



Sycamore Warbler

Volume 41 Issue 3

Fall 2016

October 1 & 2 is Drumstick Time

Yes, once again SAS is selling their popular smoked Turkey drumsticks at the Feast of the Hunters' Moon. This year's feast is October 1 & 2 and, as usual, SAS needs about 24 people to help cook and sell these drumsticks at the feast. Volunteering for 4 hours gets you a button for free admission to the feast on both days—and helping at the booth is fun!

Even better, the Feast of the Hunter's Moon provides funds for SAS's basic services such as insurance, PO Box, projects such as the new Saw-whet Owl banding station, printing and mailing of this newsletter, etc.

PLEASE contact Barny Dunning or Susan Ulrich (see p. 7) if you are interested in helping. Volunteers need to wear suitable period costumes but SAS has extra items and can usually supply what volunteers need. In addition to the smoked turkey drumsticks, SAS sells mulled and cold cider along with bottled water



Feast volunteers Joe Hiscox, Chuck Tuttle, & Barny Dunning

A Slow Birding Summer Ends with an Explosive Bang

Not much birding excitement over the summer locally although a number of interesting birds were seen (check out *Nature Notes & News*, p. 4). But things sure speeded up in late summer. For one thing, a second pair of nesting Sandhill Cranes was discovered in Tippecanoe County. This pair along with a chick was seen at Prophetstown State Park. Further area nesting records should turn up as the offspring of this pair and the pair at Mulvey Pond are likely to return to nest in this vicinity as they become sexually mature.

Then, in mid to late August, a host of interesting species put in an appearance at Celery Bog. First was the report of Snowy Egrets (with their 'golden slippers') from Russ Allison on August 21. People coming to see them soon spotted a juvenile Little Blue Heron (which is white) that had joined them and a variety of shorebirds started showing up as the water level dropped. Landon Neumann also spotted a Black Tern that was passing through.

But the most exciting news has to be a pair of Mississippi Kites spotted in West Lafayette. They are roosting in a big dead tree by Knox Street and Indian Trail Drive. A third kite, a juvenile, later joined the pair, suggesting the possibility the kites may have nested in the area rather than being post-breeding wanderers. If so, it would be the first nesting for Tippecanoe county and far north of any nests previously reported in Indiana. Mississippi Kites once nested in southwest Indiana but by 1984 were only rare visitors. Since that time sightings have increased and more and more nests have been discovered as the species has slowly expanded its range northward.

Saw-whet Owl Banding Station

SAS's Riverfest booth had an owl focus as the chapter has given the Purdue Wildlife Department a \$650 grant to establish a Saw-whet Owl banding station this Fall. The grant covers the purchase of special nets, recording/playback equipment along with a few other items. Barny Dunning is overseeing the project which was suggested by Landon Neumann, one of his students, who will be manning the station.

There are Saw-whet banding stations in northern Indiana and southern Indiana, but this will be the first for Central Indiana.

Inside this issue:

Chapter News	2
Calendar of Events	3
Nature Notes	4
Conservation	5
Miscellaneous	6
Tidbits & More	7
Wednesdays in the Wild	8

CHAPTER NEWS

September meeting

SAS's September 8th **Bring Your Own Program** meeting starts with a carry in dinner at 6 p.m. Join us for an entertaining evening at Lilly Nature Center in WL and bring some images to share if you have them.

Kids & Owls at Riverfest

As mentioned, SAS's Riverfest booth had an owl theme this year. In addition to providing information about owls and SAS, children coming to the booth could make owls from toilet paper rolls, a project suggested by Zonda Bryant. At least 50 children painted and decorated their "owls" during the festival.

Have Extras?

Our request for plant pots was so successful we are adding pie tins to the list. If you have some you **don't want, we can fill and bake** them to make pies to sell at the fall and spring bake sales.

Don't forget—extra potting soil or compost is always wanted as are **4" clay pots**. Email Susan Ulrich (see p. 7) to arrange a donation.

Recent Board Actions

The SAS board of directors voted to donate \$500 to Lilly Nature Center for bird seed for the feeder area.

