



Sycamore Warbler

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2017 Marks Half a Century of Feasts

Special events are planned for the Feast of the Hunter's Moon this year as it marks 50 years since the first Feast was held back in 1968. It also marks 10 years for SAS selling Turkey Legs. Board member Chuck Tuttle came up with the idea for SAS to try a food booth and it was a great one. The Feast is SAS's main funding source, supporting most of the chapter's basic expenses such as insurance, printing, postage, etc.

This year's Feast is September 30 to October 1. SAS needs two dozen volunteers to fill 4-hour shifts to staff our booth over the week-end, plus help setting up the booth beforehand and clean up at the end. Volunteers get a feast button that allows them free admission both days. To volunteer, contact Barny Dunning (see p. 9). You do need to be in period costume for the event itself. If you need appropriate clothing, SAS has items people can borrow.



George Kopcha prepares cup of mulled cider while customer get served a turkey leg..

Matching Funds still Available for Children's Forest

SAS still has unmatched funds for their \$2,000 match to help **Hands of the Future** purchase land in West Lafayette to establish Indiana's first Children's Forest. To donate simply send a check to the SAS post office box and mark it "for Children's Forest".

Children's forests are designed to get kids to play outside in natural settings and learn to enjoy and learn about nature. Check out **Hands of the Future's** website for more information. You can also google "Children's Forest" to learn more about them. The 18.1 acre property is across from the main entrance to the Indiana Soldier's Home. You can visit the property which has young woods in the front, older woods in the back and several ephemeral wet spots with hydric soils for diversity. Hands of the Future members and Friends are already working to remove invasive plants and establish primitive trails. Stop by, give it a look. The price tag is \$225,000. Grant applications are out to foundations, etc., but private contributions—such as from SAS and its members—are definitely needed. SAS will hold your matching funds so if Hands of the Future can't complete the purchase, donations can be returned to the donor. You can learn more about the group at SAS's December's membership meeting at Lilly Nature Center at 7:15 p.m. on Dec.

Black-necked Stilt's Nest A Summer Birding Highlight

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As reported in the last Warbler, a group from northern Indiana found two Black-necked Stilts in NW Tippecanoe County on June 25th. It turns out they stuck around. Heavy rains kept water available and Ed Hopkins eventually saw one on a nest and later spotted hatched out young. This is the third Tippecanoe County nesting record for these large black and white birds with long pink legs, all within a 2.5 mile circle.



The species is becoming more common in Indiana, in part thanks to dispersal from Goose Pond where they began nesting some years back. In 1984's Mumford and Keller's **Birds of Indiana** the species appearance was listed as hypothetical in the state with only two unconfirmed, records.

CHAPTER NEWS

👉 **Audubon's September Meeting & Carry-in Dinner is September 14th not September 7th as reported in the last newsletter.** 👈

Two more wanted

SAS is looking for a couple of new board members. If you are interested contact Barney Dunning (see p. 7). Meetings are usually held in West Lafayette on the first Monday of each month except for June or July. Meetings are one hour and can be attended by skype for people who live at a distance.

Riverfest Report

High water and fast currents in the Wabash River cancelled the Voyageur canoe race challenges but attendance at the event was huge this year thanks to nice weather, good publicity and new activities. SAS's booth stayed busy and so many children made toilet paper tube owls and other critters that supplies ran out near the end of the day and we switched to making and decorating paper fans. Don't doubt that kids have a lot of imagination—every creation was unique.

WANTED for next year: toilet paper tubes! You can drop them off at an SAS membership meeting or leave them for us at Celery Bog.

SAS Board Actions:

The board voted to donate \$155 to the West Lafayette Park & Recreation Department for two new tube feeders and two suction-cup hummingbird feeders for Lilly NC.

Thank You's

Jim Klatch once again deserves our heart-felt thanks for his continu-

ing donations to the Pookie Fund to support SAS's environmental education programs. Our thanks also go to William Nicholls for his extra contribution to the Society.

From Indiana to Arizona

That's where funds raised at Audubon's Fall's bake and plant sale are going. The sale, held at the West Lafayette Public Library, will help refill the Friends of the Kankakee's land acquisition fund and the capitol campaign for the Patton Center for Hummingbirds owned by the Tucson Audubon Society. Both are habitats that protect birds and draw birders.

The Friends of the Kankakee have bit by bit acquired land and improved it over a number of years. This year they donated it as the initial acreage for the newly dedicated Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge. Their constant efforts of support helped make the refuge a reality.



