



Sycamore Warbler

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Summer 2018

National Audubon files suit against the Department of the Interior

In May Audubon filed *Audubon v. Dept. of the Interior* to challenge the administration's attack on our country's most important bird protection law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). In December, bucking decades of policy and practice, the Department of Interior declared it will no longer enforce the MBTA for any unintentional bird deaths caused by industry. Since then, NAS has been fighting hard to protect the MBTA. Here is a letter from David Yarnold, NAS president, explaining why Audubon is suing.

"Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act 100 years ago in response to public outcry over the mass slaughter of birds for their feathers. At one point, an ounce of egret feathers was worth more than an ounce of gold—all to use for the fashion industry. Efforts to pass the law were led by Audubon chapters and ultimately became National Audubon Society's founding victory. In December, bucking decades of policy and practice, the Department of the Interior declared it won't enforce the law for any unintentional bird deaths caused by industry."

"As you can imagine, many causes of bird fatalities—including oil spills—could fall into this "unintentional" category, so we're taking the administration to court. The MBTA has inspired some businesses to lead the way with innovations that have saved birds by the million. It's rescued avian species that once verged on extinction. And it's held companies accountable for the bird deaths they cause, (more p.



Prairie Warbler

May Count Comments Results on page 8

Barny Dunning's Comments: "Tippecanoe had perhaps the smallest group of participants for the Big Day in May than it's had in quite a few years. So, of course, it had a high number of species seen. Just goes to show that the folks who were missing this year just were a drag on our performance in the past (I was one of the missing). My totals show 153 species were reported by the 9 participants, short of the 161 species seen in 2013 and the 155 seen in 2011 (although I am missing a couple of recent years) but higher than other years going back to 2006. Last year we had 142 species. Highlights include a female Bufflehead at Celery Bog, single Olive-sided and Alder Flycatchers, two Marsh Wrens at Prophetstown, a Prairie Warbler at the airport, and Del Arvin's unique "big bird feeder" that hosted 70 Turkey Vultures. The biggest miss of the day was Belted Kingfisher. We also added Mississippi Kite to the Big Day list for Tippecanoe County as the breeding birds on Knox Drive came back just in time to be recorded. Over the years (at least going back to 1996), we have recorded 235 different species in Tippecanoe County on the Big Day."

Susan Ulrich's Comments: Warren County had fewer participants than usual, too. There were only 3 parties, one of which could only go until noon. The count ended up with a respectable 133 species (the same as last year). They included the first Sandhill Cranes for the count and the second time for a Black Vulture. The latter was feeding on a roadside carcass near Cicott park.



Black Vulture. Photo by Ellen Tobias

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CHAPTER NEWS

New Board Members

SAS welcomes THREE new board members this year. Jennifer Outcalt, (secretary) Jennifer Tuttle (treasurer), and George Kopcha (at large). Thanks for stepping up!

See you in September

SAS's next membership meeting is September 13 at Lilly Nature Center. It starts with a carry-in-dinner at 6 p.m. and is followed by the "Bring Your Own" program. What's that? Members and friends provide the program by bringing five minutes or so of their pictures to share. They don't have to be bird pictures, maybe you've been on an interesting trip in or out of the country, maybe you take pictures of plants, butterflies, other wildlife, etc. The program officially starts at 7:15. Love to have you join us. Don't have time to make anything to eat? Come anyway. There's always plenty. The Society supplies plates, utensils, napkins, cups, and some beverages.

Getting into Birding ...

was the theme for SAS at June ninth's Outdoor Explore. Outdoor Explore gives people a chance to briefly explore up to 30 outdoor activities. Part were held at the Tippecanoe Amphitheater and part at the new Bicentennial Nature Park. SAS was at the latter which also hosted the water sports.

It's a free event open to all ages. It allowed visitors to "explore" potential new hobbies. Chuck Tuttle and Susan Ulrich represented Audubon. SAS's booth focused on binoculars & how to use them, and bird books & birding apps to help with identifying birds. Children and beginners got a bird checklist with color photos of 19 common birds and information about each species.

Turkey Legs Anyone?

October 6-7 are the dates for the 51st annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. SAS plans on selling Turkey Legs again. This is our only Audubon fund raiser of the year that supports the chapter itself, helping pay for the



newsletter, insurance, postage. etc. To be one of the two dozen volunteers who get free Feast admission both days for one 4-hour shift at the booth, contact Barny Dunning (p. 9).

