



Sycamore Warbler



<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Volume 36, Issue 4

Winter 2011

\$20 Million for Land Conservation

"I have asked [the Bicentennial Commission] to oversee a Bicentennial Nature Trust, a statewide project to protect still more of our most precious natural spaces. On our 100th birthday, Indiana launched its state park system. A statewide conservation initiative is a fitting sequel and bequest from our second century to our third. The Trust is intended to inspire others, and to match their donations of land or dollars in a continuing statewide surge of conservation. The Commission joins me in challenging citizens, businesses, and in particular our unique network of county community foundations, to identify and fund local projects that will safeguard places of beauty for future generations."

Governor Mitch Daniels,
State of the State Address, January 10, 2012

This new fund will seek additional private donations and input from communities for projects to preserve the best of Indiana's natural landscape. While the formal application period has not yet begun, the Bicentennial Commission is seeking the help of Hoosiers in identifying conservation projects around the state. Governor Daniels appointed Lt. Governor Becky Skillman and Lee Hamilton to co-chair the Indiana Bicentennial Commission that will administer the Trust. They are in the process of establishing the rules and procedures. Locally, NICHES Land Trust expects to get help from the Bicentennial Fund to purchase a 60+ acre parcel along the Wabash between Black Rock and Ross Hills Camp.

Christmas Bird Count Report

Each Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is different—birds common one year are missing the next, changes in habitat take away good birding spots but may add others. Some years birds are flitting everywhere. **Other years they are hard to find. The results for this year's three counts are on page 6.** The number of species reported on the Lafayette Count was above average, but fewer than the exceptionally high 83 species found last year. Willow Slough-Iroquois Preserves had 60 species last year and Crane 58.

Lafayette participants didn't have to hunt for open water—this year there was too much! Many birders had to change plans because high water kept them out of areas they normally covered.

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2
Calendar	3
Nature Notes & News	4
Conservation	5
CBC Results	6
Membership/contact Info	7
Mulvey Pond Update	
May Bird Counts	8



Hooded Crane

A Hooded Crane, *Grus monacha*, created huge excitement when John and Elaine Harley, found it at Goose Pond on February 9th. Birders had been on the alert as the crane had been in Tennessee and was believed to be moving North. Hundreds of birders from Indiana and nearby states went to see it. The bird was very obliging, as were the birders who continued to post updates on **the crane's exact location.**

The Hooded Crane's normal breeding range is Central Siberia to NW Manchuria. It's wintering grounds go to NE India and southern China but it is found as a vagrant in other Asian counties. Hooded Cranes stand about three feet tall and are thus smaller than Sandhills. Much of the head and back of the neck are white, the front of the neck is mostly black, plumage dark gray, legs black.

A number of local birders visited Goose Pond with great success. Russ Allison, John Skene, Ning & Margaret Wu, Barny Dunning, Temple Pearson, and Mike Braittain were among them. In addition to the Hooded Crane they saw Whooping Cranes and loads of Sandhill Cranes giving them a 3-crane day.

After disappearing from Goose Pond, the bird may have been seen on Feb. 17 flying over Ryan Hamilton's house in Speedway in company of 80-100 Sandhills. So far no report from Jasper-Pulaski.

Photo by Ning Wu showing Russ Allison, John Skene and several other birders at Goose Pond looking at the Hooded Crane on February 12.

CHAPTER NEWS

Owl Programs

In January and February, Monticello held a series of owl programs. The series was a cooperative effort of the Monticello Parks Department, Monticello Union Township Public Library and the Sycamore Audubon Society.

Six programs were held over eight weeks. The first was a library story hour with a reading of the book Owl Moon, coordinated by Sandy Wagner. A program by Cindy Isom for late elementary and junior high students included study of owl characteristics and the dissection of owl pellets. Monica Casanova at the library showed the movie "Hoot", about kids saving Burrowing Owls from encroaching development. Rick Read gave an owl identification program to teach identification of local owls by their call, appearance and silhouette. Live owls were shown at City Park by Carol Blacketer and her educators from Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center. The final program was "Owl Myths & Truths" presented by Barny Dunning. Nearly a hundred attendees took advantage of the series.

