



Sycamore Warbler



<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Volume 36, Issue 3

Fall 2011

SAS Wetland Acquisition Funding Match

SAS members have the chance to help permanently protect a wetland in Tippecanoe County a mile north of Mountmorenci on US 231. Called "Mulvy Pond" locally, the 52-acre area is being bought by NICHES Land Trust which is now raising funds for the purchase.

Located at the junction of two roads, Mulvy Pond is an easy site for people to stop and check for birds. Many species of interest have turned up over the years. Three years ago Russ Mumford repeatedly noted a pair of Sandhill Cranes and believed they were nesting. The next year, two young were observed, making this site the official southernmost known nesting area for cranes in Indiana. It is hoped the young raised at the pond will return and nest in other local areas when they mature.

SAS \$ 1,500 MATCHING FUND:
From Bake & Plant Sale plus private donations

SAS has set up a \$1,500 one-to-one matching fund to raise money for the purchase and ongoing stewardship of this wetland. The money is coming from the October 14-16 Bake Sale (see p 3) along with money donated by two anonymous donors. Matching gifts should be sent to the SAS PO box and made out to either the Sycamore Audubon Society or the NICHES Endowment Foundation (invested funds in the later will help support stewardship of the property *in perpetuity*). Donations to either will count **towards the match. It's an exciting project that will protect one of the rare wetlands in SAS's area.**



Sandhill Crane

Green Violetear

Rarity at Fountain County Feeder is 2nd-Indiana Record

A Green Violetear hummingbird, native to central Mexico and parts south, was found at a feeder in eastern Fountain County on August 2nd. Luckily the homeowner recognized the oddity and contacted local birders right away. The occasional Green Violetear that makes it to the US rarely stays more than a few days. Green Violetears are larger than Rubythroats and mostly dark green with blue iridescence behind the ear and on the throat and breast.

The homeowners were gracious about allowing people to come to their house. Calls went out and several local birders plus a few others got to see the rare hummingbird that first afternoon. The bird apparently moved out when a front came through that night as it **wasn't seen by anyone after that.**

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Green Violetear
photographed by Ed Hopkins

CHAPTER NEWS

2011-12 SAS Programs

Wes Homoya has lined up some great programs for the coming year. September's program, the popular *Bring your Own*, will be in the Elm Room at the West Lafayette Public Library. It is preceded by a carry-in dinner. Bring something to show at the meeting as well as a dish to share beforehand. The society supplies plates, napkins, utensils and beverages.

If you know of a program you think SAS members would enjoy, or have a program you can give, contact Wes Homoya (p.7).

Meeting Site Changed

Lilly Nature Center is closed until sometime in October. SAS's September and October meetings have been moved to the West Lafayette Public Library.

"Materials are engaging and informative"

This is a comment from one of the teachers who received *Audubon Adventures* last year. Another said "These are a perfect reading/science combination". If you know a 4th to 6th grade teacher who would enjoy receiving this National Audubon Society environmental education program for his/her students, contact Rick Read (P.7). SAS pays for the program through funds raised at the Feast and other activities.

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS

If you would like your newsletter via email/web site, simply send your email address to sueandtedulrich@msn.com.

BIRDING ON THE FLY & local bird alerts

Like to be notified when unusual birds or unscheduled field trip opportunities come up? Send your email to Barny Dunning (see p 7). A short list of people have already responded and were sent an announcement when the Green Violetear Hummingbird (which should not be here) suddenly appeared. See story, p.1.

Go Bird Go! Callout

*The wind in your hair,
the sun on your face,
the adrenaline rush of exercise
--plus a little birdin'*

Go, Bird, Go!, a new student group at Purdue University started by Wes Homoya, aims to incorporate wind, sun, exercise and birding into its biweekly excursions (weather permitting!).

The club will meet every other Tuesday morning at 8 am beginning on August 30th. There will not be an outing on October 11th, due to October Break. The final trip of the semester will be determined by the arrival of winter weather.