Riverfest July 14

Come celebrate the Wabash River July 14 at this year's Riverfest held in West Lafayette's Tapawingo Park (between the pedestrian bridge and the Main Street bridge). Up to 20 nonprofits will be there with games, information and handouts. Water permitting there will be voyageur canoe races (including one between West Lafayette and Lafayette city personnel), free pony rides, 5-K race, a tadpole race for children, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, climbing wall, zip line, and much more. Hours are from 9-4.

If you can help for an hour or two at the booth let Susan Ulrich know (p. 9). It's fun talking to people stopping by & helping kids with a craft project

Sale Set New Record

This Spring's Bale and Plant sale raised \$974.10 (yes, \$974.10, close

to \$1,000) which beats the previous best by over \$100. We couldn't have done it without help and donations from many people, and of course all the customers who came by.

Special thanks to Karen Griggs, Mary Sue Waser, Marilyn Heinze, Anna Welch, MaryAnn McGill & Susan Ulrich for helping at the booth, to the three unknown family members who stopped and helped set up the booth, and to Elsa Janle, Ann Piechota, Jim Klatch, Tom Johnson, and Barbara & Russ Allison for their extra support and donations.

The funds were divided between Friends of the Kankakee and Tucson Audubon Society's Paton Hummingbird Center's Capital Campaign. Both groups sent SAS nice thank you notes. Info on their plans on p. 3.

One Week later:

The remaining plants plus more plants were sold at Garden Expo put on by the Tippecanoe Co. Master Gardeners. Funds from this sale go for local invasive plant removal efforts. Thanks to Elsa Janle, MaryAnn McGill, Susan Ulrich and SAS plant donors, the coffers increased by \$396.70. That will take out a lot of honeysuckle, garlic mustard, burning bush, etc. in local parks. Thanks also to Temple Pearson who again loaned her driveway as a plant donation drop off spot, and Mary Sue Waser and Karen Griggs who helped move plants from there to the Expo.

Wanted for Plant Sales

- 1) 4 inch clay plant pots (3 1/2" is o.k.) for Elsa Janle who donates 60 or more blooming African Violets each year to SAS's plant sales—that means finding or buying 60+ clay pots every 12 months.
- 2) Other plastic flower pots 3" diameter or more. SAS uses over 500 plant

pots for the two bake & plant sales and Garden Expo sale each year so are grateful to those of you providing a steady supply.

3) Pie tins. Plates to give away with cakes are nice too, but pie tins are in **short supply. Have extras from pie's you've bought? Donate them.**

These items and others can be brought to SAS membership meetings, field trips, or other events, or contact Susan Ulrich (see p. 9) to make other arrangements.

Author! Author!

Board member. Zonda Bryant, is the author of a new book for children called, *The Mystery of the Butterfly Bush*. The 62 page paperback book is elegantly illustrated by Julie Zimmerman.

It came out May 31st and is 6" by 9" in size. The publisher is selling it for \$17.06 (a 10% discount). It is also available in various formats on Amazon, with the nook version available at Barnes and Noble.

Board Action

SAS's board voted to donate \$250 to two birdathons done by previous SAS Board Members. One was **the Amos Butler's Birdathon (Indiana)** in which Wes Homoya participated, the other was the Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin which Diane Packett was involved with. Money raised by both supports bird research and habitat protection.

SAS Thanked

SAS received thank you letters from Tucson Audubon and Friends of the Kankakee for our Bake & Plant Sale donations. **Goals for Tucson Audubon's capital campaign are to demolish and remove an existing structure on the property, construct a new caretaker's house and lastly to create a designated fund to support the ongoing maintenance of the**



Come Join Us! Programs are free.

Children ages 3 years old to 8th grade

3 year old to Kindergarten (group A) – 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

First and Second grades (group B) – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Third to Fifth grades (group C) – 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Sixth to Eighth grades (group D) – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Dirty Dirt or Splendid Soil?-	6/5	(A & B)	6/12 (C)	6/19 (D)
The Art of Nature-	6/26	(A & B)	7/31 (C)	8/7 (D)
Hello! Can You Find Me?-	8/14	(A & B)	8/21 (C)	8/28 (D)
The Ants Go Marching On...	9/11	(A & B)	9/18 (C)	9/25 (D)
Fall Madness	10/2	(A & B)	10/9 (C)	10/16(D)
Give A Hoot!	10/23	(A & B)	10/30 (C & D)	
Food For All	11/6	(A & B)	11/13 (C & D)	
Let's Celebrate	11/27	(A & B)	12/4 (C & D)	

Call Lilly Nature Center at 765-366-9126 for more information.