Thank You Barny

Because of illness, Sue Arnold had to cancel her **Birds of Cuba** Program. Barny Dunning graciously stepped up and presented "Owl Myths & Truths" to an appreciate audience. We hope to get Sue's program next fall.

Other Outreach:

Susan Ulrich gave a talk to children at the WL Library about backyard birds in January. In February she gave a talk about the Great Backyard Bird Count at the Klondike Branch Library.

Program Idea?

Wes Homoya is starting to organize next year's programs. If you have an idea for one or would like to give one, contact him (see p 7).

Bake & Plant Sale

This spring sale is coming up fast and cashiers and donations of items

to sell (food &/or plants) are needed. Dates are March 23-25, location is the West Lafayette Library on Columbia Street in the WL Village.

We still need a cashier for 12:30-3 or 3-5 on Saturday. PLEASE call Susan Ulrich to help [p.7]. Donations can be left at the West Lafayette Library anytime after noon on Thursday (or earlier if needed).



SCIENCE FAIR:

Rick & Debbie Read, Chuck Tuttle and Susan Ulrich recognized the following individuals for having the best environmental projects at the Greater Lafayette Science Fair. Audubon gave \$50 to the Senior and Junior winners, and \$25 to the 5th-6th grade winner.

5th-6th grade Division

First place: Emma Scofield, "**Soak it Up: cleaning up oil spills**", Happy Hollow School

Honorable mention: Hannah Wilcoxson "**What Color Birdseed to Birds Prefer?**" Happy Hollow School

Junior Division

First Place: Reagan Munizer, "**Oil Drop Dispersion**" Tecumseh Junior High School

Honorable mention: Grace Morman, "**The Effect of Eisenari fetida (blood worm) on Enhancing Bioremediation**". St James Lutheran

Senior Division

First Place: Kelsey Towers-Jones, "**Computer Modeling of Corn Earworm Control with Trichogramma Parasitoid Wasps in the presence of a co-planted Nectar Source**".

Fighting Invasive Plants

On March 31 the Monticello Parks Department and the Northwest Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (NICWMA) will hold an Invasive Species Field Day at Monticello City Park from 10:00am until noon. NICWMA will give a PowerPoint presentation to show which plants are invasive. People will then work to remove those plants from City Park. Non-native species of plants can disrupt and replace native species. This means less food and shelter for native animals. Non-native species will be replaced by natives to help restore the natural balance.

Subway will provide a lunch at the end of the workday. Don't forget your gloves and loppers!

Garden Expo April 28

This yearly show is Saturday, April 28 and is put on by the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners. Audubon will have an information table and also sell plants and other gardening related items to raise money for the chapter. Donations of items to sell are needed, along with one or two people to help at the booth.

If you like gardening, you will enjoy Expo. There are loads of vendors with everything imaginable for the garden, several lectures during the day, and hourly prize drawings.

Birds and More Birds—

Six people gathered on a cold and windy March 3 for the Sycamore Audubon waterfowl and eagles field trip. Pine Creek produced an excellent array of waterfowl including Tundra Swan, Snow and Greater White-fronted Geese. The best birds were four ROSS'S GEESE at Pine Creek, one of which was the very rare blue phase of the species.

A REMINDER

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

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 start at Celery Bog unless otherwise described, times vary, see below.

-
- March 23-5
Fri-Sun Spring Bake & Plant Sale. Funds are going for environmental education programs in the local schools. Donations and cashiers needed. Contact Susan Ulrich at sueandtedulrich@msn.com. Hours 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, 10-5 Saturday, and 1-3 Sunday.
- 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.
- March 29
Thursday EARLY BIRD HIKES — every Thursday from now until May 24th, covering the migration season. Meet at **Purdue's Horticulture Park east entrance on McCormick Road at 8 a.m.**
- March 31
Saturday Fighting Invasives in the Park. Invasive species field day at Monticello City Park. From 10-12 followed by a lunch provided by Subway. Bring gloves and loppers. For more info see p 2 or contact Rick Read (see p 7)
- April 12
Thursday PROGRAM: The Ecology of Civilization Collapse. Steve Hallett, associate professor Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue and co-author of "Life Without Oil: Why We Must Shift to a New Energy Future", will challenge the assumption that progress and efficiency are the solutions to society's population-resource dilemma. 7:15 p.m. Refreshments and free parking.
- April 14
Saturday Early Migrants at Celery Bog. **Meet at 7:30 at the first gravel parking lot on the right. We'll check out** what species are back and possibly visit another location if interesting birds are being reported elsewhere.
- April 28
Saturday The M & M Trip: Martell Forest & Mulvey Pond. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at Celery Bog to carpool. We will visit these two areas to see what migrant water birds and land birds have shown up in the past few weeks
- May 10
Thursday PROGRAM: Bats and Woodrats: Conservation Concerns for Two Endangered Indiana Mammals. Scott Johnson has been the DNR non-game mammalogist for 25 years, overseeing river otter repopulation efforts in the late 1990s and bobcat tracking studies in the early 2000s. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog Nature Area. His recent work looking at effects of white-nose syndrome in bats and habitat degradation in woodrats has contributed to the understanding of both the nature and necessity of protecting our native representatives of these mammalian families. Refreshments and free parking. People interested in the May Bird Count (**see below**) can sign up and get forms if they haven't already.
- May 12
Saturday Big Day in May Count. The all Day exciting Bird Census. Three local counties are participating: Tippecanoe, Warren and White. A compilation party for Tippecanoe County participants is held at 8 p.m. at the Wild Bird Shoppe. Contact the compilers to get an area. See back cover for details.
- May 19
Saturday Mind BOGgling Event II. **An appreciation of Celery Bog Nature Park. There's lots going on from morning** bird hikes at 9 and 11 a.m., flower hikes at 2 and 4 p.m., butterfly gardening, tree planting and an evening program of music and art. The first MindBOGgling Event held in 2010 was a huge success, enjoyed by hundreds. **Stop by, it's a great way to Celebrate National Wetlands Month.**
- Potential later trips
- Prophetstown camping weekend
 - Work day at Mulvey Pond
 - Visit to Bryant Woods Nature Preserve (Clinton County)
-

Chapter News Continued:

Fifth Grade Bird Hikes

YOU can increase bird appreciation in the younger generation by helping lead bird hikes 7 a.m. Tuesday &/or Thursday at Camp Tecumseh for the WL Fifth Grade Camp. Dates still to be determined

(either May 1 & 3 or May 8 & 10). Chuck Tuttle gives a presentation to the students in advance of camp, then SAS members meet at the camp (or carpool from WL) for the hikes. Breakfast is provided after the hikes and people are back by 9 or 9:30 (earlier if you skip breakfast). Call Chuck for more infor-

mation and carpooling (see p. 7).

Friend of Conservation

Susan Ulrich was presented **with this year's Friend of Conservation Award** by the Tippecanoe Co Soil & Water Conservation Service at their annual meeting in March.

Nature Notes & News

● A beautiful male **Long-eared Owl** with a broken wing was taken to the Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center on Jan 21 by **Heather Jordan** & her daughter **Hadassah** of Brookston who found it on their property along 75N. The fracture is too close to the elbow to insert a pin so the wing is held with a wrap. The owl is eating well and being treated for a heavy parasite load. Prognosis is good for flight but time will tell.

● **Ning Wu** saw two male **Common Goldeneyes** flying over Celery Bog on January 31st. On Feb 19th, he & Margaret visited Pine Creek and were amply rewarded by seeing 6 species of raptors (**Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier,** and **American Kestrel** plus waterbirds.

● Lots of birders (inc. **Russ Allison, & Larry Miller**) reported large numbers of **Bald Eagles** around the Williamsburg apartment complex in Late January and early February. On Feb 7 **Ed Hopkins** stated, "The Greater Lafayette Area is Bald Eagle heaven." He covered the river from State Street Bridge to Merou Grotto, ending up with 19 adults and 12 second year eagles

● Two days earlier (Feb 5) **Ed** had a **Golden Eagle** at Jasper Pulaski.

● Feb 17 **Russ Allison** Started out the first day of the Great Backyard Bird count by spotting 17 **Bald Eagles** at the Williamsburg Apt. Complex in WL. He managed to get 9 in one photo. There was a lot of diving for fish. The 4 younger eagles were still begging for the catches the Adults made. Some of the young did make a catch of their own. On the 21st Russ found **Lapland Longspurs** in Benton Co. Some of his other Great Backyard Bird Count finds were **Tundra Swans** and **Cackling Geese**.

● Feb 18 A friend of **Amanda & Brian Beheler** found and photographed a **Snowy Owl** on a telephone pole in Benton County along the Judyville-Tab

road. Amanda & Brian has seen a **Snowy Owl** near the Kankakee Sands office earlier on Feb 4.

● Feb 8 **Russ & Barbara Allison** were in Crawfordsville and were surprised to see 3 **Turkey Vultures** soaring over town.. That same day **Rick Read** counted 4 Turkey Vultures perched on the Century Link microwave tower in downtown Monticello.

● Feb 18 **Rick & Debbie Read and Dan & Sue Troglin** spent an afternoon looking for owls. First stop was **Del Arvin's** property near Buck Creek. Del discovered **Saw-whet Owls** on his property this winter and was able to show them to dozens of people. For awhile he also had a **Long-eared Owl**. The visit was successful, Del showed them a **Barred Owl** in addition to two Northern Saw-whet Owls. The four-some then proceeded to Prophetstown State Park where they spotted one **Northern Harrier** and one **Short-eared Owl** (unfortunately, the latter was after the Troglins left).

● **Rick Read** went birding for the Great Backyard Bird Count too. On Feb 20th he spotted **Eurasian Collared Doves** in Monticello & says, "probably every town in White County has them now." He then stopped at the Indiana Beach Treatment Ponds where the males in a large flock of **Goldeneyes** where throwing their heads back and making a noise similar to a Woodcock's peent, only without the "p". The next day he spotted 2 male **Red-breasted Mergansers** on Lake Freeman. Other sightings included a trip to a landfill with an estimated 2000 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 100 **American Crows**, and 5,000 **European Starlings**.

● Checklists were still being submitted but **Don Gorney** reports that the interim Great Backyard Bird Count total for Indiana as of Feb 23 stood at 138 species. That is an amazing total and includes great birds for mid-February, including **Rufous & Calliope Hummingbird, House Wren, Western Meadowlark, LeConte's Sparrow,**

Common Yellowthroat, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Merlin, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Monk Parakeet, Ruffed Grouse, and Chipping Sparrow.

● **Gerold Overdorf**, his wife and son saw what they believe to be a **Snowy Owl** Feb 23 while driving on 1250 South westbound between 200 and 100 East in White County The bird flew up to the top of a telephone pole. They tried to get a few photos with cell phones, but they were less than ideal.

● Waterfowl movement this spring was good. Feb 25 **Ed Hopkins** went to Pine Creek (Benton Co) and had 36 **White Fronted Geese**, 10 **Snow Geese**, 11 **Tundra Swans** and 9 species of ducks. That same day at Celery Bog **Ning Wu** and **Benji Loop** had 40 **White-fronted Geese** and 12 species of other waterfowl. Three days later **John Skene** had 62 **White-fronted Geese**, 23 **Snow Geese** and 11 more waterfowl species at Pine Creek.

● Feb 26 **Susan Ulrich** looked up after hearing **Sandhill Cranes** close by and not only saw two small flocks of Sandhill Cranes, but 4 **Whooping Cranes** flying overhead in Warren County.

● **Tim Dunaway** got great pictures of a **Red-Shouldered Hawk** eating a pigeon right along the road at 5-Points in Lafayette in front of the Fire Department Museum on March 3.

● March 4 **Russ Allison** was returning home from a 1.5 hour walk around campus when suddenly a flock of **White-winged Crossbills** flew in to feed on the cones of the hemlock trees by Knoy Hall. Some birds were within 5 feet of him and he got numerous pictures. **John Skene** then checked another spot with hemlocks and found about 40 crossbills. If you know of hemlock trees with cones (often at cemeteries) check them out.

● **Connie Brown** enjoyed watching two male **Hooded Mergansers** courting a female on the Wabash River west of West Lafayette on March 6th.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Restore Bill Passes Senate

The National Audubon Society asked for your help as Congress considered 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.

Thanks in part to Audubon members who contacted their Senators, the U.S. Senate voted 76-22 on March 8th to include sweeping measures supporting Gulf restoration and land preservation in an amendment to the Transportation Bill.

The Senate is scheduled to take action on full Transportation bill which includes the RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act, a bipartisan, regional effort to restore and protect the gulf coast in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.



rels of more conventional U.S. produced gasoline overseas).

The cost of the pipeline will also cause gas prices to rise. Then there are the environmental costs of producing the oil in Canada and building the pipeline, plus the certainty of multiple spills of the toxic oil. An already constructed pipeline elsewhere carrying tar sand oils regularly breaks down contaminating soils and water.

Tar Sands Pipeline

The Oil and Gas Industries are spending loads of money to push for a pipeline to move the extremely toxic Tar Sands Oil from Canada to refineries on the Texas Coast. Their ads **make lots of claims that aren't** supported by the facts, and no where do they say that much of the resulting gas will be shipped overseas (they are already shipping millions of barrels

Wednesdays in the Wild

Apr 4th 1-3pm [Soundscape Ecology](#): a new science of the biophony, geophony, anthrophony of landscapes. Bryan Pijanowski (Purdue Professor in Forestry & Natural Resources) is leading an effort to create this new scientific field that will use sound as a way to understand the ecological landscape. indoor—Lilly NC

Apr 11th 1-3pm [Weed Biology & Climate Change](#) Jeff Dukes (Purdue Professor in Forestry & Natural Resources) will talk about the changes in climate and other environmental conditions that are expected and how invasive plant and animal species may respond to these changes -- indoor pgm—Lilly Nature Center

Apr 18th 1-3pm [Moyer Gould Woods Spring Wildflower Hike](#) Join Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) for an exploration of the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the spring ephemerals on the slopes of the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County! Outdoor Moyer Gould Woods/NICHES

Apr 25th 1-3pm [Shooting Stars & More](#) (Wildflower Walk) Walk wooded ravine trails with Jim Peterson (CLEGG Garden Manager & wildflower aficionado); enjoy the many wildflowers, as you learn about the gravel hill prairie restoration on this beautiful property along Wildcat Creek! outdoor pgm—CLEGG

May 2nd 1-3pm [Spring Warblers & Other Migrants](#) An indoor talk and a Celery Bog bird walk led by Susan Ulrich will cover returning migrants. Bring binoculars --indoor/outdoor at Lilly Nature Center.

May 9th 1-3pm [Indiana's Native Shrubs in Flower](#) Sally Weeks (Purdue Dendrologist) says "Shrubs are flowering plants, too!" On this walk, she will review the identification of many of our beautiful and wildlife-friendly native shrubs. Outdoors Martell Forest

May 16th 7-9pm [The Wonders of Wetlands](#) Experience the magic of a wetland evening in spring at Celery Bog! Along with searching for wetland wildlife, Naturalist Mary Cutler will share the importance of the diversity, function and value of Indiana's wetlands. A great prelude to Saturday's Mind BOGgling Event! outdoor pgm—LNC

May 23rd 1-3pm [Weiler-Leopold/Black Rock Barrens Walk](#) **Bird's foot violets, cream wild indigo are all returning to the recovering oak woodlands on this site in** Warren County. Join Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) for an exciting off-trail ramble over the slopes. Outdoor. Weiler-Leopold/Blk-Rock Barrens/NICHES

Jun 6th 1-3pm [Indian Creek Basin Hike followed by Frog Monitoring Session](#). Young trees have set down roots, along with a diversity of grasses to help hold soil and create natural habitat for wildlife. Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director) will discuss efforts to restore habitat along the Wabash River and conclude the evening with a frog monitoring session at the created wetland on this Tippecanoe County property. Boots advised. Outdoors Indian Creek Basin/NICHES.

Jun 13th 1-3pm [Up close Bird ID using Mist Nets](#). Mick & Sally Weeks (Purdue Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources) will demonstrate the use of mist nets and identify birds that come to the nets during this program. A great opportunity to get an up close look at our local birds! Outdoors. Wabashika NC, Battle Ground.

Stamp Benefits Wildlife

The U.S. Post Office has issued a semi-postal that benefits endangered species. A "semi-postal" issue means the face value of the stamp is greater than the cost of first class mail. The excess amount goes for a specific purpose, usually a charity or society need. Semi-postal stamps used to be fairly common but now few stamps of this type are issued. The most familiar is the breast cancer research stamp that has been around for several years.

The endangered species semi-postal has the picture of a tiger head. A sheet of 20 stamps cost \$11 instead of the usual 8.80. That means an extra 11-cents from each stamp goes to conservation programs that deal with endangered species. - Barny Dunning

Mary Gray Site of IAS Spring Meetings

The Indiana Audubon Society's Spring Meetings will be held at their Mary Gray Sanctuary south of Connersville Indiana on May 4-6. There are loads of programs and field trips for everyone from beginner to expert: birds, plants, herps, and more. Free camping available for Indiana Audubon Society members or register at a local mo/hotel. For details see Indianaaudubon.org.



Bloodroot

Celery Bog Rambles

Each Tuesday morning Sam Postheltwait leads a 9 a.m. plant and nature hike at Celery Bog Park in West Lafayette.

