog. He has produced a new app with lots of stories and 527 pictures & videos taken there. It's available from Apple for \$2.99 and well worth the price. Dan is donating all the proceeds from sales between June 1 & August 1 to SAS. A small version of the flyer can be found on page 3.

Mind BOGgling Event Best Ever

Great weather helped attract over 500 people to this year's *Mind BOGgling* event. It was especially nice to see how many of the participants had children who may have been receiving their first exposure to nature. SAS members Zonda Bryant and Susan Ulrich were among the dozens of people helping with the walks, talks, and displays. Audubon had a bird quiz where children got chances to win a bird feeder or suet cake. Winners were Gabriel (feeder), and Jackie and Melanie (suet cakes).

SAS's sponsored program by Animalia was especially appreciated by many of the attendees. Several people stopped at SAS's display to thank us for funding their appearance. Dan Dunten, WL Parks, received a nice note afterwards reading: "I have attended this event for the past several years and yesterday's event was fantastic. Wonderful day with great programs. Thank you for continuing to offer such a wonderful family event."

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2-3
Local events & news	3
Nature Notes	4
Conservation	5
May Count Results	6
Tidbits & More	7
Calendar of Events	8

CHAPTER NEWS

See you in September

SAS has no membership programs until September 8 which is the annual Membership Invitational Program when YOU and others are invited to bring 5 or so minutes of images to share. These can be vacation pictures, backyard shots, whatever. Lilly can handle both power-point and slide presentations.

The meeting begins with SAS's delicious Carry-in dinner (not carrion dinner!) starting at 6 p.m. Start snapping pictures!

Record \$867.67 check

The record amount above was made at SAS's April Bake & Plant Sale. It went to Hands of the Future's Nature Clubs which enrolled 149 children in this spring and is continuing to run over the summer for the first time. **The group's school yard program** has expanded to four schools.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items to make this such a successful venture; and special thanks to the people who helped at the booth: Connie Brown, Karen Griggs, Elsa Janle, Mary Ann McGill, Anne Piechota, & Susan Ulrich

Wanted for Plant Sales

SAS members use over 700 plant pots for the bake & plant sales and garden expo sale each year. We need a steady supply of plastic pots of various sizes from 3 inches on up (hanging baskets especially), and smaller clay pots (3.5 inches are ideal but up to 4 inches across o.k.).

The latter are for Elsa Janle who donates dozens of beautiful African violets to each sale. She is now having to buy pots so if you have extras please let us know.

Soil too: if you have potting soil or too much compost that you don't want to store we'll be happy to take it and put it to good use. If you thin

any of your perennials, pot up a start or two to donate at SAS's next sale. Email Susan Ulrich (see p. 7) to arrange a donation.

Garden expo fundraiser

Lots of people responded to our request for plants resulting in SAS raising \$379.50 at the Master Gardener's Expo in April. **Thank you!**

Additional thanks to Mary Ann McGill & Susan Ulrich who manned the booth; Temple Pearson who loaned her driveway as a place for people to drop off plants; and Mary Sue Waser, who loaded her car with the donations (plus her own donations) and drove them over to the Hog Barn at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds.



Bicentennial Bird Lists

A number of SAS members accepted the challenge mentioned in the last newsletter to see 100 or 200 species in Indiana during this Indiana Bicentennial year. If you are one of those people, please let us know how you are doing so we can include a report in the next several newsletters, e.g. your editor is up to 150 species.

"Thank You's"

SAS would like to thank Rebecca Wong, Barb Lucas, and Jim Klatch for their extra monetary donations to

SAS since the last newsletter. Thanks also to Barb & Russ Allison for their donation of four coolers for use at the feast and on field trips, and to Chuck Tuttle for donating propane used at the Feast.

We'd also like to thank Elsa Janle, Karen Griggs, Susan Ulrich, Barb Brown, Marilyn Anderson, Sara Benham, and Russ Mumford for bringing refreshments to the member meetings this year.