Pelican Shootings lead to Charges

Two Newton Illinois teenagers have been charged with the illegal shooting of 6 White Pelicans at the Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area in early April. Charges were filed with the Jasper County States Attorney on April 14 following an investigation conducted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Police and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Five of the Pelicans were found dead, the sixth was wounded and taken to the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine for treatment. Because juveniles were involved in the case, the names of the subjects are not being released at this time.

The two male subjects were charged with Unlawful take of migratory waterfowl with a rifle; Unlawful discharge of a firearm from a public roadway; Unlawful firing of a rifle over/into waters of the state; and Unlawfully disturbing/harassing wild birds by the use or aid of a motor vehicle. Newton Lake is about 35 miles WNW of Vincennes, IN.

house and grounds.

For years now the Friends of the Kankakee have acquired parcels of land from willing sellers to connect Willow Slough with Iroquois Preserves in Illinois. They expect a

number of possible acquisitions to **arise this year. SAS's donation will help fill the acquisition coffers so funds will be available. Some of the Friends' land was donated to the new Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge.**

Nature Notes & News

- April 08, Patty Jischke wrote about finding a Common Snipe on her property, "I think my 9-year effort at creating an oasis for wildlife (especially birds) is really beginning to pay off!"



Wilson's Snipe

- Apr 20 John Skene found 2 Pine Warblers along with 40 other species of birds in 3 hours at Ross Hills Park
- Barny Dunning visited Pine Creek Gamebird Area in eastern Benton County April 28 with a family friend. He was happy to see there were good amounts of mudflats and shallow water, especially in the southernmost basin where there were over 200 shorebirds including both yellowleg species, Wilson's Snipe, alternate plumage Dunlin, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Another visitor posted they had counted just the two yellowlegs species and ended up with over 175 birds.
- May 1 Chuck Tuttle had two friendly Red-breasted Nuthatches at his feeder.
- In a 30 minute visit to Celery Bog on May 2 (prior to a 9 am meeting), Barny Dunning had his "first of the spring" Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, Indigo Bunting, Gray Catbird, Northern Parula, plus Tennessee, Black-and-white, and Magnolia Warblers. He notes there was not a lot of singing but plenty of activity.

- Rick Read noted all the activity that day up in Monticello. He sent the following on May 3: "These last few days had southerly winds that brought more than just warm temperatures; they brought a boat-load of migrating land birds! "

"It's just awesome. I've got red, white, blue, yellow, orange, and black colors all over. There's 4-6 Baltimore Orioles fighting each other for the orange halves and grape jelly I put out for them. 6 or 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are competing for time on the tray feeder to get the sunflower seeds. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are chasing each other

away from my nectar feeder to save it for themselves. A male Northern Cardinal keeps flying into its reflection in our dining room window to chase off the 'other male' in its territory. Blue Jays are sitting on a nest in the crabapple tree outside my office window. House Wrens are chattering around the yard and staking claims to the 3 boxes I have out for them, one filled with twigs sticking out all over."

"I hear Yellow Warblers singing their "sweet-sweet-sweet, so sweet" songs. My Warbling Vireo is warbling away. Chimney Swifts are chittering overhead scooping the insect swarms. Barn Swallows are doing the same. American Goldfinches are in full breeding color—brilliant yellow—streaking through the yard."

- The May 3 Early Bird Hike was decent in spite of the wind and rain. Barny Dunning reports the group had what was his first of Spring Gray-cheeked Thrush, Baltimore Oriole, Least Flycatcher, Chestnut-sided Warbler, sum Golden-winged Warbler, plus a sizeable flyover of cormorants.
- After an hour enjoying Celery Bog's birds on the above hike, Karen Griggs returned home to find a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her yard.



- Instead of cleaning out her dead bee hive on May 5, Joan Samuels ended up enjoying the antics of three red fox kits. "It looks like the foxes have a den under my pool deck and at one point all three fox kits and the mom whom they were nursing from (while she was standing up...!) were out on the little terraced area I had put in alongside the deck last year and planted with some native plants."