In other action the Board approved \$400 for Indiana Audubon Society's proposed Passenger Pigeon Memorial to be erected in Indianapolis. The Board challenged other Indiana Audubon Chapters to contribute to the fund as well.

More "Thank You's"

SAS would like to thank George Kopcha, Tom Brennan, Jim Klatch and Connie Brown for their extra

financial contributions to SAS since the last newsletter. And many thanks to Tom Johnson, Ruth Cushman, Jim & EJ Pheasant, and Elisabeth Kornblum for their donations of plant pots for use by people donating plants to sell at SAS sales.

Lastly, we'd like to thank Dan Miller who donated the funds raised by sales of his iBook about his birding experiences at Celery Bog.

Fall RIP Squad Schedule

The RIP Squad starts up again October 18th and is looking for new and old volunteers to help. This fall the group is working on bush honeysuckle & burning bush at Prophets Rock Woods on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30 and on honeysuckle & Autumn Olive at Ross Hills on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30. Schedule goes to Dec. 8. Contact Patty Jones (765-463-3050, email: patricia.w.rader@gmail.com) for more information.

Anyone interested in workdays for other area parks such as Cumberland Woods, the Amphitheater trails, or Fort Ouiatenon please get **in touch with Patty**. It's amazing what a few hours of work can do to improve a park.



Pulling for Bats

For Bat Week this year (October 24-31) Bat International is asking people to schedule invasive plant pulls to improve habitat for bats. **Invasive plants don't produce many insects for bats to feed on**. Taking them out increases the native

species which do.

A *Pulling for Bats* workday has been scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Oct 30 starting at 1:30 p.m. For more information and to see or register any other *Pulling for Bats* events, go to www.batweek.org. Two RIP Squad efforts, October 25 at Prophets Rock, and October 27 at Ross Hills, qualify. All three will be listed on the Bat Week website.

Audubon Outreach

In early July Susan Ulrich gave a program to the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners.

Warren Co Birding Spark

SAS's Fall's bake and plant sale is October 21-23. This Fall the funds go to the new 4-H Spark program to get kids in Warren County interested in birds. Amanda Beheler is the volunteer in charge of the program

As usual, SAS needs a half dozen people to help out at the booth for 2 hours each plus donations of baked goods, home canned items, and other edibles along with house plants and perennials. Hours are 6:30-8:30 Friday; 10-5 Saturday, and 1-6 Sunday. Call or email Susan Ulrich. See p.7.

Hands of the Future

This was the first summer session for *Hands of the Future* and the kids came, and came—238 children enrolled. The group now has four living school yards (Klondike, Happy Hollow Cumberland, and James Cole) and four other have recently inquired about the program.

As a result, the group needs more financial support. Anyone wishing to donate should talk to Zonda Bryant (see p. 7). She can also use empty TP rolls, 2-liter pop bottles, milk jugs, etc. for crafts.

Fall/Winter Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2016

Programs are held on the 2nd Thursday at 7:15 PM in the Lilly Nature Center in West Lafayette. People are invited to come beforehand for "Dinner & Conversation" starting at 6:00 PM at the MCL Cafeteria (WL. Field trip times vary.

