

Sycamore Warbler

Volume 38, Issue 1 Spring 2013

Spring! Birds are coming back and the May 11th Count is just around the corner!

It's that wonderful time of year when birdwatchers greet birds returning from the south and sadly wave good-bye to their winter visitors heading back north. Your editor doesn't consider it spring until she's heard the calls of Sandhill Cranes flying north and American Woodcock peenting on their nesting grounds. By that definition it was officially spring on February 21st—but the weather hasn't caught up yet.

Spring doesn't happen overnight. It creeps in slowly. Ducks show up as ice retreats on our ponds, then one day Red-winged Blackbirds are back, the next a Turkey Vulture sweeps across the sky. Slowly, and then faster, birds return until each day brings a torrent of new species.

The culmination of this spring migration is the Big Day in May Bird Count held the second Saturday in May. That's May 11th this year. Traditionally this second Saturday is when the maximum number of species can be found in Indiana with returning, migrating, and lingering species overlapping. It's a great time to be outside looking for birds and—since counts are held all over the eastern half of the US and elsewhere—the information thousands of bird watchers provide results in amazingly important data about birds.

May Bird Count—Cass County Added: Here in Indiana, Counts are held using county boundaries. SAS members usually hold counts in Tippecanoe, Warren, and White Counties. This year a count will be held in Cass County as well. In order to participate in a count, people need to contact the county compiler who has the forms and knows which areas of the county still need to be covered. People can be field participants (walk/drive sections of the county), feeder watchers (count birds in their yard), a combination of the two and even go out in the wee hours listening for owls. Simply count what's in your area, keep track of the data needed on the forms and turn them in to the compiler. It's easy!

Tippecanoe County compiler:	Barney Dunning	jddunning@purdue.edu
Warren County compiler:	Susan Ulrich	sueandtedulrich@msn.com
White County compiler:	Rick Read	richardread@hotmail.com
Cass County compiler:	Landon Neumann	landonneumann@comcast.net



White-throated Sparrows

Invasive Brush Effort Begins at Ross Hills Park

The 169 acres Ross Hills Park is located along the Wabash in SW Tippecanoe County. It's a great birding area and is in the middle of a 6-mile stretch running from Granville Bridge to Little Pine Creek in Warren County. There are nearly 1,100 protected acres along that 6-mile stretch, all part of an area nominated as an Indiana Important Bird Area by Barney Dunning.

The biggest threat to native species on those acres are non-native woody invasives, especially bush honeysuckle & autumn olive. The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) has been working in the park for several years and decided to make a push to hire a person with a chainsaw to clear heavily infested sites to reduce the further spread of seeds.

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Mulvey Update

Work improving habitat and visitor amenities at NICHES' Mulvey Pond is progressing. NICHES planted a large open area around the water with a short-height native seed mix in February to replace the non-native fescue which had been in that area. The native mix will provide better nesting and feeding habitat for birds and other wildlife and not interfere with the view of the water.

A work day is scheduled at the property for Saturday, April 6th. Volunteers will be planting additional trees to expand the savanna on the higher land and installing a parking area and bird watching blind overlooking the water. If time permits, people can tackle some of the invasive brush. If you would like to become a property steward to help maintain Mulvey Pond or other NICHES property during the year, call NICHES office (423-1605) and let them know.

CHAPTER NEWS

New Look for Masthead

Thanks to Russ Mumford, the *Warbler's* masthead has a new look. Russ has donated a number of his illustrations for this newsletter and recently supplied us with a new rendition of the Sycamore Warbler. The previous artwork by Jim Weimer has been in use since 1993—a twenty year run.

Help at Bake/Plant Sale

Funds from this Spring's Bake & Plant Sale will go to several local efforts. Part will pay for materials for Barn Owl Nest boxes for installation in local counties, the rest will help with expenses for the national *Wildlife Habitat Education Program* for 4-H'ers which is being held for the first time in Indiana.

This Spring's sale is April 5-7. As usual it is at the West Lafayette Public Library, 6:30-9 p.m. on Friday and going 10-5 Saturday and 1-5 Sunday.