The Mom was out of sight most of the time, while the three fox kits (two shown above) romped about, wrestled with each other, ventured out a short distance into the woods, and ran up onto the pool deck and onto the pool cover to

take a drink from the rainwater collected". She also noted them playing with leaves or clumps of dirt and even occasionally chasing their tail like a cat.

- While Joan watched foxes, John Skene went to Celery Bog for three hours where he enjoyed the sights which included 79 bird species. His most unusual bird was a Common Moorhen (relative of the Coot) but he also spotted 18 Sora Rails, a Wilson's Snipe and a dozen species of Warbler.

- May 5th was also SAS's trip to Prophetstown State Park. Members of the Sycamore Audubon Society did a Big Sit (actually a Big Stand) next to the pond at Prophetstown ending up with 72 species for the two-hour effort. Highlights included 5 species of shorebirds, both orioles, numerous migrating Blue Jays going by, and lots of Henslow's Sparrows singing in the prairie as the group drove in. They also talked with a good number of park visitors about birds.

- A few days later Barny Dunning made one of his regular visit to Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area. His reward? Eight species of shorebirds including 3 Short-billed Dowitcher and a late pair of Green-winged Teal.

- May 8 Larry Miller wrote saying it was a big spring for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. He had 16 at his feeder at one time. Other local birders also reported hungry migrating Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at sunflower feeders.

- Karen Griggs went to the Indiana Dunes birding festival again this year and reports that Wes Homoya gave a good presentation about birds in Costa Rica and that birds at the early morning observation platform on the edge of the state park beach included orioles, Clay-colored Sparrow, migrating Blue Jays, Caspian and Forester's Terns and much more. The person recording the species remarked that "this week had the most diversity of bird species" for the state.

- Wes Homoya came back for a visit and went to Celery Bog Nature Park. On his 45 minute walk in the SE portion of the park he managed to find 72 species including 2 Connecticut Warblers.

- In recent weeks, members of the ABA Checklist Committee (CLC) added three new species to the ABA checklist.

Three are vagrant species from the Old World, **River Warbler**, **Thick-billed Warbler**, and **European Robin**. The fourth is the **Indian Peafowl**, a non-native species established in Hawaii.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Hawaii Bans Chlorpyrifos

Hawaii's legislature approved a state ban on chlorpyrifos, a highly dangerous restricted use pesticide (RUP) widely used in industrial farming.

Besides phasing out all chlorpyrifos uses by 2023, this comprehensive bill puts in place robust pesticide reporting, prohibits the use of the most toxic pesticides within 100 feet of schools during normal school hours, requires a pesticide drift monitoring pilot study, and beefs up funding for **the state's pesticide enforcement. Governor David Ige is expected to sign the bill into law.**

Chlorpyrifos has been linked to lower IQ and attention deficit disorder in children. It is highly toxic to farmworkers, some of whom have been **poisoned by it on multiple occasions on Hawaii's farms. Last year in spite of the research evidence, the EPA refused to ban chlorpyrifos, claiming the science is "unresolved" and decided it would study the issue until 2022.**

Black-capped Vireo Removed from Endangered Species Act



Thanks to robust conservation efforts, the Black-capped Vireo, a small attractive songbird, is being removed from the Federal list of endangered and threatened species.

From a low of only 350 birds in the late 1980s, the population has rebounded to an estimated 14,000 birds across its limited breeding range in Texas, Oklahoma, and Mexico. Continued monitoring will still be needed.

Pepsi Product Boycott

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is calling for a boycott of PepsiCo products like Doritos, that contain palm oil. Why? PepsiCo continues to use palm oil from illegal plantations that are destroying rainforests. RNA has recently documented the new destruction of nearly 40 square miles of rainforests in Borneo by palm oil companies associated **with one of PepsiCo's business partners, the Salim Group.**

The destroyed forest was **part of Borneo's peat forests:**

massive carbon sinks that safely store greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere that are critical in the fight against global climate change. They are also home to many endangered species such as the Orangutan and Sumatran Rhinoceros.

PepsiCo has continued its partnerships in spite of repeated well documented reports of rainforest destruction and requests to disassociate themselves from the companies responsible for the destruction.

Park Advocates: Yellowstone needs you

Mining companies want to build two large-scale gold mines on the northern edge of Yellowstone Park. If built, they could harm park wildlife, rivers, and the once-in-a-lifetime experience visitors have at what is America's first National Park.