Students will convene at Pickett Park, located at the corner of Stadium Avenue and McCormick Road near the Intramural Playing Fields. Participants will either bike or run from Pickett Park to nearby Celery Bog (~1.5 miles away), go for a short birding walk led by Wes Homoya (Purdue student and Sycamore Audubon Society Vice-President), and return to Pickett Park around 10am.

Purdue students of all fitness levels and interests who have a desire to learn about and experience birds, be outside, get some exercise, and maybe make some friends are invited to become members or just tag along. Students only need to bring exercise and weather-appropriate clothing, water, binoculars, and a good attitude. Loaner binoculars should be available for students who lack them.



Barn Swallow

SAS Nature Club

With the start of a new school year, SAS would like to expand the number of participants in its Junior Bird & Nature Club. If you know someone between 10-12 years old that would be interested in joining, please contact Susan Ulrich (see p. 7). One outdoor activity is schedule each month.

Park Clean-up

Rick Read, who spearheaded the acquisition of land for a nature park in Monticello, helped organize a clean-up day for the new park. Scheduled to go for three hours, many volunteers stayed for six. They ended up collecting 4 roll offs full of trash and 5 filled with metal to recycle. Great job!

Help with the Feast Loaner grills/smokers wanted

SAS is selling turkey wings and GIANT legs at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon at Fort Ouaiatenon on the weekend of September 24 & 25.

SAS can use the help of a few more volunteers. This is SAS's major yearly fundraiser and your participation would be appreciated. In addition to turkey, the chapter sells cold and mulled cider, and water. Volunteers spending four hours at the booth get free admission to the Feast on both days.

SAS needs one or two additional charcoal grills or an extra smoker. The latter work beautifully to defrost and preheat the turkey pieces before they are put on the grills. If you have a grill or a smoker you're willing to lend or donate, call/email Chuck Tuttle (see p 7).

How to save a wetland: Support SAS's October's Bake & Plant Sale

The profits from the October 14-16th Bake & Plant Sale are going to the fund match for Mulvy Pond (see p1). Donations of food items and plants and other birding items are needed, as are customers!

Bring your donations to the West Lafayette Public Library (208 West Columbia Street in the West Lafayette Village) anytime after 2 p.m. on Friday, October 13th. Plants can be brought in a few days earlier if desired.

Cashiers needed: If you can spare a few hours to help sell the donations, please contact Susan Ulrich (see p. 7). People are needed Friday night from 6-9, and for 2 to 2.5 hour shifts on Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday afternoon from 1-4. There is free parking available in the library garage.

Don't Confuse your Gallinule with your Moorhen —Barry Dunning

The latest issue of the scientific journal *The Auk* contains the newest supplement to the Check-list of North American Birds, published by the **American Ornithologists' Union**. This check-list is the primary authority for species that have been officially accepted in our area. People look towards the publication of each new supplement with excitement and with trepidation. For the hard-core birders, the annual changes may represent **a chance to add new species to one's life list (of course, one can lose species, too)**. For others, the changes can be confusing when old names are replaced by new ones or the order of species within a particular group is changed.

The 2011 supplement has only a few changes that will affect most North American birders. Probably the main one is the result of an Old World – New World split. As has been done with several other species in recent years, a published study demonstrated that the populations of Common Moorhen found throughout the world differ enough in their genetic makeup that they are best treated as separate species. Our birds get a new English name (Common Gallinule) and scientific name (*Gallinula galeata*). **This is a "new" name only for some of us.** Older readers may remember that our moorhen was called Common Gallinule in the not-to-distant past (and Florida Gallinule before that).

A similar study of New World and Old World forms has split the Snowy Plover into two species. Our North American birds keep the same English name, but are now called *Charadrius nivosus* in the scientific literature. Eurasian populations will go by the name Kentish Plover, which is what the British have called them all along.

Several other splits don't affect North American lists but do change the understanding of some of our birds. The southernmost populations of Mexican Jay are split off as a separate species called Transvolcanic Jay of southern Mexico. Similarly, the subspecies of the Yellow-throated Warbler in the Bahamas is now treated as a separate species, the Bahama Warbler. Neither of these species have been recorded in the US.

