



Sycamore Warbler

Volume 43 Issue 1 Spring 2018

May 12th Bird Extravaganza

Mark your calendar for May 12th, the Big May Day Bird Count. The 2nd Saturday in May is usually when the most *species* of birds are in or passing through Indiana. It is the height of the warbler/vireo/flycatcher movement along with other neotropical pass-through's and returnees. **SAS sponsors counts in Tippecanoe and Warren Counties each year.** People get an area to cover from the compiler and then see what birds they can find in that area. You can do small areas such as your yard and feeders, or larger areas covering 100's of acres. **There are always areas that don't get any or very little coverage so your help is appreciated. You don't need to be an expert** — just I.D. what you know or can figure out. Any bird seen or heard between midnight of May 11 to midnight of May 12th is countable.



Caspian Tern
Seen on the 2017
May Bird Count

The Tippecanoe County count ends the day with a compilation party at 8 p.m., location still to be determined. People bring their lists and data along with something to nibble on and the days results are tallied. Last year there were **4,488 individual birds of 142 species identified by the 18 participants. The count's compiler is Barny Dunning (see p.9)**

Warren County has fewer participants and large areas of the county are uncovered. New participants would be very welcome. Last year there were 10 participants and 133 species of birds recorded. Contact Susan Ulrich (see p.9).

Celebrate National Wetlands Month May 19

Visit Celery Bog for the annual Mind BOGgling Event on May 19th. SAS and many other groups will be there with displays and things to do for the whole family, from crafts and adventures for children, to nature walks, and live animal demos, natural history displays, etc. The focus this year is on insects in honor of our new state insect, the Firefly, so come out, enjoy yourselves and learn a few fascinating facts about nature. Hours are 10-3 p.m. SAS is helping fund the animal presentations and Zonda is leading an insect scavenger hunt. The Emergency Muncie Truck will be there too.

IAS opposes CAFO site next to Kankakee Sands

The Indiana Audubon Society (IAS) is officially opposing a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) on property located next to the Nature Conservancy's Efromson Restoration at Kankakee Sands in Newton County. IAS would like to see the project moved to a less detrimental site within the county.

The proposed project area sits on historic Beaver Lake, once Indiana's largest fresh water lake. Today, the 7,000 acres of wet prairie and wetland restoration at Kankakee Sands stands as one of the most successful habitat restorations in Indiana history. The rich diversity of the sands supports state rare and endangered flowers, birds, and butterflies where the *water table today lies mere inches under the sandy soil*. The proposed CAFO, built by Natural Prairie Dairy, LLC, a Texas owned company, would annually produce more than 26 million gallons of urine, feces and contaminated waste-water according data in their permit application with IDEM.

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"Kankakee Sands is a nature success story " said Brad Bumgardner, IAS executive director. **"The water quality issues presented with this project pose damaging threats to the habitat work that's been done over the past decade."**

Those interested in learning more about the proposed project can call the *Friends of Kankakee Sands* at (219) 869-1004. IAS is asking individuals to contact the county officials listed below to let them know you oppose the siting for this CAFO project.

Mickey Read – mread@newtoncounty.in.gov
 Tim Drenth – tdrenth@newtoncounty.in.gov
 Kyle Conrad – 1-888-663-9866 ext 2502.
 Scott Carlson – scarlson@in.gov

Tim Lohr – tlohr@newtoncounty.in.gov
 Michael Mark – mmark@newtoncounty.in.gov
 Abbey Rossiter – arossiter@newtoncounty.in.gov
 Patrick Mulligan – pmulligan@newtoncounty.in.gov

CHAPTER NEWS

Busy Time

Spring is always busy but take time to get out and savor it (once it **finally starts...**) and **enjoy the many** birds that flow through our state. SAS offers opportunities to see and learn to identify old bird friends and new. Check the calendar for field **trips and don't forget Celery Bog's Thursday morning's Early Bird hikes.**

Interested in Audubon?

SAS can always use a new board member. The board meets 10-11 months a year at 5:30 p.m. for an hour (usually the first Monday of the month). Talk to Barney Dunning (see p.9) if you have an interest.

Bake & Plant Sale: Help!

This year's spring sale is April 20-22 at the West Lafayette Public Library. Funds will support Hands of **the Future's environmental education** programming, plus bird banding research at the Indiana Audubon **Society's (IAS) Mary Gray Sanctuary.**

SAS has visited this Sanctuary the past two years to see the only hummingbird bander in the state in action. The funds will help replace nets and other equipment, as well as buy sugar for the hummer feeders!

Let Susan Ulrich know if you can help out Friday night from 6:30-8:00 or for a couple of hours Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. or Sunday between 1 and 5 p.m. Several regular volunteers are going to be away leaving her shorthanded. Plants can be dropped off starting Wednesday afternoon and baked goods starting on Friday. Call or email Susan (see p. 9) if you have any questions or can help out.