Also as usual, volunteers at the booth and food and plants to sell are needed. Plants can be left at the library anytime after Monday, April 1 and food can be left starting Thursday afternoon. Please contact Susan Ulrich (see p. 7) to volunteer or if you need to make other arrangements for donations.

Science Fair

Ning Wu, SAS's Education Chair, Chuck Tuttle, Wes Homoya & Susan Ulrich acted as judges at the 2013 Regional Science Fair. SAS gives out three awards plus three honorable mentions for projects dealing with conservation and the environment.

Delano Arvin Recognized

A recent *Outdoor Indiana* had a two page spread on Delano Arvin, one of SAS's founding members. Dr. Arvin's knowledge of natural history (birds, plants, and all sorts of wildlife) is truly amazing. He puts his knowledge to good work on his large and varied property near Buck Creek. Note: there is a Indi-

ana Audubon Young Birder field trip at his property on April 20th. A copy of the article for those of you who missed was at the March SAS meeting.

20+ Eagles Make the News

An article about a convocation of 20+ Bald Eagles on the Wabash near Williamsburg Apartments in West Lafayette featured SAS members Russ Allison and Barny Dunning. It appeared in the February 16th Lafayette Journal and Courier. The story was picked up by a number of other papers around the state. It's nice to see natural history making it into the news.

Fifth Grade Hikes

Sycamore Audubon will again help the West Lafayette Schools 5th Grade Camp with a pre-camp talk on birds by Chuck Tuttle and bird hikes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at Camp Tecumseh in White County. Dates are May 7 & 9. A few new people to help would be appreciated. Contact Chuck Tuttle to carpool at 6:30 from Celery Bog or meet at the camp at 7 a.m.



Obedient Plant—one of a number of native species available from SAS at Garden Expo

Garden Expo Plants sold to help remove Woody Invasives

Dig or pot up starts of plants now and over the upcoming weeks for sale at the April 27th Garden Expo put on by the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners. It is in the Hog Barn at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds (N side Teal Rd between 9th & 18th Streets),

hours are 10-3. A few people are needed to assist customers at the booth. Contact Susan Ulrich (p. 7) to volunteer or with questions.

SAS will have educational handouts as well as plants and other items to sell. In addition to plants, you can donate gardening equipment, books, landscape items, etc. There are lots of vendors along with lectures on various aspects of gardening and door prizes. SAS's funds will go to help with the big **Invasive Brush removal push at Ross Hills Park**. Donations can be left at the Swine Barn on Friday April 26 from 3-6 p.m. or Saturday 7-10 a.m. Other arrangements can be made if needed.

Audubon Junior Nature Club Growing

Attendance in Audubon's Junior Nature Club for the second semester has nearly doubled to 20 children. This popular program is led by Zonda Bryant with help from Angie Wetzel and Taylor Fisher.

March's program dealt with reptiles and amphibians and was titled *You're so Cold blooded*. March 26 is about nesting (*A Place to Call Home*); April 16th is wildflowers with a walk led by Sally Weeks (*Let there be Spring*); May 7 teaches the use of maps & compasses (*And the Hunt is On*) and the last program, *With an Eye to the Future*, is May 28th. For information contact Zonda (see p. 7).

Monticello Kiwanis build Bird Houses

Monticello's local Kiwanis Club, inspired by Rick Read, are building three dozen bird nesting boxes and structures to be erected in Monticello's 6 parks. The Kiwanis Club is supplying the lumber as well as doing the work. Rick will be leading bird hikes the 3rd Sunday April & May looking for nests.

Ross Park Brush Removal:

Work started in February in an area near the Ross House and the overlook. INPAWS is applying for grants and looking for volunteer groups to continue the work over the next several years. A boy scout troop has already helped by burning extensive piles of brush that resulted from cutting the non-native shrubs.

SAS funds raised at Garden Expo will go to this effort. SAS plans to hold a workday or two later this year, too. However you don't need to wait: see the RIPIT story below and check

www.wabashriver.net/volunteer

for scheduled volunteer opportunities. People can also contribute funds to help hire work done. A \$20 donation covers one hour of work plus the herbicide and other equipment needs.