Member Outreach

In Monticello, Rick Read led a popular bird hike as part of the city's April 23 Earth Day activities. A reporter spent two hours with the group and a photo of the birding group made it into the newsletter.

You might have seen Rick's picture in the April issue of the IAS publication, *The Cardinal* where he was the featured "Meet a Member" in Brad Bumgardner's column.

Barny Dunning and Patrick Ruhl were among the presenters at this year's Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. Patrick also gave a program on his summer bird research in the Hoosier National Forest to *Wednesdays in the Wild*.

June 1, Susan Ulrich gave a talk on *Attracting Birds to your Yard* to the retirees at the Mulberry Health Cottages. The refreshments provided included Hummingbird Cake, nuts & berries, poppy seed muffins and red nectar hummingbird punch.

Help Needed At Riverfest

SAS will be at Riverfest again this held at Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette. There are 20 or more booths, competitive voyageur canoe races (including one between West Lafayette and Lafayette), pony rides, 5-K race, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, and much more.

Hours are from 9-4.

If you can help out for a couple of hours please call or email Susan Ulrich (see p. 7). It would be nice to have someone from 10-noon and another person from noon-2 p.m. to help out. We haven't decided on what our display will feature or what activity for children SAS will be doing. Any suggestions?

Thousands removed

This spring the Remove Invasive Plants Squad (RIP) took out thousands of Garlic Mustard plants which would have produced millions of seeds in local parks. What a difference their work makes.

The Squad starts up again in October when it works on honeysuckle. To learn more or get a schedule of activities, contact Patty Rader Jones at

patricia.w.rader@gmail.com.

ABA Checklist now at 990

The American Birding Association's checklist committee added three new species to the official North American bird list. They are Common Scoter (California last spring), Blyth's Reed Warbler (Alaska last fall) and Pallas's Rosefinch (Alaska last fall). All three species were seen by multiple birders and the documentation included photos plus, in one case, recorded calls.

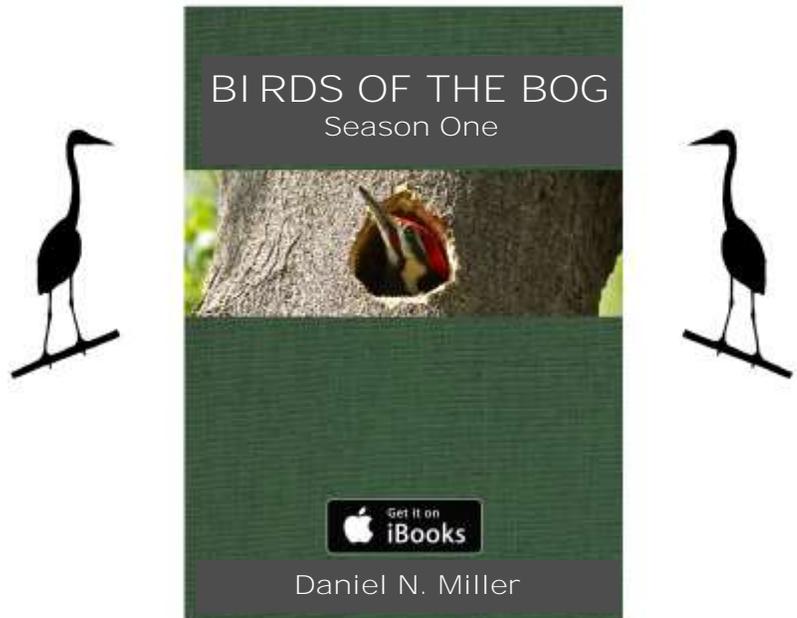
Local May Bird Counts

Data from this year's two May Bird Counts is on page 6. Both ended up with a typical number of species but low numbers of individuals. This was the result of the cold, blustery day: few birds were singing and constant movement of leaves and branches made spotting birds difficult.