Always Useful for above

Plant pots and reusable pie tins.

April 28: So Many Plants

So little time! One week after the Bake & Plant Sale is the **Master Gardener's Garden Expo.** SAS is selling plants and other gardening items. Again, donations of plants are needed along with any garden tools, yard art, bird feeders, or garden related items you may want to get rid of. Expo is held in the Swine Barn at the Tippecanoe Co. Fairgrounds in Lafayette (north side of Teal Road between 9th & 18th St.) You can drop off items from 3-6 p.m. Friday, or Saturday morning after 8 a.m. Alternately, call or email Susan Ulrich (see p. 9) for other options. We could use someone to help at the booth a couple of hours between 9 and 1. Over 2,000 buyers attend and the booth gets quite busy!

If you like gardening come see **what's available. There are dozens of** vendors, lots of door prizes, plant lectures, and admission is free. Expo runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Doings in Monticello:

Audubon Nature Clubs are held after school for Monticello elementary children from early April to mid-May. Start time is 3:00 pm at Meadowlawn and Oaklawn Elementary Schools. Start time is 4:00 pm for those going to the Boys & Girls Club at the old Woodlawn location.

Earth Day On Saturday, April 21 Rick Read is leading a bird walk at 7:30 am at Altherr Nature Park for 1-2 hours. Then from 1:00-3:00 pm at Altherr, there will be booths with lots of earth day themes, including a table of bird field guides and binoculars to try out. In the evening Rick is leading a 9 p.m. owling trip lasting an hour or less. Meet at the City Park parking lot.

Live birds. Kim Hoover from *Hoots to Howls* will bring in live birds on

June 15, at 7:00 pm, at the Altherr Nature Park amphitheater.

Monticello Winter Walk

Rick writes that 12 people came for his Winter Walk in Monticello. Weather cooperated with sunshine



and temperatures near 50 degrees. The big treat was a rare event—approximately 50 White Pelicans flew over. This species winters on the southern coasts then moves inland into the central western U.S. to breed.

After an hour birding at Altherr Nature Park everyone enjoyed hot chocolate in the parking lot. A new bird field guide was won by one of the participants. At the end they discussed binoculars since some people were considering upgrading **to something new. A big "thank you"** to Cindy Isom for arranging the walk.

Much of the woodland and grassland in the park had undergone a controlled burn earlier. Burns are one action that helps keep desirable plants while ridding us of undesirable ones. Birds were already right back in the burned area feasting on the newly exposed food.

Fifth Grade Bird Hikes

This year's Audubon bird hikes for West Lafayette's 5th Graders are Tuesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 3. We are always looking for a few

more people to help out. Each group has at least one teacher along who also knows about some birds, so **great expertise isn't needed.** Lafayette area volunteers can carpool at Celery Bog at 6 a.m. or meet at the Whitetail Lodge at Camp Tecumseh at 7 a.m. Breakfast provided afterwards if you wish to stay.

Thank You's

To Jim Klatch for his continued support for the Pookie Fund for SAS environmental education programming. And to Chuck Tuttle and Barney Dunning for fixing an elderly couples bird feeder that needed a new support system. And lastly thank you Don Griffin, Liz & Jim Solberg, and Steve & Carolyn Wood for extra financial contributions to the chapter.

Pull Garlic Mustard

Spring is the season to get rid of Garlic Mustard, an invasive biennial. The RIP Squad will be ripping it out at Celery Bog, Cumberland Woods, Happy Hollow Park, Ross Hills Park, and Prophet's Rock Park this spring. They'd love more help. Email Patty Jones at removeinvasiveplants@WCINPAWS@gmail.com for a schedule or pick one up at Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog. Hours are 3-5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (or go out on your own someplace and help with this pesky plant).

550+ Hours

That's the amount of hours RIP Squad volunteers spent removing invasive plants at city and county parks in 2017. In addition to 14 **community members, Purdue's Alpha Phi Omega group** helped out. Twenty(!) showed up for the *Pulling for Bats* workday in October. Circle K also sent some volunteers and the **Purdue women's club group** *Into Nature* helped out a day at Celery Bog. Thank you, one and all.

CAFO Info Workshop

The League of Women Voters, the Wildcat Guardians and the Hoosier Environmental Council are sponsoring a free educational workshop on factory farms (also known as CAFO or Confined Animal Feeding Operations) on April 28 from 10-2 at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center in Delphi (1030 W Washington St.).

Topics include protecting your community against inappropriate siting; Ensuring existing CAFO's follow the law; becoming more knowledgeable and thus a more effective advocate for improved local and state protections. It's free, but attendees need to RSVP on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carroll-and-tippecanoe-county-cafo-workshop-tickets-43486318750>

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival



Prothonotary Warbler, one of last year's most 'want to see' birds.