The Patton Hummingbird Center is the most reliable site in the United States for Purple-crowned Hummingbirds (above) and other Arizona hummingbird rarities. Tens of thou-

sands of birders have visited this Arizona site which is in the middle of a capital campaign to pay for necessary upkeep and repairs.

Dates for SAS's sale are October 13-15. Hours are 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Saturday; and 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday. As usual the Society is looking for your donations of edible items and plants to sell as well as for people to help out as cashiers.

Drop off donations anytime after noon Thursday the 12th at the West Lafayette Public Library. To volunteer or to make other arrangements for donations email Susan Ulrich at sueandtedulrich@msn.com.



RIP squad & Pulling for Bats II

INPAWS' and SAS's RIP squad starts its regular fall season of invasive shrub removal Oct 24 and go to late December. RIP session are from 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday at Prophets Rock Park and every Thursdays at Ross Hills Park.

As part of their efforts they are again hosting **Pulling for Bats** as part of Bat Week, an annual, international celebration of the role of bats in nature. Bat week is October 21-31. This year's pull will be Sat. October 21 starting at 10 a.m. at Prophet's Rock Park. The rain date is Sunday the 22nd at 1 p.m. For more information including which parks the group will be at on which days, contact Patty Jones at

removeinvasivplants.wcinpaws@gmail.com.

Early Bird Hikes

These 8 a.m. short morning bird walks will be held on Thursdays starting September 7. Meet at the Celery Bog Gravel Parking Lot.

Meeting Refreshments

SAS provides beverages, cups and napkins, but members supply the edible treats at meetings. To volunteer so supply treats for a meeting email Susan Ulrich (p. 9).

Congratulations Patrick

SAS VP Patrick Ruhl's photo below of a Ruffed Grouse appeared in the May-June issue of **Outdoor Audubon** magazine. The bird is well camouflaged—especially in black & white. Patrick also wrote an article which appeared in the Ruffed Grouse Society Newsletter.



Update: Monticello's Audubon Nature Clubs

The Audubon Nature Clubs in Monticello have been conducting after-school sessions at various of the corporation's elementary schools since 2011. School consolidation, building construction, on-campus habitat loss, and other factors have impacted the effectiveness of SAS's programs there.

Separately, a **Boys & Girls Club** was created a few years ago to provide a place for children to go after school until parents could pick them up. The Club has grown to over 500 children. Effective this fall, the Club moved into the previously

NICHES Shawnee Bottom's Expands Again

NICHES Land Trust's original Shawnee Bottom property bought in 2002 has grown again. The latest acquisition (the 4th) is the largest totaling 146 acres half of which was finalized this year, and half of which will be finalized next year. The property will then be 477 A, making it NICHES largest— at least for now.

Another "addition" to the property is a dam, the gift of a pair of beavers. The beaver's built it by damming a culvert along the old Wabash and Erie Canal to form a very nice pond that is already attracting waterfowl. Shawnee Bottoms also has a natural pond (Scott Pond), part of which was in the original 220 A and the remaining part in 22 A added in 2015. The Sept. 13th **Wednesdays in the Wild** program is a canoe trip on Scott's pond. See p. 5.

This most recent addition moves the boundary of Shawnee Bottoms approximately to a spot a quarter mile from Portland Arch Nature Preserve. The hope is to someday physically connect the two properties creating a large protected area allowing for the free flow of species and genetic material.



Beaver impoundment
photo by Susan Ulrich

closed Woodlawn Elementary School. Those children participating in the Club are bused there.

Audubon saw this as an opportunity to add Audubon Nature Club sessions at Woodlawn. Audubon will continue to sponsor Nature Clubs at Meadowlawn and Oaklawn Elementary Schools but will add the Woodlawn location too. The start time for Nature Club activity at the new site will be delayed due to the busing, but the on-campus habitat is excellent. Students and parents should watch for information to sign up.

Trinidad & Tobago with Wes & Bill Murphy

Wes Homoya, ex-SAS board member, is co-guiding a birding tour to Trinidad and Tobago from January 11 to 21, 2018. His co-leader is Bill Murphy.

Many of you may know Bill from the Indiana birding scene. He is a long time board member of Amos Butler Audubon in Indianapolis. Bill is pretty much "the guy" for birding tours to T & T for the past 20-years and even wrote the most used field guide for the region. Over 400 species of birds are known from the two islands.