-
- Sept 1 & each Thursday Early Bird Walks at Celery Bog start. 8 am at the gravel parking lot. We will continue until the water freezes and / or interest amongst the birders wanes.
- September 8 Thursday **Program: Bring Your Own.** People are invited to bring 5 minute mini programs from this past year: birds, travel, plants, scenery, etc. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, WL. Plus: Ditto Carry in Dinner before the meeting at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share. SAS provides plates, utensils, cups and beverages. Always lots of good food.
- September 17 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook, Prophetstown State Park. 9-11 am. Meet at the overlook near the parking lot at the end of the paved road in the park to see what birds are passing by.
- September 24 Saturday Waterfowl Migration at Celery Bog. Should be around the peak of migration. The home football game shouldn't be a problem. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog at 8:30 a.m.
- October 8 Saturday Waterfowl & Other Migrants in the area. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog at 8:30 am to carpool. A search for interesting birds in the region. This date is between hunting seasons at Pine Creek (teal season ends 9/18, waterfowl season starts 10/22). A half-day trip.
- October 13 Thursday **Program: Visiting the Isle of Serendip: forest conservation in today's Sri Lanka** Peter Waser, professor emeritus, Purdue Biology Department. Peter & his wife, Mary Sue, spent a month in Sri Lanka with Rasanayagam Rudran, retired from the Smithsonian, who is working to create forest buffers around Sri Lankan National Parks. Natural history, human history, plus contemporary tourism for this rarely visited area. 7 p.m. Lilly Nature Center Celery Bog Park. Free parking & refreshments.
- Oct. 21-23 Fri, Sat, Sun Fall Bake & Plant Sale. West Lafayette Public Library. Benefits Warren County 4-H Bird Spark program. See p.2. Volunteers to help at the sale along with plant & food donations to sell are needed.
- October 22 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook, Prophetstown State Park. 9-11 am. Meet at the overlook near the parking lot at the end of the paved road in the park.
- October 30 Sunday **"Pulling for Bats" Invasive Removal.** 1:30—4 p.m. Ross Hills County Park, the first parking lot to the right. Tools, gloves, snacks, etc. provided or bring your own. Call Susan Ulrich, p. 7 for more info. Part of Bat International's Bat Week program aimed at improving habitat for bats. Non-native invasives are detrimental to bats survival as they don't support insects the bats need for food.
- November 5 Saturday Lake Michigan Field Trip. Our annual fall trip to the lakeshore is a little later this year to give the group a better chance at Snowy Owl, Snow Bunting and other early winter birds in addition to late fall migrants. Meet at the gravel parking lot, Celery Bog, at 6 am to carpool. As usual we will stop at Jasper-Pulaski to listen and look at Sandhill Cranes on one leg of the trip. Full day trip.
- November 10 Thursday **Program: Happy Birthday National Parks Service & the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.** Paul Labovitz, Superintendent Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. 100 years of what has been called America's Best Idea plus 50 years of a protected lakefront in Indiana. Hear about what the National Park Service has been doing in our region and what is to come. 7 p.m. Lilly Nature Center Celery Bog Park, WL. Free parking and refreshments.
- November 13 Sunday Audubon at the Overlook, Prophetstown State Park. 4-6 pm. Meet at the overlook near the parking lot at the end of the paved road, to see the grasslands in the late afternoon.
- November 20 Sunday Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski State Wildlife Management Area. An afternoon jaunt to see thousands of cranes as they gather in the late afternoon. Maybe there will be a Whooping Crane among them. Meet at the gravel parking lot, Celery Bog, at 3:30 pm to carpool. We usually return about 6:30 pm.
- December 3 Saturday Warmup for the Christmas Bird Count. Get your binoculars ready and refresh your identification skills. 8 a.m. start and carpool at Celery Bog's gravel parking area. A half day trip.
- December 8 Thursday **Program** to be Announced later. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center Celery Bog Park. Come at 6:30 to get the forms and a territory for the various Christmas Bird Counts held in the area.
- December 17 Saturday Lafayette Area Annual Christmas Bird Count. An all day count of birds seen or heard from mid-night to midnight. Participants living in the circle can count feeder and yard birds, or sign up with Ed Hopkins and get a larger area to check. More on this and other local count in the next *Warbler*.

Nature Notes & News

- On SAS's June 2 Early Bird Hike led by Chuck Tuttle people enjoyed seeing a nesting snapping turtle in the trail at Celery Bog. Karen Griggs sent in this picture:



- While looking for birds for the Warren County Summer Bird Count on June 11, Susan Ulrich found two Tundra Swans were still at a privately owned Warren County wetland. Neither were full adults. They were part of a group of 5 seen there in March. Later she had a female Northern Harrier, another unusual summer bird, cruising over a corn field.
- The field trip to Prophetstown SP on June 11 turned up 50 species with most target species seen well. The Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows and male Blue Grosbeak were all in the grassland area just east of the campground and the picnic ground across the main road from the campground. No Bell's Vireo was found but one was near the entrance kiosk a week earlier. Chats, Willow Flycatcher and most of the Baltimore and Orchard Orioles were along the stream that feeds into the pond.
- The June monthly "Audubon at the Overlook" community bird walk at Prophetstown State Park attracted 7 participants and a number of passers-by. There were decent numbers of birds for the date and heat including Yellow-billed cuckoo, Belted Kingfisher, Henslow's Spar-

rows and Cedar Waxwings.