New Invasive Plant Group Forms (RIPIT)

Invasive plants have taken over 100's of acres of Tippecanoe and surrounding counties to the detriment of wildlife, native plants, and people. RIPIT, a loose collection of organizations and individuals hoping to combat this trend, formed in February. RIPIT stands for *Remove Invasive Plants in Tippecanoe County*,

Sycamore Audubon is one of the many groups involved. Others include, but aren't limited to, various park boards, the NRCS, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC), several Purdue departments, NICHES Land Trust, IDNR, plant nurseries, and INPAWS.

Anyone interested in working on exotic invasives is encouraged to join. Three sub-committees have formed to work on various aspects of invasives. Some they are looking at are identifying the scope of the problem, identifying the most critical areas to concentrate efforts, seeing what invasives are present and need controlling, establishing "grading"

protocols delineating the terrain and the effort needed at specific sites, informing the public about the problems invasives present, seeking grants and funding to help with the work, coordinating volunteer groups and pairing them with suitable locations, etc. We'll keep you informed as this effort develops.

Progress to date: Two priority areas have already been identified. One is from the Hoffman Property, under development by the Tippecanoe Parks Department, to Happy Hollow Park. Another is the area along the Wabash from Granville Bridge to NICHES Weiler Leopold Reserve. In addition WREC now has a volunteer page on its website listing scheduled invasive work days. Anyone interested can go there and see where and when their help would be appreciated--- or list a workday of their own.

American Kestrel Partnership

Indiana Audubon has a partnership with The Peregrine Fund, headquartered in Boise, ID, to initiate a new citizen science program intended to address the widespread declines in American Kestrel populations across North America. The declines are poorly understood, so they are asking amateur researchers (both adults and students) around the continent to install and monitor kestrel nest boxes to produce a large dataset that can be used to better understand kestrel demographics

American Kestrel Photo by Ryan Sanderson



and management.

To get involved visit the website to learn more about the project: <http://www.peregrinefund.org/american-kestrel>. They provide downloadable Kestrel Nest Box Instructions in the right column. Then contact Jeff Canada at jeffcanada11508@comcast.net. Jeff is the Indiana Audubon Society's Conservation Chair.

World's Largest Natural Sound Archive Now Digital

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology announced the completion of a monumental task a dozen years in the making: The digitization of its complete analog recordings of birds and other wildlife dating back to 1929. The collection contains nearly 150,000 digital audio recordings equaling more than 10 terabytes of data with a run time of 7,513 hours

SAS Offers help with "Golf Course" Park

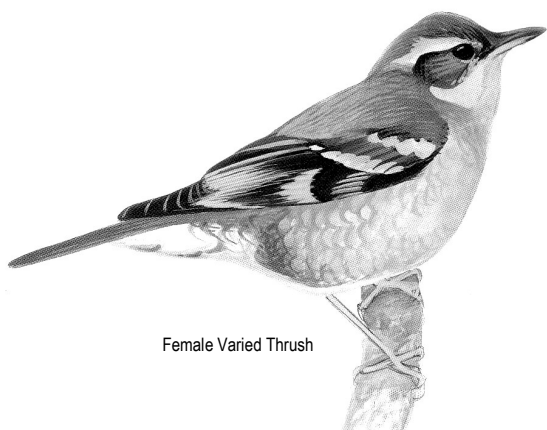
SAS president Chuck Tuttle on behalf of SAS, wrote a letter to Lafayette Mayor Roswarski offering SAS's help with plans and development of a park planned to replace the old Lafayette Golf Course along the Wabash.

Here's part of the mayor's response:

" We very much look forward to working with the Sycamore Audubon Society as we move through this process. There is a lot of interest in the possible recreational uses and it is very important to me that we do this right and come up with a great plan that provides wonderful opportunities. I have copied Ted Bumbleburg our Parks Superintendent and Stan Lambert who is the Executive Director of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. These gentlemen would be your two main points of contact. Again thank-you very much for your interest and I look forward to working with you. Tony, Mayor Roswarski"

Nature Notes & News

● Just two days after Christmas a female Varied Thrush was spotted by Del Arvin on Eisenhower Road where the Wildcat Wildlife Center used to be. It caused quite a stir with people coming from miles around to see it. The bird was still present on Jan 3.