SUPPORT THE Sycamore Audubon Society

Purchase *Birds of the Bog Season One* from the Apple bookstore for \$2.99 and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Sycamore Audubon Society!



Birds of the Bog Season One is about my adventures in birding at Celery Bog in West Lafayette, Indiana. The book consists of 259 short stories illustrated by 527 photos and videos of birds, mammals, insects and flowers. — Dan Miller

A 100 year nest site record

When Melissa Sherwood wrote to Cornell's NestWatch asking if it was unusual for a Dark-eyed Junco to nest in a birdhouse. They told her that juncos don't nest in cavities, as they are known to be open-cup nesters (though they may use crevices near the ground).

As you have guessed, she was vindicated by photographic evidence. Never say never, even when it comes to a very common species. Cornell researchers searched the NestWatch database and found an instance of a junco nesting in an open-fronted nest box (designed for Carolina Wrens). They found no other instances of juncos using any kind of box or cavity. Nor was there any in the historic nest record cards that pre-dated the NestWatch project.

However a search of the older scientific literature turned up two historical mentions of Dark-eyed Juncos nesting in old woodpecker holes. Both sources were over 100 years old! If cavity nesting is a small and rarely-observed part of juncos nesting repertoire, it makes Melissa Sherwood the first person to see and report it in over a century.