The most dramatic change has to do with the genus affiliations and the order of placement within the New World warblers. After the publication of another genetic study, the relationships of the warblers are now better understood and a lot of species got moved from one genus to another. The most surprising change is that the big genus *Dendroica* is no more – all those species such as the Yellow Warbler are now placed in the same genus as the American Redstart (*Setophaga*). The genus *Geothlypis* used to have only the yellowthroats. Now a lot of other species are lumped into that group. The order in which the species are found within the family has also changed – the Ovenbird is now the first species listed in the family, instead of being towards the end of the group. These changes in placement order and **genus affiliation don't affect the average birder much, except that it may now be more difficult to find a particular species in online listings.**



Welcome back: the Common Gallinule again a species. Picture from "Nature Company Guides to Birding"

My life list leapt up by two, maybe three species. I have seen both gallinules and the Transvolcanic Jay. I still have to track down if I saw a Kentish Plover in Australia back in the 1990s. How did you do?

Nature Notes & News

- June 10 Susan Ulrich heard a Black-throated Green Warbler singing near Kickapoo Falls in Warren County.
- July 13 Landon Neumann noted Collared Doves in the Cass County Young America Bird Atlas Block (BBAB) he was canvassing. On the 15th in another BBAB he had a Veery. This is the first **Veery he's ever found in Cass County** during breeding season.
 - The highlight for Russ Allison at Prophetstown State Park July 15th was seeing 2 River Otter—a rare non-feathered sighting.
 - The next day Rick Read looked unsuccessfully for Bobolinks in a nice grassland in White county. Instead he heard and saw plenty of Dickcissels and several singing Henslow's Sparrows.
 - On July 27 Landon Neumann had a very unexpected Upland Sandpiper in a sod field in another BBAB. Then, August 9, he noted an Osprey flying over the Eel River. **He wrote, "This must be a migrant because none nest in the Logansport Area".**
 - John Skene checked the exposed mudflats at Celery Bog just south of the Wal-Mart in late afternoon on August 4th and found a number of shorebirds including 3 Semipalmated Plover, 25 Killdeer, 4 Solitary Sandpiper, 3 Lesser Yellow legs, 1 Sanderling, 2 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 7 Least Sandpiper, 1 White-Rumped Sandpiper, 1 Baird's Sandpiper, and 2 Pectoral Sandpiper.
 - Ed Hopkins checked and also saw the **Baird's Sandpiper** that day. He returned to the Celery Bog mudflats on the 9th and 10th, finding eight species of shorebirds. **The Baird's was still there.**
 - On 8/9 Barny Dunning, Chuck Tuttle & Wes Homoya

stopped to check the Celery Bog mudflats on their way north to the Pine Creek Refuge in eastern Benton County. **No Baird's among the shorebirds** but they did spot a Sanderling.

The three spent two hours at Pine Creek and had good numbers of shorebirds in the southernmost basin (13 species overall including several Stilt Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers). The best bird of their visit was a juvenile Red-necked Phalarope.

- Barny Dunning and Wes Homoya returned to Pine Creek August 17 along with John Skene for another two hours of productive birding, encountering 11 species of shorebirds. Again, most were in or near the southernmost wetland basin. This time they had a basic plumage **Wilson's Phalarope**, to pair with last week's Red-necked Phalarope. They also had two calling Black-billed Cuckoos, two Bobolinks that allowed a very close approach (John got great photos—**maybe you'll see them at the September membership meeting**), singing **Henslow's Sparrows**, and 4 flycatcher species. The Olive-sided Flycatcher is likely the earliest fall individual Barny has seen. The bird is a new species record for the Pine Creek Gamebird Area.

- Rick Read had three reports of Ospreys on Lake Freeman between August 14 and August 17. The birds were seen fishing. The most seen at once were two birds.