Female Varied Thrush

● Landon Neumann had great luck finding Owls at Spring Creek Nursery in Cass Co. In early January he found 3 Saw-whet Owls and a Barred Owl. Later he found a Long Eared Owl which stayed around for a short while. To cap it off on 2/2 while checking through the pine stands he flushed a rare Barn Owl.

● At Celery Bog in January Chuck Tuttle saw 4 adult Trumpeter Swan. Barny Dunning and Chuck reported they were still there Jan 18th.

● Jan 19 Russ Allison visited the Williamsburg Apartments to look for Bald Eagles. "As I sat in my truck on the North end of the complex something landed in the next parking space. A Cooper's Hawk had pinned a Rock Pigeon. This was about 5 feet from me. I took several photos as the hawk slowly put the Pigeon down for the count. After several minutes the hawk flew off with his heavy load.

● A very bossy male Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker showed up at Carolyn Starkey's feeder Jan 31. He chased all the other birds away from the suet even when he wasn't eating.

● As soon as the water opened up, waterfowl showed up at Celery Bog. On Feb 1 John Skene found Cackling Geese, American Coots, and Northern Shovelers.

● Barb Lucas was thrilled Feb 11 when her very first Common Redpolls came to her feeder. She said "it will motivate me to do the Great Backyard Bird Count next weekend if they are still here."

● By 2/12 waterfowl at Celery Bog was picking up. Chuck Tuttle saw 14 Greater White-fronted Geese, also seen by Al Laasanen. Al added Green-winged Teal, Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup. Chuck's Common Goldeneye swelled the day's species tally.

● However the waterfowl at Goose Ponds (their early successional shallow water restoration areas) on Feb 13 were truly astonishing. Lee Steerenberg reported counts of 8,015 Greater White-fronted Geese, 1,980 Snow Geese, 15,000 Mallards, 27,641 Northern Pintail (blowing away the old record of 9,540), 14,115 Sandhill Cranes, and 73 White Pelicans.

● Susan Ulrich reported seeing her first returning Red-winged Blackbirds of spring at NICHES Weiler-Leopold Reserve in Warren Co Feb 14th.

● On the 23rd of Feb Landon Neumann birded Georgetown Rd in Cass County. The highlights were two Ruddy Ducks and two Herring Gulls. The Herring Gulls were a VERY overdue county record. Other notables were 70+ Greater White Fronted Geese that flew over in one flock.

● Landon and Bud Dodrill went out again Feb 25th, reporting "It was pretty slow because all the spots away from the river were frozen." The highlights were 4 Rusty Blackbirds along Georgetown Rd plus im-

pressive Ring Billed Gull numbers — they counted over 325 in Cass County that day.

● Once again Larry Miller had his first Woodcock of the year while jogging at Celery Bog. This year it happened Feb 28 when one peented due west of the gravel parking lot about 20 minutes after sunset.

● Bob Foerster, retired school principal, has a leucistic or albino Mourning Dove visiting his feeders in Lafayette near 4th street.

● A very surprising late Snowy Owl was found by John Skene March 15 in White County. A number of birders rushed to see it including Russ Allison, Ning & Margaret Wu, Barny Dunning & and Rick Read. Ed Hopkins relocated it March 17.

Otters & Eagles

January 23 INBIRD posting

David Crouch briefly visited Muscatatuck NWR late in the afternoon of Jan 23rd to check on ice conditions. Richart Lake was 100% ice covered except for a River Otter diving hole about 200 yards off of the roadway. That hole being used by the otter was closely attended by a large 2nd or 3rd year Bald Eagle.

The eagle watched as the otter eventually brought a fish to the surface that was so large he had to haul it onto the ice to eat. As soon as the otter dropped the fish on the ice the eagle rushed forward grabbed the prize and flew 20 yards away where it leisurely consumed the otter's catch.

The otter was joined by three others who showed up while Dave was watching the action. They all stared at the eagle for a bit then had a big rub fest and resumed fishing. The eagle meticulously and completely consumed his meal and then flew back to stand guard yards from the fishing hole. Dave left. When he returned in about 25 minutes the scene had not changed, the otters were diving and eating in the water and the eagle was watching their every move.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Climate Rally Reverberates From Sea to Shining Sea Thank you!