You have a chance to stop these mines, but park advocates must speak up **RIGHT NOW** to make sure it happens! Let federal land managers know Yellowstone is more valuable than gold!

The good news is that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have a proposal to halt mining for 20 years on these public lands which will allow Congress time to protect the area forever.

In 2016, a two-year emergency timeout was put in place to prevent these mines after thousands of park advocates and the local community raised the alarm. But that clock is ticking, and land managers only have a few more months to finalize this plan to protect Yellowstone's water, wildlife and the thriving local community from gold mines.

That's why it's important to speak up now, and lock in this 20-year plan while we work for permanent protections at Yellowstone.

Take action: Tell Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue that you support the withdrawal of these public lands from mining before it's too late!

Look for this notice of invasive free certification when buying plants at a nursery in Indiana.



National Audubon News



6) [NAS lawsuit continued from page 1:](#)

like in the 2010's BP Deepwater Horizon disaster."

"As Audubon members, you have always been what hope looks like to a bird. Now more than ever we need you to stand with us and help us defend the law that has protected the birds

Audubon joins Capture Carbon Coalition

When it comes to tackling climate change—the biggest threat to birds—it will take an array of approaches.

Last month NAS announced that Audubon has joined the Carbon Capture Coalition, led by the *Center for Climate and Energy Solutions* and the *Great Plains Institute*. With over 50 members ranging from the energy industry, agriculture, labor unions and conservation leaders, the coalition is non-partisan and solutions-oriented. Carbon Capture is one tool to reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

Audubon brings unique perspective to the table as the first wildlife advocacy organization to join the CCC.

Year of the Bird: "Skip the Plastic"!

This month's theme for Audubon's *Year of the Bird* partnership with National Geographic, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and BirdLife International is "Skip the Plastic." The call to action is 'say no' to plastic bags, straws, and water bottles, and commit to recycling household plastics.

You probably know this by now, but it bears repeating: Plastic is absolutely terrible for the environment. It takes forever to degrade, spreads easily, and ends up harming wildlife across the globe. Our use of the stuff isn't going to stop—plastic is just too convenient, but there is plenty to do on an individual level to reduce your own waste. That's why this month we're asking you to show your support for the *Year of the Bird* by committing to cutting plastic from as much of your life as you can. At least 700 species of marine animals, including shorebirds, have been entangled by plastic or mistaken it for food. Below are eight tips from Audubon on how to reduce your plastic waste.

1. Cut Out Plastic Cutlery—Especially when ordering in.
2. Give Plastic-free Parties. Use real cups, plates, utensils, etc.
3. Say **"no" to Balloons**. They travel thousands of miles & birds eat them.
4. Take Advantage of Tap Water. *Evian. Fuji. Smart Water* all sound special—but they aren't any healthier or tastier than water from the tap.
5. Skip the Plastic Straws when not medically necessary. 500-million straws get thrown away each year in the U.S.
6. Buy in Bulk when possible. Food and packaging containers account for nearly half of landfill trash. A 5-lb peanut butter jar saves trips to the grocery store and, according to N.C. State University, can save families seven pounds of landfill waste per year.
7. Improve your Recycling. While everyone knows they should be recycling, even the best of us don't always get it right. Part of the reason only a fraction of plastic waste is recycled is due to poor recycling techniques. **You DO need to rinse out containers so they don't contaminate other plastics making them all end up in a landfill. Also don't toss out recycling in plastic bags.** Plastic bags can damage recycling machinery and try to avoid buying plastics numbered 3-7. Now that China has stopped taking our recycling, many U.S. municipalities have no way to recycle them. **"People think that they've done their good deed for the day by throwing plastic in the blue bin," says Shilpi Chhotray who is with *Break Free From Plastic*. "In reality, much of that 'recycling' just ends up as trash due to human error".**
8. Actually Remember Your Reusable Bag. The tricky part of reusable bags is remembering to take them with you. Plastic bags are a big problem so the fewer you use, the better. One solution: Store one in everything you take when you are away from home—your purse, backpack, gym bag—and your car. The hard part? Remembering to put them back. **Worried you'll forget them? Just add "reusable bag" to your shopping list.**

Tricolored Blackbirds Protected in California

The California Fish and Game Commission voted to protect the Tricolored Blackbird, a threatened species, under the California Endangered Species Act.