- In late June there were 5 downy barn owl chicks visible on the Indiana barn owl nest box live feed. The web cam was still active Aug. 24th. Read about the Barn Owl at the site below and click on the web cam to see inside a nest box. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3382.htm>
- July 29th Barny stopped at Celery Bog in West Lafayette for a few minutes after the fog lifted to see if there were any birds for Tippecanoe County's summer count which ended the next day. He found Blue-winged Teal and Pied-billed Grebe, both of which are uncommon here in summer.
- John Skene spent three hours at Celery Bog Nature Area, on Aug 1, His most interesting birds were an Osprey, Double-crested Cormorants, and a Bald Eagle.
- A few weeks later on the 19 of August, Russ Allison spent time at Celery Bog. He noted "the large group of Great Egrets are still around". He also saw several Semipalmated and Solitary Sandpipers.
- At the Prophetstown SP overlook on Aug 21 Chuck Tuttle had a Blue Grosbeak that perched at the top of the tree out in front of the overlook and sang. Only 34 species for the day, though.
- Russ Allison discovered & reported the Snowy Egrets at Celery Bog this summer, six of them Aug 21. He had seen the species elsewhere, but these were his first for Indiana. He also had a Canada Warbler.
- Two days later on August 23 Landon Neumann reported a Mississippi Kite had been found perched in a dead Ash at the corner of Knox Drive and Indian Trail in W Laf. He

also noted that an immature Little Blue Heron (which is white) had joined the Snowy Egrets at Celery Bog and notice a Black Tern fly through. All the Snowys adults. Biking back to class he had a singing Blue Grosbeak at the bridge.

- On his return to town on Aug 24 Barny confirmed the continuing presence of 4 Snowy Egrets and the Little Blue Heron along with 30+ Great Egrets. Other birds at the Bog included two adult Bald Eagles, Double-crested Cormorants, and a nice group of shorebirds: Least, Solitary, Spotted and Semipalmated (two) Sandpipers. Dabbling ducks included Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers.

He also confirmed the Mississippi Kites were still there. Tyler Steward saw one at 9 .m. and Barny saw a pair at 11 a.m. Barny notes that they are in a residential neighborhood and birders should be circumspect. The birds are easily visible from the street if they are present.



- The Kites have also been seen flying around the area. On the 29th Russ Allison had all 3 flying over Camelback at 7 a.m. He added "our local Cooper's Hawk did what they do. He caught one Morning Dove and a House Sparrow today".

Around 2:30 p.m. that same day Susan Ulrich spotted one of the adult kites flying south of Sagamore Parkway near the turn to Soldier's Home Road.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

Introduced Bill Could be Lifeline for At-Risk Birds

Bipartisan legislation introduced in the United States House of Representatives would provide \$1.3 billion in funding for states to help proactively conserve and recover at-risk birds and other wildlife throughout the nation.

The *Recovering America's Wildlife Act* (HR 5650), introduced by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Don Young (R-AK), would provide funding to support the implementation of **the 50 state and District of Columbia's wildlife conservation plans**. Currently funding is far from sufficient.

Last year representatives from conservation groups including Audubon, sportsmen groups, businesses, and former elected officials, came together to form the *Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources*. In their report released in March, the panel recommended a funding level of \$1.3 billion to address the needs of wildlife in the nation by effectively implementing the state plans. In recent years, state plans have been funded through a federal grant program at about \$60 million in total per year. The new funding would come from existing federal revenue derived from mineral and energy development that would otherwise go to the U.S. Treasury. This model is similar to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, so that if resources are depleted through development, habitat and wildlife can be conserved in return.