Thank you to the nearly 50,000 people who attended the **Forward on Climate** Rally at the Washington Monument on Sunday, February 17th, to the thousands at 20-plus solidarity rallies across the country, and to the more than one million online activists who stood up and spoke out to tell President Obama that this is the time to lead. This truly was the largest climate rally in U.S. history.

The president needs to know that addressing climate change is a national movement -- and it's up to you to show him. Can you call the White House and ask for immediate climate action? (If it's after hours, call and leave a message!) your national and state representatives and senators also need to hear this message so don't stop with that one phone call.

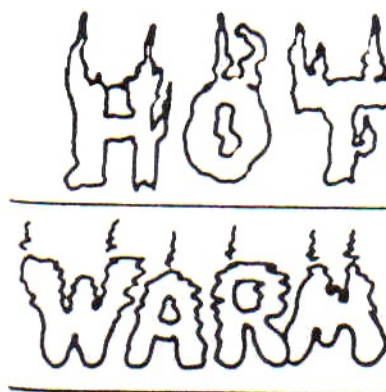


Mind BOGgling Event III

**Wetlands Month &
National 'Kids to Park' Day**

Mind BOGgling Event III—a celebration of wetlands and Celery Bog Nature Park—will be May 18 from 9-5. SAS will be there to help with bird hikes and some children's programs. As usual there will be a wide variety of activities including wildflower and plant hikes, information about the bog and why wetlands are important, music on the hour, children's activities, photography gallery, lectures and rain barrel painting plus lots more.

If you are interested in helping with the event please contact Mary Cuter, the Tippecanoe County Park Naturalist. Hope you can join us.



Ozone Loss in Arctic Increasing

The massive Antarctic ozone hole, identified in 1985, reappears during the southern hemisphere's winter-spring season. Until now, ozone lost in the Arctic has been limited. During 2011 that changed, from January to March 2011, about 80-percent of the ozone in the Arctic at the 11-12.5 mile altitude was chemically destroyed by high levels of chlorine monoxide, allowing more ultraviolet rays to reach the earth's surface. Although banned by 191 countries in 1996 the chlorinated fluocarbons responsible have long chemical lifetimes and will linger for decades

Cowles Bog Restoration Moves Ahead

We are happy to share that the National Park Service's Cowles Bog restoration project in northern Indiana is moving forward, despite some concerns regarding tree removal from a group of residents. The restoration, including the tree removal, is critical to restoring the hydrology of this National Natural Landmark.

While it is difficult to see the trees removed, the restoration is grounded in sound science and has the support of Save the Dunes, The Nature Conservancy, the Chicago Field Museum, the National Parks Conservation Association, and others. We look forward to seeing the changes in the project area once this needed restoration is complete. — From *Save the Dunes* newsletter

Put the X on the Keystone XL Pipeline

The Keystone XL pipeline hangs in the political balance. Snaking through America's Heartland to deliver dirty tar sands crude from mines in Canada to Gulf Coast refineries for international export, it would produce as much carbon pollution as seven new coal-fired power plants -- or another 5.5 million new cars on the road every year. It's no wonder NASA's top climate scientist, James Hansen, says future tar sands development will mean "game over" for the climate.

Exciting IAS Spring Program

Keynote Speaker

Richard Crossley

Indiana Audubon Society is hosting what may be its most ambitious spring festival May 3-5 at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary near Connersville. Richard Crossley, a renowned field guide creator and photographer is the keynote speaker. In addition to the Crossley ID guides, he co-authored "Shorebird Guide". His talk, "Past, Present, and Future: lessons learned" covers growing up in the wild British birding scene and from travels around the world and living in Cape May.

Other presenters are Randel Rogers, "**Birding from the Trenches**" (birding while on active duty); Dr Karen Henman who is giving a program "**Discovering Maui: its flora and fauna**"; Jack Berninger whose "**Dinosaurs of Mary Gray**" discusses the evolution of birds and dinosaurs; Alexandra Forsyth, a 13-year old IYB (Indiana Young Birder) who delves into "**Myths Surrounding the Raptors of North America**" (Check out her website MidwestBirdWatching.com).