- On the morning of August 20 Ning Wu went to Celery Bog. The highlight of his trip was three adult Black-crowned Night Herons. He notes: This species **"didn't seem to make a stop** in the Celery Bog last year, and I really missed these nice looking birds.

- Rick & Debbie Read located a new Chimney Swift roost in downtown Monticello at the Twin Lakes Cinema. They noticed more swifts flying around than were going into familiar roosts, so looked for, and found, this new site. **The movie theater's chimney is in the rear and only observable from the north in the alley behind.** Rick wonders how large the roost will grow before the swifts migrate.

- Grant Martin asked Rick Read about a game bird he saw at Prophetstown SP. The bird was too big for a Bob White and too small for a Pheasant & definitely too small for a Wild Turkey. He wondered if the park had reintroduced **Prairie Chickens (they haven't).**

Chuck Tuttle had a similar experience. He put it down as a female or young pheasant missing the tail feathers. However a week later biking in the same area of the park, he heard unusual calls he **couldn't identify. Reminded him** somewhat of what he heard at the Prairie Chicken Refuge last Spring. Anyone else see or heard this?

- Hummingbirds feeding at night? Several people locally and around Indiana have seen what appear to be hummingbirds feeding at dusk or at night—especially on Surprise Lilies. Some sighting might be hummingbird moths, but some reports are from experienced birders familiar with both species. Have you noticed any late feeding hummingbirds?

AND SPEAKING OF HUMMINGBIRDS: **don't stop feeding until no** more birds are around. The last lingering hummers are usually young of the year trying to build up enough fat to successfully complete migration. Most adult males leave by mid-September, followed by adult females a few weeks later. **Continued feeding won't cause the** birds to stay, but will give young birds a better chance of surviving past their first year.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Fight Proposed Tar Sands Pipeline

The numbers are staggering: tar sands mining in Canada's Boreal forest could claim the lives of over 100 million migratory birds -- including those backyard songbirds we enjoy seeing and hearing every summer.

Now, the large oil companies want a new tar sands pipeline that would drive even more destruction of the Boreal and its songbird nursery -- unless citizens mobilize swiftly to stop it.

Please send a message of protest to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who will soon determine whether this cross-border project is in **America's national interest. She needs to hear from you immediately.** Her department is rushing towards approval of this environmental disaster and the oil companies are blitzing the airways with misleading advertisements.

The Keystone XL pipeline would transport raw, hot toxic tar sands oil sludge 2,000 miles -- from Alberta, Canada to refineries in Texas -- threatening fresh water for millions of American families as it passes through the heart of America over the Ogallala aquifer. Its sister pipeline -- the Keystone One -- has already ruptured 12 times in its first year of operation. Cancer rates for native populations downstream from the tar sand have risen 30%.

The Keystone XL will double tar sands consumption in America and double the devastation of Canada's Boreal forest. **Four out of ten "backyard birds" in America migrate to the Boreal Forest to nest and rear their young.** Where will those birds and other wildlife go if their ancient forest home is obliterated to produce the world's dirtiest oil?

And it IS THE DIRTIEST. Barrel for barrel, the production of tar sands oil spews three times more global warming pollution than producing conventional oil. **And transporting more to the U.S. won't even lower our gas prices;** strangely enough, it is expected to actually increase gas prices in the Midwest.

It's a plan only the oil industry could love, and only citizens can stop!

It's critical that hundreds of thousands of Americans direct their displeasure to the State Department, which has never delivered the hard-hitting environmental review of the pipeline that Secretary of State Clinton promised. **It's beginning to look like Big Oil's interests will once again prevail over everyone else's unless there is a national outpouring of protest.**

Make your voice heard. The tar sands pipeline will destroy the Boreal forest, decimate songbird populations, turbo-charge global warming, raise gas prices and threatens to poison America's drinking water supplies.