Nature Notes & News

- Jim McGlone had 5 Tundra Swans at his wetland in Warren County on 3/22. Two were seen there weeks later on 5/14 by Susan Ulrich & Brian Beheler during the Warren Co. May Bird Count.
- The first Louisiana Waterthrush returned to its stream by Sue & Ted Ulrich's house on March 27.
- Landon Neumann had his 1st Tree Sparrow of the spring at Celery Bog 3/8. The night before he & Frank Stetler had 11 Woodcock behind the pond at Prophetstown.
- Doug Gerbacht said spring must be coming when an Eastern Phoebe showed up at his house looking for a nest site on 3/10.
- The Hamilton Co. Bird Club had a fieldtrip to Celery Bog and surrounding areas in early March. They saw 34 Species at Celery Bog, plus 6 at Prophetstown & added 2 more at Battleground.
- On 3/20 Russ Allison sadly reported that one of his many Dark eyed Juncos would not be making a trip back north this year. "My local Cooper's Hawk caught at least one. I saw another hiding under a bush and thought it was injured. It had been sitting very still for several minutes. I went outside and actually touched the Junco. It turned and looked at me but did not fly."
- The evening of the 20th Wes Homoya led a group of 6 on one of a birder's favorite rites of spring AKA "The Woodcock Walk". He began with an overview of the eccentric American Woodcock, a shorebird that would rather spend its days in the woodlands than on any beach or mudflat. The group discussed its quirky nicknames ("Timberdoodle", for instance), its modified wing feathers that enable its twittering sounds as it rises into the sky for its aerial mating display, and the funky way it bobs and stutter-steps as it searches for earthworms and other tasty morsels. **Though temps were down in the 30's the waiting paid off with the mystical sights and sounds of up to 4 male woodcocks doing their peenting and skydancing. iEveryone got killer binocular looks at one bird on the ground in the spotlight.**
- Ted & Sue Ulrich had a Tufted Titmouse with three leg bands show up 3/23. The bird was evidently banded by Purdue researchers at Martell Forest. The bird is still in coming for seed 3/5.
- The Allison's first yard birds after moving to their condo last year were Mallards. They showed up again 3/24. Russ is hoping they nest at the nearby retention pond.
- Barny Dunning visited Celery Bog for 20 minutes on 3/24 before the rain started and found good numbers of ducks and two groups of grebes. One was 7 Pied-billed Grebes. The other a group of Horned/Eared Grebes in molt. Sue Ulrich had reported at least two Eared Grebes among a larger set of grebes earlier this week. One bird that he saw was likely an Eared Grebe based on structural features.
- 4/6 Barny Dunning was surprised at the sight of two Wild Turkeys in a field just south of Harrison High School in northern Tippecanoe County.
- SAS's morning bird hike on 4/7 turned up the First-of-Spring Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, along with some waterfowl and a Great Egret.
- On 4/16 Brian & Amanda Beheler told Barny they have been seeing flocks of American White Pelicans near their home in Warren County. The birds were seen at a number of places (including the old Cranberry Bog) and the number of pelicans varied, but it is may be that one fairly large group was seen in part or whole on different days. Brian said that they had seen as many as 30 birds.
- Bob Carter found himself in Lafayette on 4/19 so birded Celery Bog for the first time. After American Coots and Tree Swallows the most numerous species was Yellow-rumped Warbler with a minimum of 25. There were four Great Egrets in the north part of the water along with some Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, and Northern Shovelers
- Carolyn Starkey reported the earliest Ruby-throated Hummingbird. She had one 4/20 at her feeder near Granville Bridge. Larry Miller had his first one 4/22.
- Landon Neumann found 6 warbler species moving through Martell Forest on 4/21 along with Warbling Vireo and Pine Siskins.
- Two days later at Pine Creek in Benton County John Skene identified seven different shorebirds including Golden Plovers. He also had American Pipsits & a Henslow's Sparrow.
- Russ & Barbara Allison report three eaglets were alive and well in one Bald Eagle nest in Tippecanoe County as of 4/26.
- At Pine Creek on 4/27 Gary Overdorf saw a pair of Black-necked Stilts. Jeff McCoy found a pair there several weeks later on 5/21.
- The hour-long Thursday morning walk at Celery Bog on 4/28 yielded the year's first Veery, Tennessee Warblers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles for the spring. There was also a singing Northern Waterthrush along the water's edge. Except for two Horned Grebes, most of the migrating waterbirds were absent - not even one coot.
- Four people traveled to Goose Pond for a wet and rainy Saturday field trip 4/30. We started well with an Osprey at Celery Bog when we gathered to carpool and saw some interesting birds at Goose Pond. But in a vein similar to the WWII movie "A Bridge Too Far", we stayed for one too many walks while at Goose Pond and got soaked by a late morning rainstorm. But before that, we found Black-crowned Night-heron, Northern Bobwhites, several pairs of Black-necked Stilts, lingering shorebirds including Solitary Sandpipers and both yellowlegs. The day ended at Celery Bog with a Cliff Swallow circling the parking lot with with the many Tree Swallows.
- 5/3 Joan Mohr Samuels saw her first rose-breasted Grosbeak of the season, she also has a Red-headed Woodpecker coming to her suet feeder and aggressively keeping other birds away!
- On 5/10 Ed Hopkins birded between rainstorms and managed to find a dozen different shorebird species at the north pond at Pine Creek along with a Black Tern. Joe Mayfield who joined him got a number of new life birds.
- On 5/20 SAS had a good morning at Celery Bog, West Lafayette. There were some migrant warblers (mostly pretty high up) along with a pair of Black Terns. Two "weirdos" were the long resident Canada X Greater White-fronted Goose hybrid (locally known as "Klaus") and a leucistic American Robin. But the favorite sighting of the morning was a screaming and agitated Hairy Woodpecker bouncing around. Barny immediately looked for a fledgling (or a predator). They found a newly fledged woodpecker upside down clinging to a small branch. After a few bounces around, it got oriented onto a tree trunk and started working up the trunk in a more woodpecker-ly type fashion. Must have been just out of the nest.
- The afternoon of 5/24 Barny Dunning was surprised to see & hear 5 Cedar Waxwings on Purdue's main campus in West Lafayette. He hadn't heard any waxwings all spring and none were found on either May Count ten days earlier. The next morning he had two Pine Siskins at his home feeders in northern Tippecanoe county. He's hoping they'll hang around until June so he can include them in the summer bird count.
- Sara Benham (new board member) and Wes Homoya went out to Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area on May 25th with her visiting father and stepmom. Highlights were superb looks at vocalizing Black-billed Cuckoo and Bell's Vireo (one of each), with other enjoyable birds being a singing adult male Orchard Oriole, Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, and some "heard only" Northern Bobwhites. While shorebirds were sadly limited, they did pick out a few Pectoral Sandpipers, and a handful of the two "Semis" (Semipalmated Sandpipers and Plovers).
- 5/25 Barny Dunning reports that migration is definitely slowing but there were still a few warblers (including Nashville and Blackpoll), a Swainson's Thrush and a Philadelphia Vireo at Celery Bog for the Thursday morning bird hike. .
- While doing a bit of summer count birding in Warren Count near Highbridge on 6/4 Susan Ulrich noticed a pair of Cedar Waxwings gathering cottonwood fluff. She managed to follow track the birds and find their partially constructed nest.