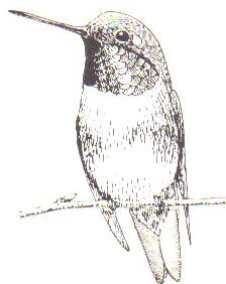
There is also a big sit; a Mini-Big Day on Saturday with prizes that pairs young birders with adults; bird hikes; and a special screening of a 85-minutes IU film on the dark-eyed Junco.

To register or learn more go to the Indiana Audubon Society webpage

www.Indianaaudubon.org.

Christmas Count Summary

Both local CBC counts turned up an above average number of species with Willow-Slough doing much better than last year thanks to 13 species of ducks and 5 species of owls. They also had **Eurasian Collared Doves**. The count total would have been higher if species seen 3 days before or after the count (cw) had been seen count day, or if the large falcon or the shrike had been seen well enough to identify to species.



Area Christmas Bird Counts

Species Name:	Laf	WS/I	Species Name:	Laf	WS/I
Pied-billed Grebe	2	2	Horned Lark	52	53
Great Blue Heron	42	3	Black-capped Chickadee	0	15
Greater White-Fronted Goose	4	0	Carolina Chickadee	110	0
Snow Goose	0	2	Tufted Titmouse	80	25
Canada Goose	1044	54	Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	1
Cackling Goose	10	0	White-breasted Nuthatch	64	36
Trumpeter Swan	0	1	Brown Creeper	21	0
Tundra Swan	0	32	Carolina Wren	21	3
Wood Duck	12	cw	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	0
Gadwall	4	cw	Bluebird	59	2
American Black Duck	8	2	American Robin	1824	2
Mallard	689	400	Northern Mockingbird	1	1
Northern Shoveler	68	1	European Starling	8731	407
Northern Pintail	35	0	Cedar Waxwing	27	0
Canvasback	0	cw	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0
Redhead	0	cw	Eastern Towhee	2	2
Green-winged Teal	9	0	American Tree Sparrow	238	656
Ring-necked Duck	4	4	Savannah Sparrow	0	4
Lesser Scaup	6	11	Field Sparrow	1	0
Bufflehead	0	1	Fox Sparrow	11	4
Hooded Merganser	5	0	Song Sparrow	85	6
Ruddy Duck	1	cw	Swamp Sparrow	14	1
Bald Eagle	11	1	White-throated Sparrow	21	2
Northern Harrier	8	15	White-crowned Sparrow	10	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1	Dark-eyed Junco	305	124
Cooper's Hawk	6	6	Lapland Longspur	68	800
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	cw	Snow Bunting	0	6
Red-tailed Hawk	48	30	Northern Cardinal	191	83
Rough-legged Hawk	4	15	Red-winged Blackbird	2	226
American Kestrel	13	5	Eastern Meadowlark	0	10
Large falcon	0	1	Common Grackle	0	2
Ring Necked Pheasant	4	35	Brown-headed Cowbird	475	0
Wild Turkey	23	1	Purple Finch	1	0
American Coot	96	179	House Finch	123	82
Sandhill Crane	2	0	Pine Siskin	30	1
Killdeer	10	0	American Goldfinch	47	126
Ring-billed Gull	63	0	House Sparrow	302	113
Rock Pigeon	414	36	Total Individuals	16,398	4,368
Mourning Dove	121	173	Total Species	78	67
Eurasian Collared Dove	0	12	cw = seen during count week		
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	12	December 15, 2012		
Great Horned Owl	2	10	Lafayette Participants: Ed Hopkins		
Barred Owl	1	3	(compiler); Delano, Kevin, & Mark Arvin;		
Long-eared Owl	0	2	Mike Brattain; Kimberly Cheesman; Tim		
Short-eared Owl	0	6	Dunaway; Barny Dunning; Barb & Bob		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	0	Kenley; Jacquie Nevinger; Temple Pearson;		
Belted Kingfisher	13	0	Harry Potter; Rick Read; Joan Mohr Samu		
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	12	els; Kyle & Mollie Schnepp; John Skene;		
Red-bellied Woodpecker	83	21	Larry & Rebecca Theller; Chuck Tuttle;		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1	Susan Ulrich.		
Downy Woodpecker	72	29	January 1, 2013		
Hairy Woodpecker	14	11	Willow-Slough/Iroquois Participants:		
Northern Flicker	27	4	Ed Hopkins, (compiler); Ken Brock; Leslie		
Pileated Woodpecker	13	0	Bury; John Cassidy; Leila Mae Eason;		
Shrike species	0	1	Linea Hinchman; Jed Hertz; Jeff McCoy.		
Blue Jay	54	123			
American Crow	421	317			