Tell Secretary Clinton to deliver the environmental review she **promised and tell her you're not willing to pay the high environmental price connected to more tar sands oil!**

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 Barny 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.**

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Volunteer to be part of the third annual Wabash Sampling Blitz on September 16th! Join 250 volunteers to create a picture of the water quality of the Wabash River, Wildcat Creek, and their tributaries. Since the fall of 2009, volunteers have collected data to complete a snapshot of the water found in the Wabash watershed. This spring, sampling expanded to include sites within the Wildcat Creek watershed. Volunteers monitor temperature, water cloudiness (turbidity), nutrient levels, and pathogen concentrations

Volunteer to sample your local stream, your favorite canoe spot or other location, with a friend, group, or by yourself. Staging locations to meet and get info and equipment are at strategic sites in the area.

What's next? Don your waders or knee boots and spend approximately two hours wading four stream sample sites. After entering the stream, wade to the center and fill your provided sample bottles. Then, measure stream temperature and water cloudiness with the provided thermometer and transparency tube. Once complete, photograph the stream and any unique or interesting features, then travel to your next site. When done with all four, return to your assigned staging location to filter your samples for laboratory analysis, measure water quality with provided test strips, and download your photos.

Want more information? Visit www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz to view videos and read about past events.

Volunteer online at <http://tiny.cc/WabashBlitzFall2011>.

Questions: Contact Sara Peel at 765-337-9100

Birding Website

WeLoveBirds.org is a new website from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Natural Resources Defense Council. On it you can ask **questions and get answers. And it's all free!** This new community and social network site is a place where bird enthusiasts, beginning birders and experts alike can share their experiences, post their pictures and videos, learn from leading ornithologists, and help protect natural bird habitat.

Kudzu: also a polluter

Not only has Kudzu already colonized 7 million acres of the southeastern United States and is now found in southern Indiana, it also contributes to air pollution. Jonathan Hickman, a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia University's Earth Institute has found that Kudzu grabs nitrogen from the air then **pulls it through to the plant's roots** where bacteria convert it to nitrogen oxides (NOx). Some of the nitrogen oxides are used by the Kudzu plant, but some is released into the air where it spurs the formation of ozone and, in turn, smog. Smog can irritate throats, aggravate asthma and even cause permanent lung damage.

Comparing Kudzu-free areas with Kudzu infested areas, Hickman found the kudzu areas produced about twice as much NOx. If kudzu were to invade all the undeveloped land across the nine-state area bounded by Arkansas, Georgia, and Virginia, Hickman calculates the number of smoggy days in some areas could increase up to 70%.

LEARN WHAT'S GOING ON

Native Roots is a quarterly publication that lists all the natural history programs and activities occurring in the local counties. If you'd like an email of the newest issue when it comes out, ask Joan Mohr Samuels at mohrsamuels@comcast.net.

Ruffed Grouse Study



Ruffed Grouse by Don Eckelberry from the book, "Our Amazing Birds"

Once common across Indiana, the population of Ruffed Grouse is now limited to the forested hills of south central Indiana. Farm abandonment in the **early 1900's led to an** increase in brushy woodlands and a subsequent increase in grouse numbers. Now, as forests mature, grouse numbers have fallen to very low levels.

Grouse hunting is currently permitted in 25 southern counties including Morgan, Monroe, and Brown - the three counties where the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment

(HEE) is centered. For the past several decades, Indiana's Division of Fish and Wildlife has conducted spring roadside drumming surveys to assess grouse populations. Steven Beck reported no grouse were detected in the 2010 or 2011 surveys. With the implementation of timber harvests in 2008, HEE created areas of successional habitat which could eventually provide suitable new habitat for grouse.

Earlier this year, HEE initiated a study to monitor grouse use of these openings. Objectives included: comparing use between openings of various sizes, monitoring changes in abundance at harvest areas over time, and identifying more heavily used sites for future research efforts.