Saw-whet Owl Banding

Anyone hoping to see Northern Saw-whet Owls up close is invited to the Wright Center in Purdue's Martell Forest on Nov. 4 between 8 p.m. to well past midnight. Contact Barny (p 9) if you need directions. This is the 2nd year Purdue wildlife undergraduates led by Landon Neumann will net & band these small owls. People can come and go when they please. The rain date is Nov 5th.

More volunteers are sought to help out, including helping with net set up & tear down. If interested, email neumannL@purdue.edu.

Bird Friendly Coffee

A cup of coffee can do a lot for birds if it is the 'right' type of coffee. If you drink coffee buy shade-grown, bird friendly coffee which provides habitat for many of our summer migrants and South American resident birds and animals, rather than sun grown coffee which destroys habitat. To learn more about Bird Friendly coffee visit nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-bird/bird-friendly-coffee. You can also check Julie Craves' blog, "Coffee & Conservation: coffeehabitat.com".

Nature Notes & News

● June 12th Landon Neumann birded several local Cass County birding spots. His highlight was 6 Upland Sandpipers at Grissom and then both Cerulean and Black-and-white Warblers at a private property. He notes that Grissom continues to host an impressive population of Upland Sandpipers year after year. The Black-and-white Warbler was a male that seemed to be on territory. It is only the 2nd June record for the county and would be a first breeding record if it found a mate and nested.



● Elisabeth Kornblum in Battle Ground has a cardinal that's been eating suet from her hanging log feeder all summer. The bird has to flutter to snatch food since the log has no perches.

● July 1 Joan Samuels returned home to find a small waterlogged bat tangled in the net on her frog log ramp. It looked wet & exhausted, and had it not moved its wing a little she would have thought it was dead. She was fortunate to get hold of Angie Manuel, Prophetstown State Park Naturalist, a bat lover and former bat rehabber. Angie gave it lots of TLC on a heating pad and fed it mealworms. She identified it as a young Little Brown Bat (perhaps out on an early flight that didn't go well). The bat responded nicely to treatment but seemed lonely.

That problem was solved when Joan took a swim and found a second Little Brown Bat clinging to the frog log. Angie returned and

took that one too. Once the pair have recovered sufficiently both will be returned to the area where Joan has bats hanging between 2 boards on her upper deck.

● Dorothy Jones was delighted to see and hear Common Nighthawks hunting in the air above Riehle Plaza the evening of July 3 during the extended rehearsal for the July 4th pre-fireworks concert. She was in the top row of singers, with a great view of the sky, as well as the plaza. She also thought she heard and saw Chimney Swifts earlier, but the nighthawks were definitely there from about sundown through 10:00PM or so. She was still hearing them as she went to her car.

● Russ Allison visited Prophetstown State Park on July 14. The park was crowded but a few good birds showed up. The Sandhill Cranes had produced another young and multiple Henslow's Sparrows were singing.

● On the 15th of July Jim McGlone was excited to see a Caspian Tern as he was doing some stewardship at his wetland in Warren County.

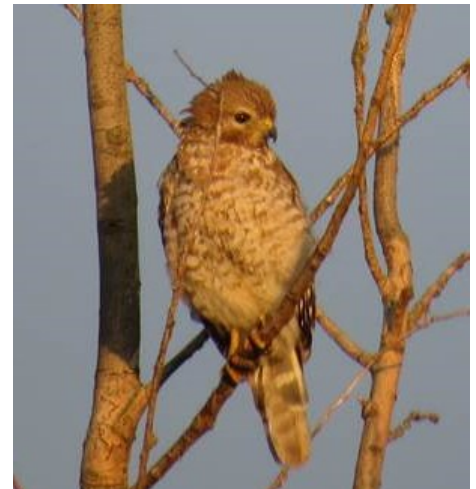
● Susan Ulrich noted an unusually high number of Chats in Warren County this summer along with American Kestrels. She also found many more patches of Indian Pipe growing in the woods than usual but most patches of this saprophyte only had one or two flowering stalks instead of the usual 4-6.

● Ed Hopkins kept checking the area where the Black-necked Stilts had been found several weeks earlier and on July 18 finally saw one on a nest. On subsequent visits he documented that the eggs had hatched.

● On July 27th Barny Dunning went to the site in NW Tippecanoe County where Ed reported the stilts were nesting. He found several migrating shorebirds including a Short-billed Dowitcher, a number of Pectoral Sandpipers, and a lot of Killdeer. He notes birds were moving around a lot

and there were other flooded fields in the area so more searching could be worthwhile.