Indiana's Only Birding Festival is May 16-19. There's so much going on—great speakers and programs, field trips, art shows, etc. that we don't have room to list it all so go to the web page and see for yourself. You need to sign up in advance for some events and some include fees. Don't delay.

Website <https://indunesbirdingfestival.com/>

Invasive Weed Management Area

Already in Indiana's southern counties, these management areas are now being expanded to northern counties to educate landowners about invasive species and help them with management. A meeting, sponsored by the West Central INPAWS chapter to discuss starting a group for Tippecanoe County is **April 23rd at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park at 7 p.m. Don't live in Tippecanoe County? Come anyway and invite your local Soil and Water Conservation or NRCS person as well. Amber Slaughterback who is one of two people hired to help get weed management groups established in Indiana's northern counties will show us what's been done down south and how to get started here.**

Americus Quarry Update

The Rogers Quarry Company tried an end run via the legislature to **override Tippecanoe County's "no"** to their proposed quarry in Americus. A Bloomington legislator (Rogers Quarry's home base) **offered a bill to bypass local control on logging and mining.**

According to Kay Miller of the **Americus Coalition "It was supposedly written about the timber indus-**

try in the southern part of the state. Having realizing the potential disaster that could happen, our local Representative and Senator worked with the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee to kill the bill in committee. When Commissioner Tom Murtaugh became aware of the wording to bypass the local APC, BZA, Commissioners, etc., he was vocal, contacted WLFI, and kept in touch with Sen. **Alting.**" Note: the bill was added later as a rider to another bill that also failed to pass.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Torpedo at Year of the Birds

In December, the Department of the Interior re-interpreted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to eliminate its ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths. Reversing decades of practice, this legal opinion limits the law and puts hundreds of species of birds at greater risk.

It comes as National Audubon & others are celebrating the Year of the Bird, honoring the 100th anniversary of this visionary law. Passed in 1918 with leadership from Audubon and its chapters, the MBTA protects nearly all of our **country's native birds from being killed without a permit.**

For decades, the law was applied to protect birds from industrial impacts. Millions of birds die from preventable causes such as oil waste pits, oil spills, electric transmission lines.... The MBTA provides incentive for industries to use **common sense practices that save birds' lives. It ensures** responsible parties are held accountable for events killing significant numbers of birds. If this interpretation had been in place after the Gulf oil spill, BP would have been off the hook for killing one million birds and not have been required to pay the fine that is helping restore bird habitat.

Yellowstone Grizzly's

Yellowstone's grizzlies are some of the most famous bears in the world. But now, less than a year after Trump removed their Endangered Species status, Wyoming has released a plan for trophy hunting up to 24 bears this fall after they leave the national park.

The Grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone area have gained numbers since 1975, when they were first protected. But grizzlies overall occupy less than 4 percent of their historic U.S. range — and Yellowstone's bears still face isolation from other populations, loss of critical food sources, and human-caused deaths —which now potentially include human hunting for trophies.

Courtroom Battle over Monuments

Earlier this year Trump issued orders to strip protection from nearly two million acres in two national monuments in Utah: Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears.

Environmental groups immediately filed suit. "Trump's actions are outrageous and illegal" said Sharon Buccino, Director of NRDC's Land & Wildlife program. "The law grants presidents the authority to create national monuments to protect our special lands and waters for future generations; it does not grant them the authority to destroy our monuments and hand them over to polluters and private interests."

Trump's administration has recommended two other monuments be reduced and six more opened up for industrial extraction use (i.e. mining) and three marine monuments would be opened up to commercial fishing.

Bobcat Hunting Season??

Bobcats, once nearly eradicated before being put on **Indiana's endangered species list, could now find themselves** on the other end of hunters' rifles or traps. The state's Department of Natural Resources proposes creating a hunting and trapping season for Indiana's only native wild cat.

Taken off the state's endangered species list in 2005, the bobcat population has been expanding in recent years, according to DNR officials. The agency touts as a huge conservation win, which it is.

Wildlife and environmental groups agree that Bobcat numbers have gradually grown since that time, largely in part to Indiana's endangered species protections. That said, they argue that there is not specific data to show that their population could support opening a season, and they fear doing so could threaten the recovery that's been made.

Tell the Indiana Department of Natural Resources if you don't want bobcats hunted or trapped. These uncommon & **elusive animals can't speak for themselves.**

Trump's offshore drilling plan: an estimated 5,500+ oil spills

According to the Center for Biological Diversity Trump's proposal to dramatically ramp up offshore drilling could lead to 5,571 oil spills dumping 34.4 million gallons of oil into ocean waters off Alaska, the West and East coasts, and the Gulf of Mexico through the span of oil production. This is over 10 times what was expected in the worst-case scenario for the offshore leasing plan approved by the Obama administration, which only included leases in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Cook Inlet.

Dr. Abel Valdivia, the Center scientist who conducted the analysis says, "No president has ever pushed a drilling plan that would do so much damage along so many American coastlines. It's really astonishing."

Legislation aimed at Shark Trade

One-quarter of all species of sharks, rays, and skates are threatened with extinction due to overfishing. But new U.S. legislation, the Sustainable Shark Trade Act, would put in place protections to help these marine animals — and that's where you come in. Tell your representatives to support the Sustainable Shark Trade Act.

This legislation will help ensure that all shark, ray, and skate products entering U.S. markets come from fisheries that are held to the same high management standards that U.S. fisheries follow. This would help level the playing field for U.S. fisheries — a win/win for wildlife and U.S. fishermen!

(from: *Wildlife Conservation Society*)

Spring Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2018

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.

- March 22 and following Thursdays Early Bird Walks at Celery Bog. These morning walks start up again as the spring migrants and summer residents return. Meet at 8 a.m. at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog every Thursday morning through spring migration and see what changes there are each week in the bird populations..
- April 12 Thursday **Program: *Using Genetics for Conservation*.** Nadia Fernandez, Purdue, Forestry and Natural Resources, graduate student. Nadia is using natural shed feathers for genetics studies to find out what their DNA reveals. She will use a study of White-tailed Sea Eagles she worked on to show how it helped to estimate population size, natal philopatry, and roosting behavior, along with her current work on Golden Eagles in California. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, WL. Refreshments and free parking.
- April 20-22 Friday—Sunday Conservation Bake & Plant Sale. West Lafayette Public Library Friday 6:30-8 p.m., Saturday, 10-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. See p. 2. Donations and especially HELP needed.
- April 22 Sunday Earth Day Audubon at the Overlook from 6:30-8:30 pm. Join us for watching the evening flight of birds from the Prophetstown overlook (reached from the prominent paved trail leading from the last parking lot in Prophetstown State Park).
- April 28 Saturday Garden Expo 2018. Plant Sale. Swine Barn at the Fairgrounds 10-3 p.m. Come buy a plant or two, or donate a plant or two. See more on p.2. HELP needed.
- May 1 and 3 Tues & Thurs Fifth Grade Bird Hikes at Camp Tecumseh. Few more helpers needed. See page 3. Carpool at 6 a.m. at Celery Bog gravel parking area to carpool or go on your own.
- May 5 Saturday **Practice for next week's "Big Day in May."** Spend the morning in Prophetstown around the Overlook. We will be at the dam bordering the large pond from 7:30-9:30 am. This site is also accessible from the last parking lot on the main road into the state park. After that we will check other areas of the park for additional species.
- May 10 Thursday **Program: *Spring Break in Costa Rica & Panama*.** Barny Dunning with help from the students that went on this Spring Break course. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, WL. Refreshments and free parking. There will be an opportunity to SIGN Up for the May Count and get the forms to fill out and return.
- May 12 Saturday **Big Day in May Bird Event.** Groups (and individuals) spread out over Tippecanoe & Warren counties counting birds for as long as they can. Tippecanoe counters gather for a compilation party that evening to see what people saw. Contact the compilers for details (see p.1) and/or come to our May 10th Member's meeting to get territory assignments and forms.
- May 19 Saturday Mind BOGgling Event. Celery Bog Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lots of family friendly events including crafts, live animal programs (10:15 – 11:00 by Carol Blacketer); Lilly Nature Center new display dedication (11:20) Creepy Crawley walk (11:30 Mary Cutler) plus more walks, display booths, bug hikes and scavenger hunt, glass enclosed honeybee colony, and the Emergency Munchee Food truck from 11-1:30.
- June 1 through July 31 Summer Bird Breeding Count. Like the Big Day in May count, this is also done by county boundaries, however since there are 61 days to find birds you can count anything seen over that period and in any of number of **Indiana's 92 counties. Barny Dunning does collect the data for Tippecanoe County and Susan Ulrich for Warren (it's easier on the state compiler to have a single list from a county rather than 5 or more).** Any information on nesting activity from courtship behavior to actual nests to juveniles being fed by an adult are especially wanted including even common species. These counts help document changes in breeding ranges along with late spring or early fall migrants. If you see something rare or unusual, report it.
- June 2 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook. 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Meet Chuck Tuttle at the overlook to see what birds are moving around. Birds seen will be included in the Summer Breeding Bird Count (above)
- June 9 Saturday Kankakee Sands and Bison Viewing. Meet 6:30 am EST at the gravel parking lot, Celery Bog, to carpool up to Kankakee Sands, the restored prairie in Newton County managed by The Nature Conservancy. We will spend the morning looking for specialty birds of the area such as Lark Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Bell's Vireo and Blue Grosbeak, as well as any wetland birds that might be in the area. At 11 am EST, we will join Barb Lucas, Audubon member and TNC docent, to look for and learn about the herd of bison that were brought into the Kankakee Sands in the past year. We can also look over the site for the proposed CAFO (p.1).

Nature Notes & News

● Dec 11. was cold and cloudy at the Celery Bog. Russ Allison reports most of the water was frozen. The open areas were 'standing room only' dominated by Mallards and Canada Geese, but there were 40 American Coot, 10 Gadwall & 20 Northern Shovelers mixed in.

● Dec. 14 Gary Overdorf reported a Snowy Owl in southern White County not far from the Tippecanoe County line. Barny, Dunning, Chuck Tuttle and others saw the bird (photo) which stayed around for at least a week. The bird actually entered Tippecanoe county briefly but not on Christmas Count day.



Photo Chuck Tuttle

● A Northern Shrike was seen intermittently at Prophetstown for a few weeks in December. It was even seen by Becky and Larry Theller on the CBC Dec. 16 and Chuck Tuttle and Mark Arvin got to see the bird on Dec. 20.

● A week later Larry Miller noted three large groups of Sandhill Cranes flying over their SE Tippecanoe County residence headed south.

● John Skene started off 2018 with a stop at Fort Ouiatenon in Tippecanoe County Jan. 6 and saw a Common Goldeneye plus a dozen other species.

● Jan 8 Fritz Davis stopped at Celery Bog in late afternoon and had a drake Common Goldeneye along with 300 Canada Geese.

● Dorothy Jones enjoyed watching a Carolina Wren foraging in leaf litter while she ate lunch at Happy Hollow Park Jan. 9. Leaving the park, she drove up the hill and had a perched buteo which turned out to be a Red-shouldered Hawk.

● On Jan 18 John Skene was at Prophetstown S.P. He saw 25 bird species including a Screech Owl. His photograph of the bird is to the right.

● Barny Dunning spent a half hour at Celery Bog January 25 scouting for the Jan. 27 field trip. Mixed in with the 800 or so Canada Geese was a single Snow Goose and a small flock of Greater White-fronted Geese. There might have been some Cackling Geese but they were asleep so their identity couldn't be confirmed..



● The next day John Skene had 33 species at Celery Bog including 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 250 White-fronted Geese and 6 Snow Geese along with six species of ducks,

● Eleven people met on the 27th for the SAS field trip. The weather was much milder, which may have encouraged people to attend. Unfortunately neither the Snow Goose or Greater White-fronted Goose remained at the Bog but there were ducks and a young Bald Eagle cruised through. At Prophetstown everyone got to see three Long-eared Owls tucked into their hidey-holes. But a swing through southern White County failed to locate the Snowy Owl. It had left and was not seen again.

● One goose seen in January at the Bog led to some i.d. discussion among birders. The general consensus seems to be it was a hybrid Barnacle Goose x Cackling Goose rather than a Barnacle Goose. If you have a photo please get it to Barny Dunning (see p.9).

● Chuck Tuttle's feeders keeps getting Common Redpolls. He had some Feb. 14 along with a Red-breasted Nuthatch. A day earlier there was a Pine Siskin. He had intermittent Redpolls up to March 15.

● Feb 24 Susan Ulrich had two Tufted Titmice that seemed to be fighting to the death. She went out and had to separate the two combatants by hand.

● Weather was poor Feb. 24 for the field trip so Barny and Chuck Tuttle who showed up cancelled the trip. Someone who birded the Bog that day did report an American Woodcock. It was the first local one this spring although a woodcock was heard in Montgomery County Feb. 20.

● Later Barny Dunning checked a few wetland sites and got VERY lucky — twice. His first luck was at Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in Benton County. Several lines of Greater White-fronted

Geese flew right over his head, heading north. There were some white birds with them. His estimate was 500 White-fronted and 20-30 Snow Geese. The geese did not stop at the wetland, so it was pure luck that he was there as they passed over. Pine Creek was full of water and there were sizeable numbers of Mal-

lards and Canada Geese, plus a few Northern Pintail. A falcon he suspects was a Merlin flew over, too.

● Barny's second "luck" was spotting

thousands of geese flying in swarms low over the fields to the east of 231 as he was returning home. He found two areas south of C.R. 850 N with flocks of thousands of geese. The vast majority were Greater White-fronted Geese, with several dozen Snow Geese mixed in.

● Russ Allison noticed flights of geese heading north over Prophetstown S.P. that day, along with 2 Red-winged Blackbirds at his feeders & 2 Turkey Vultures fling low over the neighborhood.

● By March 3 Chuck Tuttle reports only one Long-eared Owl was left at Prophetstown S.P. He saw quite a few Eastern Bluebirds, as well as a lot of Bald Eagles. In the flood waters in front of the Overlook, there were some monster fish. Some were 3-4 feet long and close to a foot wide at the head. Ring-billed Gulls were over the flooded area along with one un-identified larger brown gull. Mark Arvin, at the park earlier in the week, reported Eastern Meadowlarks were back, and Russ Allison noted the pair of Sandhill Cranes were hanging out near the farm. (Chuck's photo of the owl is below). Later that month (the 26th) Chuck found a second Long-eared Owl at the roost,



● March 19 Rick Read went out for a seven mile boat trip on Lake Freeman, ending up with seeing 22 bird species. The most notable were 40 Common Loons, 100 Lesser Scaup, a Horned Grebe, 320 Ring-billed Gulls, and 8 Red-breasted Mergansers.

● Back from two weeks in Costa Rica and Panama, Barny Dunning led an Early Bird walk at Celery Bog on March 22. He was happy to see 30 Tree Swallows, his first of the spring, plus lots of Ring-necked Ducks and a fly-by group of mergansers, probably Red-breasted..

● On March 29 the Early Bird Hike drew 9 people to Celery Bog. It was a pretty gray day, but a good assortment of water birds were on the 45 minute walk. Highlights were a basic plumage Horned Grebe (two seen Tuesday were alternate plumage), first Blue-winged Teal and Purple Martin for the spring.

We also had our first spring warbler (Yellow-rumped). A hybrid teal reported the previous day was not seen.

● John Skene reports the leucistic Robin known as "Lucy" was at Celery Bog March 30—the third year for the bird. His list of 56 bird species included a number of waterfowl, residents, and returning migrants such as Red-winged Blackbirds and Grackles.



Attraction to Fungicide May Help Explain Bee Declines

A University of Illinois Entomology professor found honey bees have a slight preference for food laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil at certain concentrations. When given the choice, honey bee foragers chose sugar syrup laced with the fungicide chlorothalonil over sugar syrup alone. The puzzling finding comes on the heels of other studies linking fungicides to declines in honey bee and wild bee populations. One recent study, for example, found parallels between the use of chlorothalonil and the presence of *Nosema bombi*, a fungal parasite, in bumble bees. Greater chlorothalonil use was also linked to range contractions in four declining bumble bee species.

People assume that fungicides affect only fungi," said Dr. Berenbaum, who led the new research with postdoctoral researcher Ling-Hsiu Liao. "But fungi are much more closely related to animals than they are to plants. And toxins that disrupt physiological processes in fungi can also potentially affect them in animals, including insects."

Trials revealed that honey bees preferred the naturally occurring chemical quercetin over controls at all concentrations tested. That makes sense, because everything the honey

Indiana Audubon Society Field Trips

Falling Springs Early Warblers Field Trip- April 7

Join IAS for an exclusive field trip to the Falling Springs Bird Sanctuary property in Orange Co., owned by John and Karen Lindsey. This amazing property features deep ravines and gorges among shaded hardwood forest. It is home to a diversity of bird life, particularly in migration. For nature enthusiasts, the geologic, floral, and wildlife features are also impressive. Falling Springs is a great place to find nesting Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers, and should time right with many migratory neo-tropic birds going north.

Lye Creek Burn Field Trip- April 14

The Lye Creek Burn is an 88-acre wetland in north central Montgomery County that is a part of the larger Lye Creek Prairie and an excellent site to view Smith's Longspurs and American Golden Plovers. By this date, an assortment of waterbirds, shorebirds, and sparrows should also be present. Registration (free) will go fast for this unique trip.

Iiwi ABA Bird of the Year

With Hawaii's inclusion in the ABA Area in 2016, the state's extraordinary native birdlife was added to the ABA Checklist, a process that was finalized in 2017. Birders in the United States and Canada, and indeed those around the world who keep an ABA list, were suddenly introduced to Akekes and Apapanes and Akohekohes, a whole menagerie of exotic looking birds with even more exotic sounding names.

And while there certainly are a great many spectacular honeycreepers on the Hawaiian Islands, if there is one prototypical **Hawaiian honeycreeper it's the Iiwi** (pronounced (ee-EE-vee). There could scarcely be a better representative of the family to give the full Bird of the Year treatment and fully welcome Hawaii into the ABA Birding Area.



bees eat has quercetin in it," Berenbaum said. "There's quercetin in nectar, there's quercetin in pollen. Quercetin is in honey and beebread, and it's a reliable cue that bees use to recognize food."

To the researchers' surprise, the bees also preferred sugar syrup laced with glyphosate – the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup herbicide – at 10 parts per billion, but not at higher concentrations. And while the bees actively avoided syrup containing the fungicide prochloraz, they showed a mild preference for sugar syrup laced with chlorothalonil at 0.5 and 50 parts per billion, but not at 500 ppb. The new

findings are worrisome in light of research showing that exposure to fungicides interferes with honey bees' ability to metabolize the acaricides used by beekeepers to kill the parasitic varroa mites that infest their hives, the researchers said.

The research was reported in the Journal Scientific Reports. The study was supported by the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the Interdisciplinary Environmental Toxicology Program at the U of I and the Almond Board of California.

Cornell Lab Bird Cams
[<birdcams@cornell.edu>](mailto:birdcams@cornell.edu)

Christmas Count Comments

Looking over the results to the right you can see that this Christmas Count season produced a lot of waterfowl, with 21 species of ducks and geese plus 8 other waterbirds reported. Once again Willow Slough had the worst weather with cold temperatures and heavy snow, but fortuitously many of the birds were found right along the **roadsides. The count's unique species** included Gray Catbird, Rusty Blackbird, and a lingering Vesper Sparrow.

Lafayette's count had decent weather and ended up with a much better than average total. Many of the unique species were water related: **Great Egret, Ross' Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser.** Six owl species is probably a record for that family. The Long-eared, Short-eared and Northern Saw-whet were all unique, but no Snowy Owl turned up although it was nip and tuck at the north arc of the Lafayette Count Circle. But 2 counts out of 3 with a Snowy Owl is phenomenal.

The Cass County CBC turned up what may be the most surprising bird: a Virginia Rail. They also had the only Turkey Vulture, Snow Goose, Green-winged Teal, Winter Wren, Mockingbird, Field Sparrow and Eastern Towhee found on the three counts.



Area Christmas Bird Counts 2017

Species Name:	Laf	WS/I	Cass
Great Blue Heron	20	1	31
Great Egret	1	0	0
Turkey Vulture	0	0	61
Gr-white Fronted Goose	27	0	7
Snow Goose	0	0	21
Ross' Goose	1	0	0
Canada Goose	2366	678	769
Mute Swan	6	0	0
Tundra Swan	1	0	0
Wood Duck	3	0	4
Gadwall	85	0	9
American Wigeon	103	0	0
American Black Duck	5	0	0
Mallard	1412	2	167
Northern Shoveler	50	0	0
Northern Pintail	1	0	1
Green-winged Teal	0	0	1
Redhead	10	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	9	0	0
Lesser Scaup	12	0	0
Bufflehead	1	0	0
Common Goldeneye	3	0	6
Hooded Merganser	2	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	5
Bald Eagle	14	3	22
Northern Harrier	11	8	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	0	0
Cooper's Hawk	8	3	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	9
Red-tailed Hawk	47	25	41
Rough-legged Hawk	8	20	13
Golden Eagle	1	0	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	56	4
Wild Turkey	4	7	16
American Coot	50	3	0
Virginia Rail	0	0	1
Sandhill Crane	0	0	311
Wilson's Snipe	2	0	0
Ring-billed Gull	368	0	58
Herring Gull	1	0	0
Rock Pigeon	319	26	98
Eurasian Collared Dove	0	2	4
Mourning Dove	295	56	76
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	3	2
Great Horned Owl	3	8	2
Snowy Owl	0	1	1
Barred Owl	1	2	2
Long-eared Owl	2	0	0
Short-eared Owl	3	0	0
N Saw-whet Owl	1	0	0
Belted Kingfisher	17	0	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	3	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	22	39
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	3
Downy Woodpecker	86	16	47
Hairy Woodpecker	14	11	8
Northern Flicker	18	12	15
Pileated Woodpecker	18	3	12
American Kestrel	9	2	19
Northern Shrike	1	1	0
Blue Jay	84	104	137
American Crow	399	152	379

Species Name:	Laf	WS/I	Cass
Horned Lark	20	407	15
Carolina Chickadee	129	0	15
Black-capped Chickadee	0	9	0
Tufted titmouse	73	4	58
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6	4	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	101	21	67
Brown Creeper	50	1	12
Winter Wren	0	0	8
Carolina Wren	52	cw	34
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13	0	4
Eastern Bluebird	48	19	34
Hermit Thrush	0	3	1
American Robin	57	4	37
Gray Catbird	0	1	0
Mockingbird	0	0	1
European Starling	3185	84	916
Cedar Waxwing	4	24	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler	cw	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	135	571	42
Field Sparrow	0	0	2
Fox Sparrow	2	18	7
Song Sparrow	75	27	43
Savannah Sparrow	0	cw	0
Vesper Sparrow	0	1	0
Swamp Sparrow	6	3	11
White-throated Sparrow	51	17	72
White-crowned Sparrow	18	28	12
Dark-eyed Junco	246	478	213
Eastern Towhee	0	0	3
Common Grackle	1	0	1
Rusty Blackbird	0	6	0
Brown-headed Cowbird	73	34	33
Purple Finch	1	25	2
House Finch	117	119	54
Red Crossbill	cw	0	0
Pine Siskin	8	0	37
American Goldfinch	134	20	97
House Sparrow	331	166	202
Total Individuals	11,152	4,308	4,719
Total Species	82	60	76

In all, 105 species including the count week birds (cw) were found on the three counts combined.