Send your nature notes to the editor at
sueandtedulrich@msn.com

CONSERVATION NEWS

Wind Farm Poses Threat to Eastern Golden Eagle Population

A letter was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the American Bird Conservancy and Virginians for Responsible Energy because of serious concerns about Apex Clean Energy's proposed "Rocky Forge Wind Energy Project" in Botetourt County, VA. The Golden Eagle found along the east coast is a small and potentially vulnerable population that is geographically isolated and potentially a distinct subset. This eastern population breeds in northeastern Canada, migrates along ridgelines through the central Appalachians, and winters in Virginia.

SAS signs on to Letter Supporting Safe Building Act

Each year, millions of birds collide with buildings that aren't designed to be "Bird Smart." Rep. Mike Quigley has introduced H.R. 2280, the Federal Bird Safe Building Act. SAS responded to a request to sign on to a letter in support of the bill, joining the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy along with numerous other concerned groups.

Sea Levels Continue to Inch (or 'Foot') Up

Two studies published earlier this year in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* show that sea levels are rising faster now than at any other time in the past 2,800 years -- and it's due to global warming caused by human activity, primarily emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

The new data show that sea levels were fairly constant until the Industrial Revolution, when fossil fuel use exploded. Seas rose more in the 20th century than in any preceding century, and the rate of sea-level rise over the past two decades has been the fastest yet. The new studies predict that, depending on the volume of emissions, by 2100 sea levels will rise by another 1 to 4 feet, causing further inundation of cities, displacement of coastal communities and economic chaos. The conclusion: it will get worse before it gets better -- and it'll only get better if we commit to major, rapid cuts in fossil fuel emissions

Peabody Coal vs The Clean Power Act

Peabody, the US's largest coal company has fired up its legal machine and taken the Clean Power Plan, America's blueprint to fight climate change to court. The coal industry has been hit hard and clean power is their enemy although it has massive health & environmental benefits.

According to the National Resources Defense Council, the fight to defend the Clean Power Plan heats up June 2 with oral arguments in federal court. **NRDC's legal team has been busy preparing its arguments and strongly believes that the plan as written stands on firm legal footing.**

Green Sea Turtles Doing Well

Happy news about U.S. green sea turtles in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans: Their recovery has prompted the National Marine Fisheries Service and Fish and Wildlife Service to downgrade the animals' status from "endangered" to "threatened."

The agencies emphasized that growing threats from climate change and sea-level rise mean that sea turtles remain at risk and continue to need the Endangered Species Act's protections. Also, while the powerful protections of the Act have helped U.S. green sea turtles, populations in the Mediterranean, South Pacific and western Pacific -- which don't benefit from those protections -- continue to struggle and remain in danger of extinction.



Movie about the Dunes

Karen Griggs went to the world premiere of ***Shifting Sands***, a documentary movie about the Indiana Dunes. She found it very informative, dealing with development of the area over the years and the preservation and restoration efforts that produced the Indiana State Park and National Park.