Area Christmas Bird Counts

Species Name:	Laf	WS/I	Crane	Species Name:	Laf	WS/I	Crane
Pied-billed Grebe	9	0	0	Black-capped Chickadee	0	9	0
Great Blue Heron	21	1	0	Carolina Chickadee	110	0	62
Mute Swan	72	0	4	Tufted Titmouse	66	6	54
Canada Goose	843	17	480	Red-breasted Nuthatch	0	1	0
Wood Duck	0	1		White-breasted Nuthatch	87	12	30
Gadwall	31	7	0	Brown Creeper	11	0	2
American Black Duck	7	7	2	Carolina Wren	19	0	13
Mallard	1019	617	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	2	21
Northern Shoveler	48	28		Winter Wren	1	0	
Northern Pintail	4	0	0	Bluebird	53	2	24
Green-winged Teal	23	8		Hermit Thrush	0	1	6
Ring-necked Duck	16	0	0	American Robin	581	cw	191
Canvasback	2	9	0	European Starling	2677	513	354
Redhead	0	cw	0	Cedar Waxwing	20	cw	141
Ring-necked Duck	0	15		Northern Mockingbird	2	1	1
Greater Scaup	0	1		Brown Thrasher	1	0	
Lesser Scaup	0	13		Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	
Long-tailed Duck	0	1		Eastern Towhee	1	cw	17
Common Goldeneye	cw	0	0	American Tree Sparrow	365	90	10
Bufflehead	0	1	2	Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0
Hooded Merganser	8	0	90	Fox Sparrow	5	0	1
Ruddy Duck	2	cw	0	Song Sparrow	53	5	58
Turkey Vulture	0	0		Swamp Sparrow	13	0	18
Bald Eagle	9	1	2	White-throated Sparrow	237	cw	46
Northern Harrier	9	16	0	White-crowned Sparrow	11	cw	0
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	2	0	Dark-eyed Junco	577	251	222
Cooper's Hawk	8	5	1	Lapland Longspur	25	206	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	0		Northern Cardinal	316	43	
Red-tailed Hawk	52	23	11	Red-winged Blackbird	1	30	0
Rough-legged Hawk	3	11	1	Eastern Meadowlark	8	24	0
Golden Eagle	1	0	0	Common Grackle	12	1	0
American Kestrel	22	16	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	41	55
Ring Necked Pheasant	0	7	0	Purple Finch	0	cw	2
Wild Turkey	4	23	38	House Finch	216	9	0
American Coot	81	265	0	Pine Siskin	0	1	0
Sandhill Crane	74	7		American Goldfinch	112	151	18
Wilson's Snipe	11	0		House Sparrow	676	122	45
Ring-billed Gull	82	0	0	Total Individuals	13,874	3,037	2,393
Rock Pigeon	579	14	3	Total Species	76	60	56
Mourning Dove	352	13	3				
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	6	0				
Great Horned Owl	5	3	0				
Barred Owl	3	1	0				
Short-eared Owl	2	1	0				
Belted Kingfisher	14	0	2				
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	1	11				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	74	11	23				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	0	0				
Downy Woodpecker	81	9	28				
Hairy Woodpecker	17	3	4				
Northern Flicker	31	1	20				
Pileated Woodpecker	12	0	11				
Northern Shrike	0	cw	0				
Blue Jay	164	18	62				
American Crow	3628	276	62				
Horned Lark	211	58	0				

(cw): seen during count week.

Lafayette Participants: Delano, Kevin, Mark, Arvin; Mike Brattain; Barny Dunning; Homer Erickson; Matt Hamilton; Travis Harris; Ed Hopkins (compiler), Elsa Janle; Carol McNally; Harry Potter; Rick Read; John Skene; Larry & Rebecca Theller; Chuck Tuttle; Sue Ulrich; Harmon Weeks; Megan Winzeler .

Willow-Slough/Iroquois Participants: Ed Hopkins, (compiler); Susan Bagby; Ken Brock, Leslie Bury; John Cassady; Lynn Daugherty; Lila Mae Eason; Jed Hertz; Linea Hinchman; Barb Lucas, Jeff McCoy.

Crane Naval Depot Participants: Harmon (compiler) & Sally Weeks; Anthony Sipes; Travis Stoelting; Susan Ulrich

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> <input type="checkbox"/> New member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal			
<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>			

**Sycamore Audubon Society
2010-2011 Board of Directors**

Susan Ulrich, President & Publications
11907 E 500 N, Otterbein, 47970
765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com

Wes Homoya, Vice president/programs
whomoya@yahoo.com; 317-412-5355

Chuck Tuttle, Treasurer
1708 Maywood, W Lafayette, 47906
463-0531 catuttle@comcast.net

Jeff Ganley, Secretary
160 Vicksburg Lane. WL, 47906

Paul Brooks, Webmaster
219-221-0254
paulbrooks@gmail.com

Barney Dunning, Conservation, Field Trips
7509 N 75 E, W Lafayette, 47906
(H) 497-3082 (W) 494-3565
jdunning@purdue.edu