Participants Tippecanoe County included 18 observers in 12 parties plus 1 feeder watcher: Delano, Kevin & Mark Arvin, Mike Brattain, Alan Bruner, Barny Dunning, Ed Hopkins (compiler), Elsa Janle, Rusty McIntyre, Dillen Ng, Gary Overdorf, Debbie & Rick Read, John Skene, Larry and Rebecca Theller, Chuck Tuttle, Susan Ulrich and Megan Zagorski.

Willow-Slough Iroquois Preserves had 7 participants: Ken Brock, John Cassady, Edward Hopkins (compiler), Gary & Bronson Ratcliff, Lynn Vernon and Jed Hertz.

Cass County had 10 observers: Landon Neumann (compiler), Bud Dodrill, Steve Doud, Becky Heck, John Felton, Eric Ripma, Aidan Rominger, Joe & Less Schidler, Tyler Stewart & Susan Ulrich.

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 Audubon Society's (NAS)** national conservation efforts by becoming an official member of NAS (\$20). Contact SAS's membership chair for information. When you join NAS, you 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 give directly to our local chapter and its projects.

SAS 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 Friend member ☐ Renewing Friend

I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by ☐ email ☐ paper

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

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What's More Threatened than Rhinos and Elephants?

Vultures. Poachers don't want hundreds of circling vultures pointing the authorities towards recently-killed elephants or rhinos, so they target the birds by lacing other animal carcasses with poisons. In South Africa, in just 15 years, the vulture population has dropped by 80 per cent, mostly through poisoning. In Namibia, more than 500 vultures were poisoned in just one tragedy.

Vultures eat disease, don't let them die out.

Billions of Bird Migrate. Where do they go?

Migratory birds have made their thousand-mile flights for millennia. Now thanks to National Geographic, citizen science input, and improved research methods, you can use the following interactive story map to track the migration patterns of seven species of birds. You can also listen to a short recording for each species and view an animation of that bird's migratory pattern.

www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/03/bird-migration-interactive-maps

Tidbits

◆ 70% of native bees nest in the ground. Reserving areas of dry, bare, undisturbed ground provides places for them to raise their young in the early spring. The remaining 30 percent nest in tunnels in stumps and snags.

◆ Dandelion seeds ripen just in time for migrating goldfinch and Indigo Buntings. You can enjoy them too: young greens taste similar to arugula in salads.

◆ 35% of US housing contains at least some lead-based paint according to a 2011 survey.

◆ A mantis can jump as unerringly as a cat, controlling its trajectory through an intricate series of twists and turns distributed across its legs and body, all to ensure a flawless landing on a ridiculously small target.

◆ Did you know that used coffee grounds can actually remove heavy metals such as lead and mercury from water? How much they remove, and how quickly under various conditions is under investigation.

◆ Tree Swallow eggs are pale pink when laid but turn white within four days.

◆ A small midge is needed for the production of chocolate. Except for difficult hand pollination, Cacao trees require certain midges to pollinate their flowers and form the cacao pods & seeds.



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2018 Year of the Bird

Audubon: For March of the Year of the Bird call-to-action across all 175 **partner organizations will be ... Plants for Birds!**

We've shared our Plants for Birds database and resources with all the organizations in the Year of the Bird partnership so that we can connect even more people with local Plants for Birds programs across the Audubon network. **We've also updated our Plants for Birds materials with Year of the Bird branding:** What can you do to participate in Year of the Bird this month? Plant bird-friendly plants! Birds often rely on plants in our yards, and other spaces for habitat and food and the best plants to provide this are those native to your area.

To know the best plants suited for your area, search Audubon's native plants database at www.audubon.org/native-plants using your zip code. You can even search based on the birds you want to attract and the type of plants you want in your garden.



By growing the best bird-friendly plants for your area, you will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment—and this month is the perfect time to get started.

Learn more and find plants for the birds at
<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Note: local places to find native plants include SAS's Bake & Plant Sale (April 20-22 WL Library) and Garden Expo (April 28 Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds) where SAS, INPAWS, the Master Gardeners, Prophetstown State Park & some other vendors will have native plants for sale)