Lafayette didn't have as many species as last year, but last year was exceptional and 2012 is still above average. The total included 17 species of waterfowl and what may have been the most unusual CBC bird in the state, a **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**. It was at a feeder, as was the single Red-headed Woodpecker.

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

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

Membership Application

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

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

☐ New member ☐ Renewal

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

☐ **National Audubon Society membership** \$20 for first year \$ _____
Special introductory offer for new members (renewals are \$35/year)

☐ **Additional contribution to SAS** \$ _____

For _____ (if specific purpose)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Send checks to : Sycamore Audubon Society,
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Wednesdays In the Wild

These weekly programs are free and open to the public. Most meet at Lilly Nature Center (LNC) in Celery Bog Park in West Lafayette from 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. See the back of the calendar page. Contact Joan Mohr Samuels at mohrsamuels@comcast.net to have the entire schedule emailed to you.

Chimney Swift Migration Map

Chimney swifts are already showing up in the gulf states and will shortly be moving further north. It won't be long until they are back eating insects in Indiana. Your help in reporting their progress over the next few months would be appreciated. When you see your first Chimney Swifts of the year simply go to

www.chimneyswift.org

and note when and where the birds were spotted. The site will produce updated maps showing the movement of the swifts as they return north.

Garlic Mustard Recipes Wanted

Have a great tasting recipe that uses garlic mustard? We'd like to start a recipe collection for this non-native herb. If enough people collect garlic mustard to eat, there's less left to impact the trees and other woodland plants.

Asian Carp is another species for which we'd like some good recipes. Send them to the editor, Susan Ulrich (see email address above).



Tidbits

◆ With the extirpation of gray wolves from most areas of the United States, coyotes have become the dominant predator, replacing foxes who won't even build dens when coyotes are nearby. Coyotes rely more on deer while fox prefer small mammals which are the main reservoirs of the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.

A research team, led by Taal Levi of the University of California, Santa Cruz, found Lyme disease did not consistently increase with deer numbers, but it did correlate positively with an abundance of coyotes and a scarcity of foxes. In western New York State, where foxes are abundant, Lyme disease is rare even though deer are plentiful.

From an article in *Natural History Magazine*



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

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

Great-blue Rescue

Rick & Debbie Read

On September 4 of last year we helped recover an injured Great Blue Heron! The bird had been seen roosting on a stump on the Big Monon Creek. Laura Meyers had noticed a drooping wing on Sunday. On Monday the bird was still on the stump so she called DNR and Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center (WCWC). Help was not immediately available. As the holiday ended she had to return home and asked her neighbor Paul Wise to follow up.

WCWC asked if I could help. I was out of town Monday, but I could Tuesday if still needed. Tuesday was at least the 3rd day of injury, so there was increasing concern for the bird's condition.

Paul Wise lived right in front of the stump. He kindly provided a jon boat and rowed Debbie and me to the stump. Debbie held a camera; I held a fishing net.

As we approached the stump, we could clearly see the drooping left wing. As expected, the heron tried to fly away. The right wing went up, but the left wing only hung down. So it fell into the water. It tried to swim away, but was not fast enough.

The net went over the head. My arm scooped up from underneath, his foot grasping my hand. It was very docile, so I expect it was exhausted. I placed a make-shift hood over its head to blind him and to protect us from his sharp beak. He became completely submissive.

We transported him to Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center and delivered the generous donation from the neighbors. The rehabilitation center runs entirely on donations. The bird was assigned case #1230, so we could call and check on his progress. If he recovers, he will be released in the same area where captured.

Thank you Laura and Paul for wanting to help our wildlife. Thank you Paul for your help in the recovery. And thank you WCWC for the work you do with these wonderful creatures and the education you provide to the public.