The bill from Reps. Young and Dingell directs states to fund their designated Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Conserving species before they reach critical levels is more effective, and more cost-efficient, and could help hundreds of species of birds throughout the country. Since 2002, more than one-third of federal funds to implement state wildlife plans have supported bird conservation.

[WATCH for an opportunity to take action on this important legislation with Audubon in the coming weeks.](#)

2015 Animal Takings

In 2015 the US Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services eliminated 3.2 million animals, an increase of 1 million above the 2014 figures. Included were 385 gray wolves, 68,905 coyotes, 480 black bears, 284 mountain lions, 731 bobcats, 492 river otters, 3,437 foxes and 21,559 beavers.

According to Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity, "There's simply no scientific basis for continuing to shoot, poison and strangle millions of animals every year -- a practice that not only fails to effectively manage targeted wildlife but poses an ongoing threat to other animals, including pets." The center complains that much of the killing is done at the behest of the agriculture industry and other powerful interests, rather than based on tenets of wildlife science.

New Law to Help Target Unsafe Chemicals

The Lautenberg Chemical Safety of the 21st Century Act was passed overwhelmingly (in a rare show of bipartisanship) this past session after a 20-year struggle. It was signed into law in June. This bill is a dramatic reform of the dysfunctional Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) of 1976 which made it almost impossible for the EPA to identify unsafe chemicals and restrict their use. Only 3% of over 85,000 chemicals were tested and only 5 of those chemicals were able to be restricted. Under TSCA **the EPA couldn't even ban known carcinogens** such as asbestos.

This new law gives the EPA more power to require companies to provide health and safety data for previously untested chemicals as well as the ability to prevent suspect substances from reaching the market until they are found to most likely be safe.

Murrelet Habitat Retains Protection



Murrelet nest on mossy old growth tree limb

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has upheld protections for 3.7 million acres of critical habitat for the federally-threatened Marbled Murrelets of the Pacific Northwest, after a challenge by a timber industry group.

Climate Impacts Now Required

New guidelines direct federal agencies to consider climate impacts in their planning. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) had required federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed plans, such as managing public lands or building a new highway. Earlier this month, the White House published new guidelines that require agencies to also include the impacts of climate change in these NEPA assessments.

Proposed federal projects may contribute to carbon pollution and may also be affected by the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels. This new guidance is a significant update to an important environmental law. It provides more clarity for federal planning and asks agencies to calculate projected carbon emissions as well as consider ways to increase resiliency to the effects of global warming.

Mist Nets & Bird Banding Wow Adults & Kids

- Karen Griggs

At the June 1 Wednesdays in the Wild Program, three bird experts thrilled 20 adults and children at the Wa-ba-shi-ka Nature Center when Barny Dunning gave an informal talk and demonstration of banding songbirds. He showed the audience how to measure and weigh the birds, and pointed out their features.

Amanda and Brian Beheler installed the mist nets by the nature center and explained how they work.

Children raised their hands to volunteer and then squealed with excitement when they got to gently release the birds back into the wild.

More Banding Fun

Six SAS members went on the overnight Hummingbird Banding trip

Book Review: Lost Among the Birds by Harry Potter

The subtitle of this Bloomsbury 2016 book is "Accidentally Finding Myself in One Very Big Year." The author is Neil Hayward, originally from Britain. He's intrigued with the idea of an American "BIG Year", but seemingly doesn't take it seriously. But somehow it's New Years Day and he is birding, spending much time at it (while losing one female companion...then finding another). He details where he goes, with whom he is going, which is often himself...frequently sleeps in his car, or in the field. All the while he is debating with himself if he is really going for a record. He gets up early to listen for bird calls; sometimes he flies across country for a single rare species; sometimes to a place he has just left, like above the Arctic Circle. He needs a photo of each bird, which he apparently gets. He's amazed that his current girlfriend puts up with this. But he breaks the record for the United States. How many species? You'll have to read the book.

Learn more about your favorite avian visitors with Audubon's online bird ID guide, at <http://birds.audubon.org/birdid>.

and learned what was involved with becoming a hummingbird bander. **It's a lot! Amy Wilms is the only licensed hummingbird bander in Indiana.** It took her years to get the license working under other banders elsewhere. Hummingbird banding is more time consuming than banding other birds as banders need to pre-cut and shape their own bands from numbered flat sheets sent out by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Amy Wilms getting ready to measure & band a hummingbird

INPAWS Fall Programs

Programs are 7 p.m. in Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park

Sept.26: Providing More than Aesthetics: How to Design for Pollinators. Mindy Appold. Purdue Landscapae Architect.

Oct 24: Backyard Habitat Design & Workshop. Steve Van Zant, Indiana Wildlife Federation

Nov 28: The Waters of Jasper Pulaski. Ed Zschiedrich, local naturalist and photographer.

Wild Bird Shoppe Sale

Sale goes to September 26

This is the sale offered by the *Wild Bird Shoppe* once a year. When you purchase any size or type of feeder, they will fill it with seed for FREE. Suet feeders receive free suet. Hummingbird feeders receive free nectar.

The shop is located at

1511 West 350 North
West Lafayette, IN 47906
(765) 463-2098

<http://www.wildbirdshoppe.com>

Store Hours

Monday thru Friday 10:00 am-6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

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

Chapter Membership Application Date: _____

Name : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

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

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

New Member Renewal

I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by email paper

Additional contribution to SAS for _____ \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Sycamore Audubon Society 2015-16 Board of Directors

Barny Dunning, President, Field Trips
7509 N 75 E, W Lafayette, 47906
(C) 765-412-8760 (W) 765-494-3565
jdunning@purdue.edu

Wes Homoya, Vice president/programs
317-452-5355 whomoya@yahoo.com

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

Rick Read, Treasurer, Field Trips
402 E Terrace Bay, Monticello 47960
574-583-3431 rickread.in@gmail.com

Sara Benham, At-large
sjbenham@gmail.com

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

Zonda Bryant, Nature Club
765-366-9126; birgez@purdue.edu

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

Karen Griggs, At Large
100 Thornbush Drive, W. Lafayette 47906
463-5215

Patrick Ruhl, At Large
765-418-82de02
pruhl@purdue.edu

Chuck Tuttle, Education
1708 Maywood, W Lafayette, 47906
(c)586-4806 chuck1708@gmail.com

Changes at Prophetstown SP

This past year Sycamore Audubon board member Chuck Tuttle started organizing monthly *Audubon at the Overlook* events at Prophetstown SP. There are a number of changes in the park since this program began. One is the new entrance road which replaces the older temporary entrance. Another is the extensive trails and bike path being developed in the big wet low open area past the end of the paved park road.

On August 2 Chuck visited the park and took his bike for a morning ride. He found that the new concrete path to the overlook (pictured) which was replacing the dirt trail was essentially finished. The completion date is expected to be August 20. The new path will provide handicapped access to the overlook. In his above picture the overlook area is just off to the right.



He noted that work continued on the bike path extension which is going to the Tippecanoe River and learned a second observation platform is planned at the end. He also learned about the nesting Sandhill Cranes which may have been discovered by Del or Mark Arvin. He didn't see any of the Sandhill Cranes that day, but there were still a number of Henslow's Sparrows and Dickcissels around.

Tidbits

- ◆ The Electric Reliability Council of Texas recently predicted that solar power will offer the cheapest electricity in the state over the next 15 years and its price is so low now that no other type of power plants will likely be built in Texas.
- ◆ Sea Otters eat sea urchins which eat kelp. Studies show otters help kelp forests store 12 times as much carbon as similar kelp forests without otters.
- ◆ April and May of 2016 were the warmest on record. They were also the 12th & 13th straight months to be the hottest in recorded history.
- ◆ In London pigeons wearing pollution sensors and GPS tracking are monitoring smog from local traffic.
- ◆ The Rock Sandpiper which people look for along Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline in winter is the hardiest member of its family, wintering farther north than any other Sandpiper.



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

<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Email: sycamoreaudubon@gmail.com

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.

Wednesdays in the Wild Schedule

- Sep 7th 1-3pm Wings Wildflowers & at Prophetstown --- outdoor pgm meet at Prophetstown- Seasonal Interpreter Rebekah Thomas *leads this walk to visit a fen and prairie at their peak. Butterflies, birds, & blooming plants.* \$2/person gate fee waived. Ask at entrance for specific location in the park.
- Sep 14th 7-9pm Insect Songsters --- indoor/outdoor pgm—Lilly NC. Tom Turpin (Purdue Entomologist) *will talk about the why and how of insect songs and the species that fill the summer and night air with their clicks, scrapes and hums. Mostly inside, but may include a step outside for an actual performance.*
- Sep 21st 1-3pm Wabash River Fishes and Research Collection Methods -- outdoor pgm—Fort Ouiatenon. The diversity of Wabash River fish reflects the unique characteristics needed for living in our river. Jay Beugly (Aquatics Ecology Specialist, Purdue Forestry & Natural Resources Dept.) will display fish caught with a boat electrofisher, & discuss their natural history and provide insight into the methods used to collect fish for research purposes.
- Sep 28th 1-3pm Literature & Nature Hike-- outdoor-Granville Sand Barrens. Brooke Criswell (NICHS Education & Outreach Coordinator) *leads a hike featuring quotes of noteworthy writers, and pose thought provoking questions while walking through a beautiful native sand barren and woodland habitat.* Bring a water bottle & wear comfortable shoes
- Oct 5th 1-3pm Birds on the Wing (Migration) Bring binoculars but extras available!-- indoor/outdoor pgm—Lilly NC Susan Ulrich (avid birder & naturalist) *leads an indoor presentation followed by an outdoor hunt to see what bird species are moving through as well as what residents the group can find.*
- Oct 12th 1-3pm Intro to Nature Apps ---- indoor pgm—Lilly NC. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension & other presenters *will introduce apps for our mobile devices. Learn how to use your phone and tablet outdoors to help identify plants, trees and wildlife, as well as get an introduction to handy garden apps. Come and share your favorite apps for learning about nature.*
- Oct 19th 1-3pm Fall Color Walk — Happy Hollow Park. Remember road is currently one way. *Fall is a great time to visit. Join Sally Weeks (Purdue Dendrologist) to identify the many different tree, shrub & wildflower species and enjoy their Fall colors.*
- Oct 26th 7-9pm A Place Called Turkey Run --- indoor pgm—Lilly NC. Dr. Dan Shepardson (Purdue's Departments of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction) *leads an exploration of the natural history of Turkey Run State Park using photos & text from his new book, A Place Called Turkey Run. Autographed books are available for \$40 cash purchase..*
- Nov 2nd 1-3pm What is Soil Health & How Do We Assess It? -- indoor pgm—CLEGG. Diane Stott (National Soil Health Specialist for NRCS—Natural Resources Conservation Service) *shares her in-depth knowledge of soil health.*
- Nov 2nd 7-9pm Subaru & the National Parks: Zero-Landfill Initiative —Lilly NC. *America's first automaker to achieve zero-landfill status was Lafayette's local Subaru facility. Michelle Long, Assistant Manager for Environmental Compliance and Energy, will outline Subaru's initiative to help our National Parks work towards the same zero-landfill goal—a project worthy of the centennial celebration of the National Park Service in 2016*
- Nov 9th 1-3pm A Virtual Tour of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore --indoor pgm—Lilly NC. Kip Walton, NPS Ranger. *favorite landscapes & hidden gems*
- Nov 16th 1-3pm At Long Last, Bison on the Prairies of Kankakee Sands —outdoor pgm—Kankakee Sands. Alyssa Nyberg (Kankakee Sands Nursery Mgr. & Outreach Coordinator) *will lead a hike to the top of Bogus Island, famous site of outlaws, horse thieves and counterfeiters, and now buffalo.*