● Below is a photo taken by Lorraine Shaffer Braddon near the eastern edge of Warren County July 28th. The bird appears to be a juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk.



● Landon Neumann went out Aug. 2nd to check the Stilt site and also the Pine Creek Gamebird area. He emailed there were nice mudflat developing at Pine Creek and along a flooded field at 790N that looked ideal for shorebirds. Pine Creek had Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, 100 Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs at the time of his visit.

At the Black-necked Stilt field water levels were dropping. He saw the two adults and 1 young along with several other species. At the 790 N flooded field he found nine species of shorebirds (the ones mentioned above plus a Short-billed Dowitcher) along with a Pied-billed Grebe and Mallards.

● Based on Landon's report, Barny Dunning went out that same day to check out the flooded field along CR 500 W where the Stilts were. He found Matthew Bowman was already there and the two of them enjoyed watching a Wilson's Phalarope, Short-billed Dowitcher and numerous peeps including Least, Pectoral, Semipalmated, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers along with some Lesser Yellowlegs.

- The next morning Barny Dunning spent 40 minutes at Celery Bog, in West Lafayette looking for early fall migrants. He notes "As usual, the only notable bird that I saw was at the very end, when I was nearing the parking lot. I had an Alder Flycatcher calling (very softly) from the prairie / oak savanna planting".

- Back in Warren County on August 7th, Amanda & Brian Beheler plus their three children flushed a male Blue Grosbeak off the gravel road at the intersection of 450 N and Cranberry Marsh Road. Amanda reported that two weeks earlier a friend who lived near Seeger High School had a Blue Grosbeak flush out of his prairie area. Blue Grosbeak is another species whose presence in this area of Indiana is relatively new and on the increase.

- August 18 around 8 p.m. Karen Griggs reported seeing three Mississippi kites (2 adults and 1 young) in the bare tree tops along Indian Trail and Pathway Drive in West Lafayette. One of the threesome was actively hunting—catching cicadas or other prey on the wing then returning to its perch where he/she held it in one foot while ripping it up with the other. .

- Ed Hopkins emails that there is no more fretting over white-wing Gull identification as the AOS (A.K.A. AOU) Check-list 2017 Report has lumped Thayer's Gull into Iceland Gull, making it a subspecies.

More changes are a reorganizations of the checklist order for birds in order to reflect their genetic relationships. Included in these latter is the naming of a new family, *Icteriidae*, for the Yellow-breasted Chat which never really seemed to fit anywhere, and has been the subject of much discussion. If the new name looks familiar it's because it is only one "i" away from *Icteridae*, the family that includes the Red-winged Blackbird and its relatives.

- August 19 was National Honeybee Day. Honey bees account for nearly 80% of crop pollination across the US. They visit over 2-million flowers just to produce one pound of honey.

Wednesdays in the Wild

This series of programs is co-sponsored by SAS, WL and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments, West Central INPAWS, NICHES Land Trust, and Prophetstown SP. To get this info by email or for a copy of **Native Roots** covering other environmental programs and activities, contact Joan Mohr Samuels at mohrsamuels@comcast.net.

Sep 6th 10-12 a.m. Wolves on the Landscape an indoor/outdoor pgm at **WOLF Park**. This unique program by **Pat Goodmann** (Head Wolf Curator) is followed by a tour of Wolf Park. **NOTE:** Advance registration by SEP 4th would be much appreciated: Joan Samuels 765-532-3245(cell/text) or mohrsamuels@comcast.net

Sep 13th 1-3pm Shawnee Bottoms Canoe Trip. outdoor pgm at **NICHES Shawnee Bottoms**. Explore Scott's Pond, a 10-acre natural pond in the floodplain of the Wabash in Fountain Co by canoe with **NICHES Staff**. See a bald eagle nest and beaver lodge. **CANOES:** bring your own **OR** sign up in advance for the limited canoe spaces.. RSVP to NICHES 765-423-1605 for canoe spots and special meeting place.

Sep 20th 4-6pm Investigating Our Local Soils an outdoor pgm at **Throckmorton Ag Center**. **Sherry Fulk-Bringman** (Purdue Soils Lab Coordinator) will lead participants in investigative techniques to understand the nature and properties of soils. Wear sturdy footwear and clothes that can get dirty. Participants are welcome to bring soil samples from home to study, as well.