The movie is available from Lakeshore TV in Merrillville. The Field Museum in Chicago has a special exhibit of Indiana Dunes artifacts tied to the movie.

For more information go to:

<http://lakeshorepublicmedia.org/us/about/contact-us/>

2016 Big Day in May Bird Count Results

Species	Tippecanoe	Warren						
Canada Goose	219	114	White-eyed Vireo	5	0	Lark Sparrow	0	2
Mute Swan	2	0	Yellow-throated Vireo	2	1	Savannah Sparrow	7	6
Tundra Swan	0	2	Blue-headed Vireo	0	2	Grasshopper Sparrow	4	1
Wood Duck	50	58	Warbling Vireo	61	7	Henslow's Sparrow	2	1
Mallard	125	13	Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	Song Sparrow	77	15
Blue-winged Teal	11	6	Red-eyed Vireo	44	10	Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0
Northern Shoveler	2	0	Blue Jay	89	12	Swamp Sparrow	2	0
Redhead	0	2	American Crow	111	22	White-throated Sparrow	5	4
Lesser Scaup	0	2	Horned Lark	7	5	White-crowned Sparrow	7	7
Hooded Merganser	0	4	Purple Martin	11	0	Northern Junco	1	0
Ruddy Duck	0	3	Tree Swallow	227	44	Summer Tanager	1	3
Northern Bobwhite	0	7	No Rough-winged Swallow	146	41	Scarlet Tanager	25	14
Ring-necked Pheasant	6	9	Bank Swallow	67	10	Northern Cardinal	148	40
Wild Turkey	8	7	Cliff Swallow	140	90	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	60	18
Double-crested Cormorant	28	0	Barn Swallow	228	92	Indigo Bunting	113	43
Pied-billed Grebe	5	2	Carolina Chickadee	59	11	Dickcissel	12	19
Great Blue Heron	46	13	Tufted Titmouse	54	25	Bobolink	6	8
Great Egret	1	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	35	11	Red-winged Blackbird	531	847
Green Heron	5	1	Carolina Wren	25	10	Eastern Meadowlark	55	31
Black-crowned Night-heron	0	1	House Wren	60	17	Common Grackle	110	624
Turkey Vulture	132	65	Marsh Wren	2	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	154	88
Osprey	0	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	Orchard Oriole	16	6
Bald Eagle	10	5	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	Baltimore Oriole	107	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	61	26	House Finch	38	12
Cooper's Hawk	8	2	Eastern Bluebird	32	14	Pine Siskin	4	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	4	Veery	14	3	American Goldfinch	123	30
Red-tailed Hawk	19	11	Gray-cheeked Thrush	4	4	House Sparrow	153	88
Rough-legged Hawk	0	2	Swainson's Thrush	34	10			
American Kestrel	6	2	Wood Thrush	29	13	Total individuals	6219	3736
Sora Rail	1	1	American Robin	444	219	Total Species	149	139
American Coot	8	21	Gray Catbird	99	27			
Sandhill Crane	2	0	Northern Mockingbird	1	3			
Semipalmated Plover	0	2	Brown Thrasher	18	12			
Killdeer	28	21	European Starling	582	238			
Solitary Sandpiper	2	0	American Pipit	15	0			
Spotted Sandpiper	4	7	Cedar Waxwing	14	0			
Greater Yellowlegs	0	1	Blue-winged Warbler	2	1			
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	2	Golden-winged Warbler	0	3			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	0	Tennessee Warbler	66	16			
Least Sandpiper	7	3	Nashville Warbler	6	1			
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	5	Northern Parula	16	7			
Dunlin	0	10	Yellow Warbler	41	16			
Short-billed Dowitcher	6	3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	3			
American Woodcock	0	3	Magnolia Warbler	7	3			
Ring-billed Gull	3	0	Cape May Warbler	1	3			
Foster's Tern	9	0	Yellow-rumped Warbler	11	3			
Black Tern	1	1	Black-throat Green Warbler	4	0			
Rock Pigeon	31	8	Blackburnian Warbler	1	0			
Mourning Dove	108	52	Yellow-throated Warbler	3	3			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11	1	Prairie Warbler	1	0			
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	1	Palm Warbler	4	4			
Eastern Screech Owl	0	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	2	2			
Great Horned Owl	2	0	Blackpoll Warbler	3	4			
Barred Owl	1	3	Cerulean Warbler	1	1			
Common Nighthawk	1	0	Black-and-White Warbler	2	1			
Chimney Swift	20	2	American Redstart	21	6			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	12	6	Prothonotary Warbler	3	0			
Belted Kingfisher	5	2	Worm-eating Warbler	2	0			
Red-headed Woodpecker	10	12	Ovenbird	4	7			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	51	15	Northern Waterthrush	9	2			
Downy Woodpecker	44	15	Louisiana Waterthrush	9	4			
Hairy Woodpecker	12	4	Kentucky Warbler	10	4			
Northern Flicker	19	4	Mourning Warbler	1	0			
Pileated Woodpecker	19	7	Common Yellowthroat	96	26			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	11	2	Wilson's Warbler	2	0			
Acadian Flycatcher	11	5	Canada Warbler	1	0			
Alder Flycatcher	3	0	Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1			
Least Flycatcher	4	1	Eastern Towhee	23	16			
Eastern Phoebe	32	18	American Tree Sparrow	0	2			
Great Crested Flycatcher	33	16	Chipping Sparrow	83	50			
Eastern Kingbird	61	30	Field Sparrow	25	17			
			Vesper Sparrow	11	3			