Earlier this year during the peak drumming period of March and April, HEE and Division of Forestry staff conducted three surveys at each HEE harvest opening. Ruffed Grouse have been observed around the HEE research cores since the tree harvests began in 2008. **However, no birds were detected during this year's survey. Drumming was** heard in Unit 9 (even-aged management) prior to the start of the official survey period, but that individual was not heard during the actual surveys. While Ruffed Grouse typically avoid recent regeneration openings for drumming displays, it is believed detections will increase in future years as the habitat becomes more suitable for this important early-successional forest indicator species.

Elk Returned to Missouri

Wild elk haven't bugled in the Missouri Ozarks for more than 150 years—but they will this fall!

Just after daylight on May 5, 2011, with early morning sunlight penetrating the oak trees, an 18-wheeler eased down a ridge with **Missouri's new elk herd on board: six bulls and 28 cows and calves.** Wildlife managers herded the elk off the truck into temporary holding pens at the Peck Ranch Conservation Area. After an initial burst of energy, the animals relaxed and fed on the new clover growing in the pens where they will be held until their release back to the wild.

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>Note: 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	\$ _____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional contribution to SAS		\$ _____
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Feeder Count Runs November to February

From the 20th to the 25th of each month from November to February, people who feed birds in Indiana are encouraged to watch and keep records of what comes to their feeders. It's fun, and the data helps assess yearly changes in bird numbers. John Castrale, Indiana Non-game biologist, compiles the data which is published by the Indiana Audubon Society. The report form needed for sending in your data can be picked up at SAS meetings or print a copy at www.Indianaaudubon.org.

Kenn Kaufman Headlines IAS Fall Festival!

The October 1-2 Indiana Audubon Society (IAS) Fall Festival has a stellar line up of great speakers and local birding experts. The Festival will be held at Pokagon State Park. If you've not reserved your spot yet, registrations are filling fast. The large room block at the Potawatomi Inn is already full!

Go kayak birding with Chief Naturalist for Wild Birds Unlimited, John Schaust, and Gene Stratton Porter Historic Site Manager, Dave Fox, or explore the wilds of Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area with birding expert Jim Haw, or enjoy a leisurely birding stroll through the early fall forests and swamps of Pokagon. There is a program or birding outing for everyone, including the keynote dinner presentation by Kenn Kaufman.

To register go to the IAS website at www.indianaaudubon.org. They expect a full list of attendees, so there will be no registrations on site.

Tidbits

The last date a living Dodo bird was sighted was January 2nd 1681 on the island of Mauritius.



A CD, *Shrubs of Indiana, their identification and uses* is the latest CD issued by the Purdue Agriculture Department (CD-FNR-6). The author is Sally Weeks, Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources native plant expert, and George Parker, Purdue professor emeritus. Sally is working on a book on **Indiana's Shrubs which should be out by January 2012.**

Indiana's native shrubs are very important nesting and feeding areas for native birds. Being able to recognize the various species will help you provide good habitat in your yard.



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

Website updates available on Wabash & Muscatatuck Healthy Rivers Initiatives

You can now follow progress on the largest conservation project ever undertaken in Indiana, the Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI), by clicking on the website, healthyivers.IN.gov. As mentioned in the Fall 2010 *Warbler*, Gov. Mitch Daniels announced the ground-breaking Healthy Rivers Initiative in June of last year. This Department of Natural Resources effort includes a partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and The Nature Conservancy, as well as other resource agencies and organizations.

HRI involves working with willing landowners to permanently protect 43,000 acres in the floodplain of the Wabash River and Sugar Creek in west-central Indiana, and another 26,000 acres of the Muscatatuck River bottomlands in southeast Indiana. The website features an interactive map, maps and photos of the project areas, and lists information for landowners on the benefits of the initiative, as well as instructions for donating.

HRI progress can also be followed on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HealthyRiversIN or marked as "like" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/healthyiversIN. HRI projects involve the protection, restoration and enhancement of riparian and aquatic habitats and the species that use them, particularly threatened, endangered, migratory birds and waterfowl. This initiative will also be beneficial to the public and surrounding communities by providing flood protection to riparian landowners; increasing public access to recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, boating, and bird watching; and leaving a legacy for future generations by providing a major conservation destination for tourists.