Sep 27th 1-3pm Moyer-Gould Woods Walk, Outdoor pgm at **NICHES Moyer Gould Woods**. Enjoy an early fall hike with **Gus Nyberg** (NICHES Executive Director) on the trails along the Tippecanoe River in Carroll County. Meet there at 1 p.m. or to carpool meet at 12:30 at the Battlefield Monument in Battle Ground off 9th Street.

Oct 4th 1-3pm Delphi Deer Creek Area Exploration . Outdoor pgm at Canal Park (1030 W. Washington St, Delphi.. **Dan & David McCain** will then lead a carpool to Deer Creek Bicentennial Park, then on to High Bridge and NICHES Gerard Reserve.

Oct 11th 1-3pm* Evonic/TNC Prairie Walk --*Timely arrival needed to pass thru security-- Outdoor pgm at Evonics Laboratories' Habitat Area. **Stuart Orr** (TNC's NC Indiana Land Steward) leads a ramble to Lookout Point, a beautiful remnant of gravel hill protected by TNC.

Oct 18th 1-3pm Fall Color Walk . Outdoor program Purdue Wildlife Area. **Sally Weeks**, Purdue Dendrologist and Author of two books covering Midwest native trees, shrubs and woody vines leads this outing to see a variety of trees and shrubs and their assorted Fall colors. Turn right off 26 W t 1/4 mile past Tippecanoe County 750W at the sign.

Oct 25th 1-3pm Migration: A Twice a Year Birding Extravaganza!. Indoor/outdoor pgm at Lilly Nature Center.. Bring binoculars and join **Susan Ulrich**, experienced birder, naturalist and local Sycamore Audubon Society board member for a talk followed by a walk at this local birding hotspot. Some binoculars are available for participants' use.

Nov 1st 7-9pm Nature Photography Techniques. Indoor program at Lilly Nature Center. **Dan Shepardson** (Purdue Departments of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences and Curriculum & Instruction) shares tips for photographing natural subjects by utilizing images from his many travels to both state and national parks.

Nov 8th 1-3pm Celebrating Native American Heritage Month. Outdoor pgm at Prophetstown State Park. There is a \$2 program fee but no gate fee. Join Park Naturalist Angie Manuel for a historical tour of the Indian Village & more, including the newly built A-frame structure. Sample and enjoy natural teas and treats cooked over a small fire..

Nov 15th 7-9pm Enjoying the Outdoors Ethically. Indoor pgm at Lilly Nature Center. **Barny Dunning** (Purdue Dept. of Forestry & Natural Resources & president of the Sycamore Audubon Society) & **Mary Cutler** (Tippecanoe County Naturalist) will explore the principles and practices of outdoor ethics, utilizing local examples to showcase the need for citizen awareness of this important topic. Birding, photography & wildlife viewing ethics, along with the national **Leave No Trace** programs will be highlighted..

Fall Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2017

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.