Ning Wu, At large

Judy Gasvoda, At-Large
1511 W 350 N, W Lafayette, 47906
463-2098 wildbirdshoppe@comcast.net

Noble Kizer, Membership
4890 Whippoorwill Dr, Lafayette, 47909
538-3656 NobleK@hotmail.com

Diane Packett, At large
1928 Indian Trail, W Lafayette, 47906
920-219-2587 dlpackett@pex.net

Rick Read, Field Trips, Education
402 E Terrace Bay, Monticello 47960
574-583-3431 Richardaread@hotmail.com

Mulvey Pond Update

Good news! Mulvey Pond is open to the public. There is no parking lot yet, but people can use the area inside the fence along the north-west corner on 500 N where a gate was removed.

The NRCS wetland reserve plan requires NICHES Land Trust to undertake a major restoration of the grasslands around the water to replace the wildlife-unfriendly Fescue with native species to increase the **property's wildlife value— a warning, it won't look pretty but the results will be worth it.** Fescue is hard to get rid of and is so thick and dominate that other species rarely can grow (even tree seedlings). Herbicide use followed by one or more burns will be needed. This will leave large blackened areas for parts of the summer. The fescue-cleared area will be planted in late Fall/early Winter with a short grass, sedge, and forbs mix which will grow into a 3-foot high mixed grassland/meadow.

Woody invasive species such as bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, Autumn Olive and Osage Orange will be removed and a few native oaks planted to expand the wooded area on the bluff. If you'd like to help call NICHES at 423-1605. There will also be spot removal and treatment as necessary for problem species coming in along the water's edge such as Reed Canary Grass and Purple Loosestrife.

A small parking lot along with a trail leading to the low wooded bluff overlooking the main area of open water will be constructed. NICHES is asking NRCS to give permission to build a wetland information blind for public use at the end of the trail.

Tidbits

- ◆ A recent study authored by San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research scientists has found that 2/3 (67%) of adult condor deaths are attributable to lead poisoning.
- ◆ Tests show a new, translucent adhesive tape can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors. The tape is now available to the public and is being sold by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). Production of **ABC: BirdTape** is made possible through the generous support of the Rusinow Family Foundation. Learn more about ABC Bird Tape, at: www.abcbirdtape.org.
- ◆ NOAA and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are collaborating on a new eBird feature: the Bird Migration Forecast (**BirdCast**). When there's a particularly interesting weather event that could impact bird migration, they'll post a short story alert.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Lafayette, IN
 Permit #252

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

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

May Bird Count —Experts not required!

Another year has passed and it is will soon be time for that fabulous, furious, birding event, the *Big Day In May Bird Count*. The count is held the second Saturday in May, which is May 12th this year. That weekend is normally the weekend the most species of birds can be found in Indiana. Combined, the three local counts usually turn up 150-165 species on that day. In 2011 Tippecanoe had 153 species, Warren 135 species, and White 96 species, for a combined list of 163 species with 33 species of warblers, including a Kirtland's. Other unusual birds included two late lingering Ring-necked Ducks and a Brown Creeper along with Osprey, Sora, and a Western Meadowlark,

Your help on this year's counts would be appreciated—there's more than enough habitat to go around and lots of birds to find. In addition to people getting out to cover a given area of a county, people with feeders in those counties can keep track of what shows up in their yard or neighborhood. **Simply contact the appropriate county's compiler or sign up at SAS's May 10th meeting and you will get a territory to cover and the appropriate forms to fill out and turn in.**

Tippecanoe County — Barny Dunning 765-494-3565
 (bdunning@purdue.edu)

Warren County— Susan Ulrich 765-583-2275
 (sueandtedulrich@msn.com)

White County— Rick Read 574-583-3431
 (Richardaread@hotmail.com)

Participants in Tippecanoe County hold a compilation party at the Wild Bird Shoppe at 8 p.m. to go over and total the days reports. Beverages provided, bring something edible to share.



American Goldfinch