Participants Tippecanoe (18): Delano, Kevin, Kyle, & Mark Arvin; Mike & Joyce Brattain; Barb Brown; Barny Dunning, (compiler); Quinnell Gutwein; George Kopcha; Elsa Janie & Harry Potter; Beth Misner; Lorraine Myer; John Skene; Becky & Larry Theller; Chuck Tuttle.

Participants Warren (10) : Brian, Amanda, Phoebe, Callum & Liam Beheler; Joanna Billiard; Louise Decker; Kelly Pearson; Ellen Tobias; Susan Ulrich (compiler).

Taking the results together, 171 species of birds were located in the three counties which is one more than last year. 117 of those species were found in both counties.

Tippecanoe had 32 species that weren't found in Warren County, and Warren had 22 species that weren't found in Tippecanoe.

Many of Warren County's highlights were waterbirds including Tundra Swan, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, Black-crowned Night-heron, and Black Tern. They also had Osprey, Rough-legged Hawk (one dark phase and one regular), Black-billed Cuckoo, Golden-winged Warblers, and two Lark Sparrows. Participants had trouble finding woodland birds and warblers thanks to high winds which kept birds from singing and flying around, and cold temperatures.

Tippecanoe County did much better with birds of the woods and fields as you can see by comparing numbers reported. But individual bird numbers were lower than usual. Participants found 30 species of warblers including Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Mourning and Canada, both species of Kinglet, and Philadelphia Vireo. Other species included Sandhill Crane, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Ring-billed Gull, **Foster's Tern, Black Tern, Alder Flycatcher, Swamp Sparrow & a Northern Junco.**

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

You can support Sycamore Audubon Society's local educational and conservation work by becoming or renewing as a Friend of 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). Contact SAS's membership chair for information. When you join NAS, (20 minimum) you will receive *Audubon* magazine **along with automatic chapter membership in SAS**. Since NAS dues primarily support national projects, we encourage all national members to ALSO become Friends of SAS. As a Friend, you contribute directly to our local chapter and its projects.

Chapter Membership Application Date: _____

Name : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Friend of the Sycamore Audubon Society \$15/year x ____ year(s) \$ _____

SAS's treasurer would appreciate payments in August-September to make it easier to keep track, however Friends memberships are credited to whatever month a Friend first joined.