Tricolored Blackbirds have declined by nearly 90 % since the 1930s. Very similar in appearance to the Red-winged Blackbird, the birds have white and dark red epaulets rather than yellow and red. Song and calls also differ.

Comprehensive statewide surveys found only 145,000 of the birds in 2014— which is the smallest population ever recorded. The 2017 survey showed a small population rebound, with 177,656 blackbirds counted. This increase came after some legal protections were put in place in 2016. Scientists caution that one year of data cannot be relied on to show a heavily declining population has stabilized.



Two Lawsuits Filed on Behalf of Sage Grouse

Conservation groups have filed lawsuits challenging Trump administration policies that weaken protections for imperiled Greater Sage Grouse and allow oil and gas leases on nearly 2 million acres of the birds' prime habitat. The suit says the Bureau of Land Management violated the National Environmental Policy Act and Federal Lands Policy and Management Act when it approved eight massive oil and gas lease sales in Nevada, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. One suit was brought on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and the Western Watersheds Project, represented by Advocates for the West. The other similar suit was filed by the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society, the National Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation, represented by Earthjustice.

Bloomington To Host the 45th Natural Areas Conference

This conference, titled Building Resilience: The Future of Natural Areas, will be held October 23-25, 2018 in the Indiana University Union in Bloomington.

Some of the topics include *Maximizing Data & Technology to Inform Natural Areas Management*; *The Role of Focal Species in Conservation Planning*; *Communicating the Importance of our Work*; and *Role of Humanities in Conservation*.

This annual event is three days of symposia, oral sessions, poster presentations, social networking events, and field workshops, all aimed at bringing cutting-edge and emerging land management strategies to natural areas professionals.

Featured Speakers. The Closing Plenary speakers are the former Director of the National Park Service, Jonathan Jarvis, and Dr. Gary E. Machlis. Former Director Jarvis and Dr. Machlis are the co-authors of *The Future of Conservation: A Chart for Rough Water*. Professor Scott Russell Sanders, award-winning author of *A Conservationist Manifesto* and *Stone Country: Then & Now*, is the keynote speaker.

Northwestern Takes Action to Make Buildings Bird Friendly

Working with the local community and experts from the American Bird Conservancy, Northwestern University is using state-of-the-art solutions to keep birds from dying in collisions with glass walls and windows. The measures put Northwestern in the vanguard of a growing movement of U.S. colleges and universities to implement practical and effective ways to avoid collisions which kill up to 1 billion birds a year in the U.S. alone.