- Every Thursday **Early Bird Hikes.** Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette, 8 a.m. These will be held each Thursday morning through migration. Meet at the gravel parking area in the park (first turn on the right).
- September 14 Thursday **Program: Carry-in Dinner & Bring Your Own Program night.** Always a winner! 6 p.m. for the dinner, 7:15 for the multiple 5 or so minute shows provided by SAS members and friends. SAS supplies plates, silverware, cups, napkins & beverages. Bring a dish to share or just show up. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking and DINNER.
- September 16 Saturday **Purdue Wildlife Area.** Join us in the marshes, old fields and tree lines of the Purdue Wildlife Area to look for fall migrants. Meet 8 am at the PWA parking lot off of Route 26, about 7 miles west from WL, on the right side just past CR 750 W. Follow the signs. Parking down driveway. Half day trip.
- September 24 Sunday **Audubon at Prophetstown.** Noon - 2PM. Join us at the "end of the Prophetstown SP road" for wildlife watching in the park. We may be at the overlook or we may set up near the pond or Trail #1. In any case we will be visible and will be looking for fall migrants moving through the park.
- September 30-October 1 **SAS Food Booth at the 50th Feast of the Hunters Moon.** See p. 1 for ways to help Audubon sell turkey legs (what else?) at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon.
- October 12 Thursday **Program: The Birds (and animals) from Down Under.** Rick Read talks about the aggressive 20-day trip that he and Debbie took with Tropical Birding to eastern Australia. His group saw nearly half of the 800+ bird species on the continent. Images and videos of amazing birds and strange unique animals. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, WL. Free parking and refreshments.
- October 13-15 Friday-Sunday **Fall Bake & Plant Sale.** Volunteers and donations needed. Proceeds go to Friends of the Kankakee land acquisition fund & Tucson Audubon Society Paton Center for Hummingbirds. Info on p. 2.
- October 14 Saturday **Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area & other wetlands.** This weekend is the last before waterfowl hunting season starts & usually the best time to look for a variety of migrating waterbirds. 8:15 a.m. at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog at to caravan. Half day trip.
- October 21 Saturday **Pulling for Bats.** Meet at 10 a.m. at Prophets Rock Woods to help remove invasive shrubs to improve bat (& bird & native plant) habitat. Equipment provided or bring your own. Rain date on p.2.
- October 28 Saturday **Audubon at Prophetstown** 4:30 to 6:30 PM to see what birds are on the move. Meet at the new observation pad out east of the overlook where we will get the best view of flocks overhead and birds moving along the river. Sunset is 6:50 p.m. so we might stay longer if things are active.
- November 4 Saturday **Saw-whet Owl Banding.** The special mist nets will be up and hopefully the owls will cooperate. This is the second year for this program begun with SAS funding. Be at Wright Center in Martell Forest on November 4th at 8 p.m. or later as the best action is usually late at night. See. P3.
- November 9 Thursday **Program: Indiana's Forests & their Management.** Jeff Stant, executive director of the Indiana Forest Alliance. Indiana's forest are important for many reasons: wildlife, birds, recreation, watershed protection and timber for one of Indiana's largest industries. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, WL. Free parking and refreshments.
- November 11 Saturday **Lake Michigan for loons, grebes, swans + other migrants** hard to see in the Lafayette area. 6 am at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog to carpool. Full day trip. We typically stop to see Sandhill Cranes at Jasper Pulaski going up and possibly Kankakee Sands for buffalo coming back.
- November 18 Saturday **Audubon at Prophetstown.** 10 am to noon. Meet at overlook at the end of the paved park road for late fall migrants. We may shift locations in the immediate vicinity depending on light conditions.
- December 3 Sunday **Sandhill Crane Bonanza.** View the thousands of Sandhill Cranes (+ a stray Whooping Crane?) as the birds congregate at dusk at Jasper Pulaski State Fish and wildlife area. Meet at the Celery Bog gravel parking area at 3:30 p.m. to carpool (likely via a Purdue bus with students joining us).
- December 16 Saturday **LAFAYETTE AREA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.** A citizen science project. Sign-up at December 14th Audubon meeting with Ed Hopkins, the compiler, or contact him at birder4in@gmail.com.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Clean Water Rule Repeal?



Late last month, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a proposal to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule. This rule addressed longstanding confusion over which water bodies are protected under the Clean Water Act. The wetlands at the center of the Clean Water Rule cover roughly 110 million acres in the continental U.S. and provide indispensable habitat for hundreds of species of birds, fish, and wildlife. These waters also filter pollution from drinking water for more than 117 million Americans. It is a commonsense safeguard that helps state and federal agencies protect our rivers, streams and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

Despite the fact that a majority of people in this country consistently support stronger clean water protections, the Trump administration continues to bend to the will of oil and gas industries and Big Agriculture by repealing this important safeguard. This move weakens clean water protections across the nation, attacking our public health, the growing outdoor economy, and the fish and wildlife that depend on clean water to survive. Kick up a fuss! Let Pruitt know that now is not the time to go back on the 2015 clean water act and other vital safeguards for clean water that are also being attacked. The EPA is looking for our input.

Please give it even if they ignore it.

Endangered Species Need our Support

The Endangered Species Act is our nation's most effective law for protecting wildlife in danger of extinction. Many members of Congress who receive major financial support from the oil and gas industry and other large corporate interests are trying to slash the Endangered Species Act, threatening the very existence of the imperiled wildlife and ecosystems the Act protects. We've seen Congress unleash political attacks like this before, and now we're expecting a Senate bill targeting this important law to be introduced very soon.

Before they can orchestrate this attack on one of our bedrock environmental laws, our state Senators Donnelly and Young need to hear  from us to stand strong against this attack on  vulnerable species and the lands and waters that sustain them.

The Endangered Species Act is one of the strongest, most effective wildlife protection laws in the world. It provides a vital safety net for imperiled wildlife, fish, insects and plants, and has prevented the extinction of 99 percent of the species under its care. If it weren't for this law, scientists estimate that at least 227 species would have already vanished from the wild.

2018 Budget Proposal & the Arctic Refuge

When the House Budget Committee released their proposal for the 2018 fiscal year, it included instructions to the Natural Resources Committee that would lead to opening up the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge to oil and gas development, similar to the proposal from the White House earlier this year. The committee voted on the proposal which will then go to a floor vote in the House.

In response to this threat to one of the most important places for birds in North America, Audubon issued the following action alert: "Since birds from the Arctic Refuge migrate back through each of the lower 48 states, **this is an issue that affects each and every Audubon member.** Please encourage your supporters to act now by sharing this **action alert** asking them to write to their members of congress to oppose efforts to open the Arctic Refuge to oil development.



Proposal to Ban Pesticide Linked to Brain Damage in Children Reversed

As kids go back to school, a pesticide used on everything from strawberries to apples and broccoli poses a considerable risk to children brains.

Chlorpyrifos is made by Dow Chemical. In 2015, EPA scientists recommended to ban the pesticide, based on growing scientific evidence of neurological damage in fetuses and young children. One study concluded, "even low to moderate levels of exposure to the insecticide chlorpyrifos during pregnancy may lead to long-term, potentially irreversible changes in the brain structure of the child."¹

But earlier this year, **shortly after EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with the CEO of Dow Chemical**, the EPA abruptly reversed the proposed ban on chlorpyrifos, ignoring the advice of its own scientists.



National Audubon Advisories

7/30/17 Advisory: Eastern Egg Rock set several new records this year. In a single day the Egg Rock Crew grubbed five puffin chicks, and now has a season tally of 163 active Atlantic Puffin burrows, surpassing last year's 150 burrow count! Seal Island NWR is also having an excellent puffin year, estimating 592 active burrows - surpassing the previous high of 568 pairs. Matinicus Rock notes their larger puffin chicks have already departed to sea. Early fledglings are an indication of sufficient food supplies.

8/11/17 Advisory: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is America's cornerstone bird conservation law. NAS led the charge to pass the law in 1918, which has since saved millions of birds and numerous species from the brink of extinction. Now signs point to growing threats to MBTA placing America's birdlife in danger.

The MBTA protects most native birds by making it unlawful to kill, hunt, sell, or possess more than 1,000 species of birds—along with their nests, eggs, and feathers—without a permit. It turned the tide against the plume trade and market hunting, which devastated birds in the early 20th century. Today, threats to birds continue, and the protections of the MBTA are as vital as ever.

In recent years, the law has come under attack. Audubon rallied to successfully oppose the "bird killer amendment" in 2015, which would

have prevented any enforcement of the law. Legislation in the last Congress would have given a free pass to deaths from industrial activities that incidentally kill birds, such as oil waste pits, power lines, and gas flares. Neither effort moved forward.

Audubon supported a proactive approach to strengthening the MBTA by addressing these industrial activities more directly through a permit process. This process was suspended by the Trump administration.

In this current political environment, core laws like the Endangered Species Act and others are under increasing attack. Chatter about undermining the MBTA is growing, from the halls of Washington to the pages of the *Wall Street Journal*. The threat is expanding. These efforts could limit or end protections for about 1,000 species of birds, from birds like American Robins, to Common Loons, and the declining species across the country like Cerulean Warblers.

Audubon will work hard to defend the MBTA. As we approach the law's one hundredth anniversary, we will be on guard to continue Audubon's proud legacy and keep the MBTA just as vital and effective in its next century. **Please stay tuned for action.**

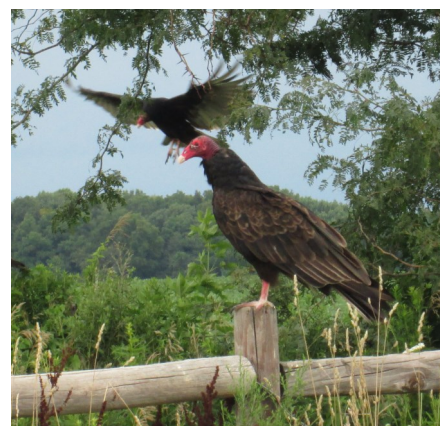
Unusual Nest for Seabird

The National Audubon once offered \$100 to the person finding the first documented nest of a Marbled Murrelet. It's no wonder they had been hard to find: a forester discovered the first nest 148 feet off the ground in a Douglas Fir in California in 1984. Since knowing where to look 160 nests have been found in old growth coniferous forests. Some nests are 60 miles inland—quite a distance for a 9.5 inch seabird. There isn't that much building either. Nests are usually on a mossy, horizontal limb where the birds use their bodies to make a depression and lay a single egg.

Sanctuary Planned along Threatened Bird Corridor

A small (150 acre) but important wetland migration park is being developed in Tianjin, China. Nearly 70% of China's coast is now walled, leaving little habitat for migratory birds to land and fatten up during migration. The site, which had been a landfill, is being developed by McGregor Cozall, an Australian landscape-architect firm. Austin McGregor point out that "The East Asian-Australasian flyway may be the world's most threatened migratory bird corridor due to habitat loss brought on by unchecked coastal development." The site is buffered by a 49-acre forest. Plans include a trio of habitats: mudflats, reed zone, and a lake with its own island and recirculating water.

(*Bird Watcher's Digest*)



Vulture Awareness Day ..

is the first Saturday in September (September 2nd in 2017). It's a day to give vultures their due. In the US Black and Turkey vultures are doing fine, but California Condors aren't, primarily due to lead poisoning from bullets. Worldwide vulture populations are on declining for several reasons including poisoning (most from Diclofenac, a drug used to treat livestock that is poisonous to vultures), but also lead and pesticides; power line electrocution; lack of food; and habitat loss. Their niche can be described as nature's clean up crew. They recycle and help prevent disease and pathogens from spreading. (*Bird Watcher's Digest*).

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, 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: _____

Phone(s): _____

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 \$ _____

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INPAWS Program Listing

The West Central Indiana Native Plant & Wildlife Society meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in Lilly Nature Center. Here is this Fall's line up. Programs are free and open to the public. Free parking, including handicapped parking is available and refreshments are served.
Drop by and get acquainted.

September 25: **The Importance of a Biodiverse World.** Dawn Slack, TNC , & Chair of Indiana's Invasive Plant Council.

October 23: **The Diversity in Indiana's Forests and Will it Last?** Mike Jenkins, Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University.

November 27: **Mushrooms, Mycelia, and Morels.** Don Ruch, Ball State University

January 22: **The Lafayette Park System and You.** Don Staley, Natural Resources & Recreation Planner, Lafayette Parks & Recreation.

Wintering Grounds a Major Problem for Many Birds

After merging bird observations from eBird along with projections for land use and climate change, a new Cornell Lab study finds that loss of habitat on the wintering grounds may be the greatest threat faced by 21 species of eastern forest birds that winter in Central America in the coming decades.

These flycatchers, warblers, and vireos spend nearly 60% of the year on their wintering grounds. The study is the first to measure the impact of climate and land-use change throughout the birds' entire life cycle, including breeding, wintering, and migration.

Tidbits

◆ Many birds cache seeds in the fall. The hippocampus, part of the bird's brain, grows 30% in order to keep track of where the various seeds are stored so they can retrieve them during the winter. This part of the brain shrinks again in spring.

◆ The National Park Service ended a 20-year research program in Alaska because state game agents had killed so many wolves that the predator population was no longer "in a natural state".

◆ Tea made from roasted dandelion roots has a coffee-like taste and color without the caffeine.

◆ A cup of chopped raw dandelion greens provides 112% of the daily requirement for vitamin A (& has only 25 calories). All 100% of the plant from blossom to root is edible for most people. Feed don't weed.

◆ Brown-headed Cowbird eggs have been found in the nests of 220 other species.

◆ Just like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, White Pelicans usually lay 2 eggs per clutch. Their young, however, are able to squawk from inside their eggs if they are too hot or cold.



Above: Trumpeter Swan. Note the wide black connection to the eye and the straight line of the bill.

Below : Tundra Swan head for comparison. Birds are also slightly smaller in size.

A Modern Day Nesting Record for an Endangered Species in Indiana

The pictures likely give this species away. In Steuben County this summer a pair of endangered Trumpeter Swans successfully nested and raised one young. This is the first record of the species breeding in Indiana since the late 1800's. Steuben County is in NE Indiana, the area the swans are believed to have nested historically is the NW.

Adam Phelps, DNR waterfowl biologist, said this a "great success story" and shows that Indiana has produced the breeding habitat that's needed by the species. It is hoped the birds and their first young will return to the same area next year for another successful nest season.

Due to their endangered status, multiple efforts reintroducing these swans have been made in mid-western states and Canada's Ontario Province. The reintroductions have worked and led to nests being found closer and closer to Indiana. It was only a matter of time before a pair succeeded in finally nesting in the state as they did this