New Member Renewal

I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by email paper

Additional contribution to SAS for _____ \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Sycamore Audubon Society 2015-16 Board of Directors

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Birds of Paradise Website

Ever since Ferdinand Magellan discovered the family in the 16th century, the 39 species of Birds of Paradise have been a lure to birders and ornithologists. The website below offers a fascinating and rare look at all 39 species leaving little to be desired with its vast collection of images, sounds, and high quality videos that was eight years and eighteen expeditions in the making.

From scientific resources to highly entertaining footage of elaborate mating dances, this website is as colorful as it is informative.

Thanks to funding from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Geographic Expeditions Council, and Conservation International, Ed Scholes, Evolutionary Biologist, and Tim Laman, Wildlife Photojournalist, spent years capturing amazing images and videos to shed light on this family of birds found only in New Guinea, some nearby islands, and parts of eastern Australia.



<http://birdsoparadiseproject.org>
www.scout.wisc.edu as reported in the NY Times)

Tidbits

- ◆ Minnesota lost 75 to 80% of its Purple Martin population in the last 40 years. Numbers have dipped across the Midwest (including Indiana) as well as in New England and Canada's Maritime Provinces. There are more than one million human landlords but either they aren't enough to keep the population healthy or many aren't managing their sites carefully enough. Pesticide use probably also plays a role.
- ◆ Wood Duck box nestling success increased by a factor of 4 using a nest box with a 96 inch square floor rather than a 54 inch floor.
- ◆ Research in Toronto found residents in areas with more trees felt they had better health than respondents in areas with fewer trees. They were right. They were healthier, suffering from fewer cardio-metabolic conditions. Planting just 10 trees per city block improved health perceptions equal to an increase of \$10,000 in salary.



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

Summer Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2016

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Every Thursday | Early Bird Hikes. Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette, 8 a.m. These will be held every Thursday until interest wanes. Check to see if they are still occurring by emailing/calling Barny Dunning (p.7) |
| June 11
Saturday | Two Prophetstown Field Trips: Both meet at the far end of the park road. Species seen will count towards the 200 State and National Park birds needed for the Bicentennial Big Year. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Grassland and Other Birds of Prophetstown. 6:30 a.m. to around 8:30 a.m. We'll look for the typical grassland species and see what else we can find in our local state park. Target birds include Henslows and Grasshopper Sparrow, Bell's Vireo, both Orioles & Blue Grosbeak. 2) Audubon at the Overlook. 9 a.m. Stick around the overlook and join SAS members to see and learn about local birds that might put in an appearance. |
| July 9
Saturday | Riverfest: A local celebration of the Wabash River and its corridor. Voyager Canoe Races, pony rides, bubble house, 5K run, lots of booths of various groups, etc. Kid friendly but lots of information for adults. Tapawingo Park, West Lafayette 9-4 p.m. Audubon will be there and can use a few people to help out at their booth (10-noon, and noon to 2). Contact Susan Ulrich (p.7) |
| July 23
Saturday | Audubon at the Overlook. 9 a.m. Stick around the overlook and join SAS members to see and learn about local birds that might put in an appearance. Meet at the far end of the park road. Contact Chuck Tuttle (see p.7) if you have any questions. |
| August 12-13
Fri-Saturday | Hummingbird Banding at Mary Gray Sanctuary with Amy Wilms. Either carpool down Friday night and camp at the Sanctuary south of Connersville which is owned by the Indiana Audubon Society or drive down on your own VERY early Saturday. Songbird mist nets open at 6 a.m., hummingbird nets at 9 a.m. Banding goes to noon. Contact Barny Dunning (p.7) if you are interested in going. |
| September 8
Thursday | Carry-in Dinner & Bring Your Own Program night. 6 p.m. for the dinner, 7:15 for the program. See page 2 for more details. SAS supplies plates, silverware, cups, napkins & beverages. Bring a dish to share. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking. |