2018 Big Day in May Bird Count Results

Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren
Canada Goose	110	114	Blue Jay	91	23	White-crowned Sparrow	69	4
Mute Swan	5	0	American Crow	71	43	Summer Tanager	5	2
Wood Duck	50	17	Horned Lark	4	3	Scarlet Tanager	15	16
Mallard	53	4	Purple Martin	36	0	Northern Cardinal	141	40
Blue-winged Teal	4	2	Tree Swallow	50	8	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	45	18
Bufflehead	1	0	No Rough-winged Swallow	25	14	Blue Grosbeak	8	2
Common Merganser	0	1	Bank Swallow	20	0	Indigo Bunting	119	41
Northern Bobwhite	1	3	Cliff Swallow	95	25	Dickcissel	72	36
Ring-necked Pheasant	8	5	Barn Swallow	59	33	Bobolink	18	5
Wild Turkey	14	6	Carolina Chickadee	38	22	Red-winged Blackbird	390	252
Pied-billed Grebe	8	0	Tufted Titmouse	58	28	Eastern Meadowlark	38	43
Double-crested Cormorant	52	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	32	10	Common Grackle	116	94
White Pelican	0	1	Carolina Wren	13	18	Brown-headed Cowbird	139	50
Great Blue Heron	25	14	House Wren	87	19	Orchard Oriole	12	4
Great Egret	1	5	Marsh Wren	2	0	Baltimore Oriole	77	26
Green Heron	9	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	0	House Finch	36	9
Black Vulture	0	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34	29	American Goldfinch	113	70
Turkey Vulture	127	39	Eastern Bluebird	34	18	House Sparrow	150	42
Mississippi Kite	1	0	Veery	9	3	Total individuals	5613	2183
Bald Eagle	7	4	Gray-cheeked Thrush	8	4	Total Species	153	133
Cooper's Hawk	3	0	Swainson's Thrush	41	14			
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	2	Wood Thrush	41	10			
Red-tailed Hawk	21	13	American Robin	432	65			
American Kestrel	4	4	Gray Catbird	103	23			
Sora	6	0	Northern Mockingbird	2	1			
Coot	1	0	Brown Thrasher	20	6			
Sandhill Crane	6	2	European Starling	284	163			
Semipalmated Plover	12	6	Cedar Waxwing	114	0			
Killdeer	61	26	Blue-winged Warbler	3	1			
Solitary Sandpiper	3	1	Golden-winged Warbler	3	0			
Spotted Sandpiper	14	2	Tennessee Warbler	55	23			
Greater Yellowlegs	2	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	1			
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	7	Nashville Warbler	8	12			
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	0	Northern Parula	16	12			
Least Sandpiper	5	3	Yellow Warbler	58	15			
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	15	Chestnut-sided Warbler	20	8			
Dunlin	2	0	Magnolia Warbler	34	2			
American Woodcock	0	1	Cape May Warbler	1	0			
Rock Pigeon	30	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	14	1			
Mourning Dove	101	27	Black-throat Green Warbler	10	1			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	1	Blackburnian Warbler	12	1			
Black-billed Cuckoo	4	0	Yellow-throated Warbler	8	1			
Eastern Screech Owl	0	1	Prairie Warbler	1	0			
Great Horned Owl	1	2	Palm Warbler	20	1			
Barred Owl	1	2	Bay-breasted Warbler	3	3			
Common Nighthawk	3	1	Blackpoll Warbler	10	6			
Chimney Swift	73	20	Cerulean Warbler	2	3			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	18	10	Black-and-White Warbler	8	6			
Belted Kingfisher	0	1	American Redstart	81	7			
Red-headed Woodpecker	16	10	Prothonotary Warbler	6	2			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	63	23	Ovenbird	13	4			
Downy Woodpecker	39	8	Northern Waterthrush	12	1			
Hairy Woodpecker	13	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	8	5			
Northern Flicker	16	8	Kentucky Warbler	13	3			
Pileated Woodpecker	18	6	Mourning Warbler	3	0			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	Common Yellowthroat	131	40			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	35	27	Wilson's Warbler	11	0			
Acadian Flycatcher	17	8	Canada Warbler	5	0			
Alder Flycatcher	1	0	Yellow-breasted Chat	10	6			
Willow Flycatcher	8	3	Eastern Towhee	34	11			
Least Flycatcher	20	3	Chipping Sparrow	60	30			
Eastern Phoebe	19	9	Field Sparrow	62	38			
Great Crested Flycatcher	32	17	Vesper Sparrow	4	5			
Eastern Kingbird	46	31	Lark Sparrow	2	0			
White-eyed Vireo	12	6	Savannah Sparrow	19	7			
Bell's Vireo	2	0	Grasshopper Sparrow	18	1			
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	5	Henslow's Sparrow	16	2			
Blue-headed Vireo	4	2	Song Sparrow	94	20			
Warbling Vireo	36	13	Lincoln's Sparrow	14	0			
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	Swamp Sparrow	5	2			
Red-eyed Vireo	90	14	White-throated Sparrow	10	1			

Participants Tippecanoe (9): Delano, Mark, and Kevin, Arvin, Barny Dunning (compiler), Ben Gottesman, John Skene, Tyler Stewart, and Larry & Becky Theller,

Participants Warren (7): Brain, Amanda, Callum, Liam, and Phoebe Beheler, Ellen Tobias, and Susan Ulrich (compiler).

Together the two counts produced 160 species of birds which is more than the 155 species from last year (but less than the 171 species in 2016). Most of the difference was due to wetland birds. Duck species were 7 this year compared to 9 in 2017, and erns or gulls 0 compared to 3 last year. Migration for these groups was basically over by the time of the count.

Both the 2017 and 2018 counts had the same number of warbler species (31) and raptors (6), but one less shorebird (11 instead of 12). Overall the number of individual birds counted this year was very close to last year. There were a total of 7,730 birds on the two counts last year compared with the 7,796 this year.

In 2017 there were 14 species where only one individual was found. In 2018 that was reduced to only 11 species with one individual.

The four most common species remain the same.

Species	2017	2018
#1 Red-winged Blackbird	627	692
#2 American Robin	415	497
#3 European Starling	409	447
#4. Canada Goose	377	224
#5. House Sparrow*	227	192

* non-native species

If you want the email color versions of the newsletter rather than the black & white hard copy, email sueandtedulrich@msn.com.

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 of SAS receive 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: _____ Phone: _____

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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A Comment on the EPA

"Like the fireman in Ray Bradbury's dystopian classic *Fahrenheit 451*, whose job is to burn books rather than save them, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has perverted the Environmental Protection Agency's mission with a radical agenda to undermine not only the agency itself but also more than half a century of bipartisan environmental progress in this country." Michael Brune, Sierra Club executive, April 2018.

Caveat to Possible Kirtland's Delisting

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will propose delisting Kirtland's Warbler, a songbird that ranges from the Great Lakes to the Bahamas. The bird was one of the original species listed under the Endangered Species Act and over the last 50 years has improved from about 200 breeding males to nearly 2,400 today.

"We're heartened that Kirtland's Warbler ... is a candidate for delisting," says Shawn Graff, VP of the Great Lakes Region of the American Bird Conservancy. "The signs are good for continued recovery, though with delisting will come the need for ongoing robust monitoring, habitat management and a plan to deal with cowbird parasitism. We are optimistic that the draft Post-delisting Monitoring Plan...addresses these issues."



Tidbits

- ◆ Did you know that 97 percent of U.S. residents have measurable quantities of toxic flame retardants in their blood?
- ◆ Turkeys are named after the country. Linguists believe they reminded early Europeans of African Guinea Fowl which had come to Europe through Turkey.
- ◆ "Pine Grouse"? Although the Spruce Grouse does eat spruce needles, its main fare is pine needles.
- ◆ Of the 1,280 endangered animals and plants listed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 557 are from Hawaii, primarily driven there by the introduction of non-native species.
- ◆ A study at the Kkahului Airport on Maui found that on average one new non-native insect species arrived every day.
- ◆ In cross-section a hummingbird's tongue is shaped like a 'W', with twin canals. The tip is forked with featherlike edges.



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

Late Summer Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2018

- July 14
Saturday *Riverfest 2018.* 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A festival for the whole family that celebrates the Wabash River **and except for food, it's free.** There are **voyageur canoe races, a 5K run plus a droplet race for small** children, pony rides, face painting, zip line, climbing wall, and some new attractions. SAS will have a booth as will 20 or so other organizations each with fun activities for children and info for adults. If you can help at the booth for a couple of hours please call/email Susan Ulrich (p. 9) or just show up!
- July 21
Saturday
& also *Audubon at the Overlook.* Join SAS members at 7:30 a.m. at the overlook at Prophetstown State Park. The overlook is at the end of the park road below the parking area. Park entrance fee is required unless you are camping or have a State Park Pass.
- August 18 *Audubon at the Overlook.* As above but 8 a.m. meeting time.
- August 26
Sunday *Bird Banding & Hummingbird Banding with Amy Wilms.* **A repeat of last year's popular trip. Amy is Indiana's only licensed hummingbird bander.** These tiny birds require special handling and multi-years of training. This is held at the Indiana Audubon Society's Mary Gray Sanctuary near Connersville. Banding is done in the early morning, so the group will caravan down on Saturday and camp on the property (camping free). Alternatively you can leave very early Sunday and drive down. Call or email Barny Dunning (see p. 9) if you are interested for details about the trip (p. 9).
- August 30 &
Each Thursday *Celery Bog Early Bird Walks.* Held weekly on Thursday mornings. Stop by and see what birds have begun moving through. Meet at the Celery Bog gravel lot (first turn to the right after entering the park) at 8 a.m.
- September 8
Saturday *Fall migration at Celery Bog.* Songbird migration should be have started. We will look for migrants in the woods and on the water. Meet at 7:30 am at the gravel parking lot in Celery Bog. The walk will end well before football traffic for Purdue's noon game picks up.
- September 13
Thursday Program: Carry-in in Dinner & Bring Your Own Program night. Always a winner! 6 p.m. for the dinner, 7:15 for the program. SAS supplies plates, silverware, cups, napkins & beverages. Bring a dish to share or just show up and eat. Bring a friend, too, and if you have one, bring a 5 or so minute program to show. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking.