



Sycamore Warbler

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Help! Endangered Species Act Emergency Alert- National Audubon

Forty-four years ago, the most important wildlife-conservation law in American history passed the U.S. Senate with a vote of 92 to 0. **"Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed,"** President Richard Nixon said after ratifying the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The ESA plays a crucial role in conserving wildlife. It has helped save more than 99% of species listed including the Bald Eagle. Unfortunately, Congress has introduced dozens of bills and amendments that would turn this bedrock legislation into the "eliminating species act", threatening the long-term conservation of American wildlife and wild lands.

Each of us needs to speak up to ensure this doesn't happen. Please contact your congressional representatives and tell them to oppose any attempts to dismantle the Endangered Species Act.

Over the past few weeks, we've seen a number of new proposals that would significantly weaken the ESA, from a suite of bills in the U.S. House to proposed regulations by the administration. The ESA is a critical tool to protect and recover the most vulnerable birds and other wildlife in the country, and Audubon is committed to protecting this bedrock law. Many of the key provisions put forward by the administration and in legislative proposals fail to address the needs of birds and would undermine the goal of the ESA. Some of the more concerning provisions include proposals that would

- 1) remove automatic protections for species that are newly listed as "threatened,"
- 2) allow publication and analyses of economic impacts instead of focusing solely on the science, and
- 3) make it harder to designate unoccupied habitat as "critical habitat."

Some of the proposals in Congress would take these potential rollbacks further. ESA-nemesis Rep. Bob Bishop [R-UT] is threatening to repeal it. An outright repeal would be extremely challenging. A 2015 survey shows that 90 percent of Americans support it to some degree.

But there are other tactics opponents could take to undermine the act. One is **tinkering with the act's protections**: for example, repealing the provision that allows citizens to file lawsuits against the government or other private persons for failing to list or protect a species, or granting Congress a veto on expensive projects, such as the steelhead trout.

Tangling up individual species protections is another possibility. If passed, H.R. 717, a new bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Pete Olson [R-TX], would remove the 12-month deadline for making listing decisions, allowing officials to let petitions fester for years. It would also give Interior or Commerce Departments the power to reject (continued on back)

Swallow-tailed Kites Seen in Area

Driving south on State Road 39 near Rossville on August 26, Carl Henschen saw a large gray and black bird with a forked tail flying low over a soybean field. He turned and went

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back and was fortunate to get an excellent view of the bird about six feet up and twenty yards away. The bird was a Swallow-tailed Kite. Traffic was heavy and the road narrow. Carl made a loop and went back but the bird was gone. It was re-found the next day. Even more surprisingly, Barny Dunning had a second Swallow-tailed Kite August 28. This kite was soaring along Jackson Highway and flew right over his car. The sighting was at 9:45 am and located about 0.5 mi west of the intersection of Jackson Highway with County Road 475 W in western Tippecanoe County.



The Swallow-tailed Kite was already on the Tippecanoe County Bird Checklist thanks to one found near Battle Ground in the spring of 1982 and one seen a few years back near Prophetstown SP. **In the 1800's species was more common, especially in SW Indiana where it may possibly have nested according to Mumford & Keller's *Birds of Indiana*.**

CHAPTER NEWS

You are invited...

to attend and participate in SAS's September 13th meeting at Lily Nature Center. The program kicks off the new year of Audubon activities. It starts with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and is followed by a program called "Bring Your Own". This is the meeting where members and friends supply the program by bringing five minutes or so of their pictures to share. Lots of birds but also trips to exotic or local areas, animals, plants, and more.

The program officially starts at 7:15 p.m. Hope you can join us. **Don't have time to make anything to eat?** Come for the potluck anyway. **There's always plenty.** The Society supplies plates, utensils, napkins, cups, and some beverages.

Turkey Legs Anyone?

October 6-7 are the dates for the 51st annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon. SAS will be selling Turkey Legs again. This is the Audubon fund raiser that supports the chapter itself, paying for the newsletter, PO Box, insurance, postage, etc.

We need two dozen volunteers who will get free Feast admission both days for spending one 4-hour shift at the booth, contact Barney Dunning (p. 9). We can also use



Chuck Tuttle making final booth adjustments

one or two people on Thursday or Friday Oct. 4 & 5 (depends on the weather) to set up the booth so it is ready to go. This includes putting in

and lashing a few extra posts, covering the sides with canvas, etc.

Riverfest 2018

SAS's Riverfest booth featured pictures of some of the birds found along the Wabash (with one kicker thrown in for people to find). There was also a craft area for children where they could use their imaginations to turn empty toilet paper rolls into owls, cats, and other critters. See picture below.



Attendance at the event was high so there was a steady stream of people stopping by to keep us hopping—at least until the threat of high winds (& rain) caused the organizers to ask everyone to take down their canopies. That left no protection from the threat of rain so participants (including SAS) packed up their gear and left a few hours early.

We'd like to thank Barb Allison, Ann Fassnacht, Susan Ulrich, and Mary Sue Waser for saving the toilet paper rolls used at the booth.

Bake & Plant Sale

We're hoping for another great sale October 26-28. As always we need your help—both for donations of things to sell as well as people to help out at the booth for a few hours. Contact Susan Ulrich (see p. 11) to volunteer or if you have questions.

For the bake sale any food items are welcome, including fresh produce

and canned goods. Plants can be house plants as well as some outdoor perennials. Fall is a great time to put plants in your garden as they do much better than plants planted in Spring. Seeds, bulbs, feeders, planters, garden equipment, anything you think we can sell, are all welcome. Hours are 6:30-8 p.m. on Friday, Oct 26; 10 - 5 on Saturday, Oct 27; and 1- 5 on Sunday, Oct 28.

Noble Kizer— in memory

If you've been a member of SAS for awhile, you probably remember seeing Noble Kizer's name on the board of directors list or met him at one of our meetings. He usually brought chicken to the Fall potluck.

Noble can be described as being a true gentleman with a twinkle in his eye and a gentle sense of humor'. Noble served on SAS's board for nearly 20 years, as membership chairman, president and at large. He was very active in the local Kiwanis and many other organizations, and also served a term on the board of NICHES Land Trust. His loss July 9th is a loss to all of us.

Donations

Since the last newsletter SAS has received donations from Jim Klatch (for the Pookie fund), Susan Ulrich (imo Noble Kizer) and a nearly new 48 quart Igloo cooler from the Allisons for use at the Feast.

Because we need to keep the turkey legs below 45 degrees before getting them on the grill, we always need to scrounge up 15 to 20 coolers to hold the 650 pounds of legs we start with on both Saturday, and Sunday mornings.

Scam Alert

The Sycamore Board Group list

serve which board members use to exchange information was hacked. If you receive an email reputed to be from a board member requesting money ignore it and let Barny Dunning, know (see p. 11). The board is switching to a new server.

Martell Edgelea School Field Day

This spring Susan Ulrich took part in a **Field Day held at Purdue's Martell property** for 4th graders from Edgelea school. Her station focused on birds. The kids were great. After talking about birds and showing them a bird skull, bones, feathers and nests, she taught them how to use binoculars. A big hit! Luckily some obliging birds put in appearances for each group—the Turkey Vultures were especially popular.

Some weeks later Susan got a package of thank you letters and cards from the students (some with drawings of birds).

R-R-RIP Honeysuckle & Pull For Bats

The RIP Squad starts up its Fall assault on invasive honeysuckle and other non-native shrubs in October. As it was last year, the primary **efforts will be at Prophet's Rock Woods and Ross Hills Park**, both owned by the Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department.

Pulling for Bats: in honor of Bat Week (see batweek.org)

Sat. October 27th Prophets Rock Woods. Start time 10 a.m.

Sun. October 28th Ross Hills Park. Start time 1 p.m.

RIP Squad Fall Schedule

Ross Hills Park 3-5 p.m. on Thursdays from Oct. 25 to Dec. 20. The targets are Bush Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive. Meet at the first parking lot to the left after entering the park. From West Lafayette take

Two New Nature Reserves for Indiana

Indiana has two new state nature preserves, including a forested southern Indiana refuge that's home to several rare birds. The Indiana Natural Resources Commission approved the two new nature preserves last month, boosting Indiana's state-designated protected sites to 287.

The new 125-acre Dewey Hickman nature preserve is located southwest of Corydon in southern Indiana. It's owned by the Nature Conservancy and includes a variety of forests that are home to bird species deemed of special concern, including the hooded warbler and the state-endangered cerulean warbler..



Endangered Cerulean Warbler

The second preserve is the 38-acre Mary Gray nature preserve which is located in eastern Indiana near Connersville and is known for its showy spring wildflower display. It is part of the larger Mary Gray Nature Sanctuary owned by the Indiana Audubon Society and is the focus of research on the migration of the Northern saw-whet owl and ruby-throated hummingbirds. SAS has led field trips to the Sanctuary several times to view the hummingbird banding.

The Environmental Elimination Agency?

There is a new leader at the EPA but the same anti-environment agenda. Andrew Wheeler who is replacing Pruitt as head of the Environmental Protection Agency is already signing policies that will sicken children and others.

A few weeks ago the EPA formally proposed a rule to eliminate the new proposed national clean car standards AND **went after a state's authority** to protect their residents from tailpipe pollution under the Clean Air Act by setting their own state standards.

What are the effects? 1) more breathing problems caused by smog and polluted air— especial for the young and the elderly. By 2030 the extra air pollution is predicted to be like firing up 30 coal power plants. 2) A boon for oil as Americans will need more gasoline to get from point A to point B. In 2025 Americans will pay an estimated \$17-billion more at the gas pump. 3) The extra emissions resulting from the lower standards will offset gains made elsewhere to combat climate change.

South River/Division Road to CR 875W. Go left. Entrance is on the left shortly after a 90-degree turn.

Prophet's Rock Woods 3-5 p.m. on Tuesdays from October 30 thru December 18. Target species are bush honeysuckle and burning bush. Meet in the little parking lot off Prophets Rock Road, just north of 600N near Battle Ground.

RIP is sponsored by the West Central Chapter of INPAWS (now newly renamed the Indiana Native

Plant Society) and the Sycamore Audubon Society, in cooperation with the Tippecanoe County and West Lafayette Parks.

Long sleeves and pants, gloves, and boots are recommended. Bring loppers or stump pullers if you have them. RIP Squad has gloves, water, extra saws and loppers to use, as well as any herbicide needed.

Contact Patty Jones at patricia.c.w.jones@gmail.com for more information.

Nature Notes & News

- (Not a local report but fascinating as it is so surprising for the season)

July 23 Bob Guth and his wife, Christine, decided to look for a Snowy Owl found at the Goshen Air Show on July 7. They arrived in the area 15 minutes before sunset and drove all around the roads past the Goshen airport and the hanger where the owl was seen on three occasions. They also went around the road a mile south, and the road going north. Finally giving up at 9:20 they headed home. Within 1/2 mile, they saw the Snowy Owl sitting on an electric pole at the intersection of CR40 and CR27 about 1.5 miles from where the bird was last seen.

● The **Audubon at the Overlook** got off to a wet start the morning of July 21st. Luckily, as Chuck Tuttle reported, the rain stopped about 8 a.m. A couple of park visitors stopped by and two stayed for about an hour. Around 30 species of birds put in appearances including two Great Egrets, two Sandhill Cranes and Blue Grosbeak.

● Susan Ulrich didn't do much birding over the summer but she noted an abundance of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. One called every day around their house in Warren County and she heard others every time she went to NICHES Weiler Leopold property or to Ross Hills Park. There also appeared to be more White-eyed Vireos than usual. Again one near their yard called repeatedly all summer and one was still calling on territory Sept. 1st at Weiler Leopold where she was removing bush honeysuckle.

● An Aug 18th quick trip to Celery Bog Nature Area in West Lafayette by Fritz Davis produced an Olive-sided Flycatcher in the dead tree sticking out of the canopy to the west of the Lily Nature Center. He notes this is a spot where you might expect to find an Olive-sided Flycatcher. He also had an adult Red-headed Woodpecker at the north pond and two Great Crested Flycatchers..

● Chuck Tuttle and Barny Dunning report the first Fall (or last Summer?) **Audubon at the Overlook** event at Prophetstown on August 18 started off in an unusual fashion—there was heavy fog in the valley at the start, which limited visibility. In addition the park website listed the start time as 1/2 hour before our newsletter, so there were people waiting when the first SAS person

showed up (luckily before the assumed start time).

A good conversation was had by all and the group ended up with 40-plus species including the birds heard or seen on the drive in through the park, which were Henslow's Sparrows, Sedge Wrens and Blue Grosbeaks. The group's highlights included a Great Egret, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, fly-by Belted Kingfishers, and a showy pair of male



Baltimore Orioles. None of the species could be labeled a true "fall migrant", but some of the Eastern Kingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, and others could well have been migrating individuals. A hackberry to the north of the overlook had a grape vine in fruit, which attracted the orioles, some Warbling Vireos and others. A pretty good couple of hours.

● Sometime between August 20 and 23rd Davis Balser (a new Purdue student in the Department of Forestry & Natural Resources) visited the Purdue Horticulture Park and had the first "first of fall" true migrants. His early arrivals were Blackburnian and Cape May Warblers.

● An hour in Celery Bog the morning of August 23rd Barny's Thursday morning Early Bird Hike yielded a couple of interesting migrants. Most prominent was an immature Little Blue Heron that was in the wetland basin closest to Walmart. The group also saw a couple of Empidonax flycatchers that were most likely Willow/Alder, but they did not call so had to be left as unidentified.

● That same day Barb Lucas wrote that there were lots of orioles, cuckoo's & warbler species that morning on the edge of their woods near Rensselaer. She added that if anyone wants to join her for early morning coffee & birds on their patio to let her know.

● After attending the Celery Bog walk on the 23rd, Chuck Tuttle decided to go out to Prophetstown. He noted there were definitely fewer Henslow's Sparrows and Dickcissels calling than there had been 5 days earlier. There were also many small groups of Canada Geese moving around. As they were flying by, he heard the call of a Sandhill Crane. Soon two cranes came over the tree tops leading about a dozen Canada Geese in a perfect V formation. First time he'd seen that. Unfortunately, he was asleep at the shutter and didn't get a good photo.

● A lot of birders were out on August 23, including John Skene who visited the Purdue Horticulture Park that morning and ended up seeing 46 species of birds. They included ten species of warblers: Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Black-and-White, Tennessee, Mourning, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Cape May, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided.

● 8/26 Mickey Penrod had a swarm of 200+ migrating Common Nighthawks mixed in with a bunch of Green Dragonflies. She didn't know if the nighthawks were feeding on the dragonflies or both were feeding on a bounty of insects.

● August 26th Rick and Debbie Read had a swarm of another migrating bird. They counted 220 swifts going into Rick's favorite Monticello chimney. As a result he hosted an informal "Swift's Night Out" on August 29. That night six people went and counted 350 Chimney Swifts entering the chimney between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m.

● For Barny dunning fall migration finally started at Celery Bog on Aug 30 after migrant reports elsewhere in Indiana had been going on 10 days. The weekly Early Bird Hike (Thursday mornings, starting at 8am from the Celery bog gravel parking lot) turned up a number of warbler species. The birds were clustered, so there wasn't much activity across most of the woods. Where there was some action, the group had a Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, American Redstart, Blackburnian Warbler, and a lone Yellow-rumped Warbler (AKA Myrtle Warbler).

The biggest surprise was the Yellow-rumped Warbler because it was so early. Landon Neumann and Aidan Rominger had Golden-winged and Cape May warblers at about the same time.

If you have an interesting bird, animal or other nature sighting please send it to the editor for Nature Notes.
sueandtedulrich@msn.com

Fall Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2018

- 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 have started. We will look for migrants in the woods and on the water. Meet at 7:30 a.m. 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 with some wonderful pictures and interesting stories! 6 p.m. for the dinner, 7:15 for the program. SAS will supply plates, silverware, cups, napkins & beverages. Bring a dish to share or just show up to meet new and old friends. Bring a friend, too, and if you can, bring a 5 or so minute program to show. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking.
- September 15 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook. Join SAS members at 6 p.m. at the Overlook in Prophetstown State park. The overlook is at the end of the park road. Fee required unless camping or have State Park Pass.
- October 6-7 Sat & Sun **Feast of the Hunter's Moon. Audubon's Turkey leg booth. Contact Barny Dunning to volunteer for a four hour shift.** It gives you free admission for both days to the Feast.
- October 11 Thursday *Program: Tree Migration.* Songlin Fei, Purdue University Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.. We know animals and birds migrate but trees? Are there really Ents as described in Lord of the *Rings*? Tree ranges are shifting as climactic conditions change. Which **trees are going where? Why? And what effect is their 'migration' having on other species.** 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking.
- October 20 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook. Join us for our monthly observations at Prophetstown State Park. See above. This excursion is from 8 to 10 a.m.
- October 26-28 Fri, Sat, Sun Fall Bake & Plant Sale Conservation Fundraiser. West Lafayette Public Library during their Fall Book Sale. Donations and volunteers needed. Hours and more on p.2.
- November 8 Thursday *Program: Birding at the Bog.* Dan Miller, local photographer. Great bird photos taken at **our local birding hot spot. If you've been to any of the last few September Member Invitational programs you will have seen some of Dan's unbelievably high quality photos.** 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking.
- November 10 Saturday Lake Michigan Field Trip. Early morning trip to Michigan City to check-out the various birding spots along the shore. Hope for winds from the N or NW which pushes the loons, swans, grebes, gulls etc. close to the shore. Meet at the Gravel Parking lot at Celery Bog Nature Park in W.L. at 6 a.m. Will stop at Jasper Pulaski on the way up (& possibly on the way back) to see the Sandhill Cranes. Dress for cold conditions as the wind can bite.
- November 17 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook. Join us for our monthly observations at Prophetstown State Park. See above. This excursion is from 4 to 6 p.m.
- December 2 Sunday Sunday with the Cranes. An afternoon field trip to see the remarkable bevy of staging Sandhill Cranes dance, preen, and greet each other before roosting. Who knows, perhaps a Whooping Crane too? Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog Park in West Lafayette at 3:30 p.m. to carpool to the Jasper Pulaski State Wildlife Area.
- December 13 Saturday *Program: Amazing Galapagos and Other Ecuadorian Gems.* Rick & Debbie Read. A travel program of slides and videos from their 4 weeks in Ecuador last winter. A fascinating place to visit with many unique birds and animals. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. Free parking. *Come early to sign up for an area for the Lafayette Christmas Bird Count. See below.*
- December 15 Saturday *Lafayette Area Christmas Bird Count.* What birds can be found in the Lafayette Count Circle in 24 hours? Volunteers are needed to find out! Get a territory or sign up as a feeder watcher. A compilation party is held at 8 p.m. that night at the Wild Bird Shoppe. Ed Hopkins, compiler. More in next newsletter.

British Birdfair Helps Argentina Acquire its Largest National Park

Argentina is about to get its largest National Park thanks to proceeds from this year's British Birdwatching Fair. The creation of the proposed Ansenusa National Park, which will protect up to 800,000 hectares including Mar Chiquita (South America's second-largest waterbody, and the fifth largest salt lake in the world), will provide a haven to nearly a million flamingos and shorebirds. Spanning five miles by 15 miles, this vast wetland is a literal oasis in the heartland of Argentina, the Cordoba Province. Its waters, the marshy fringes and surrounding grasslands positively throng with wildlife.

Titled '**Mar Chiquita: a haven for Argentina's flamingos**', this year's cause is a suitably ambitious way to mark 30 years of Birdfair support for international conservation projects. Since 1989, Birdfair has raised funds for a conservation project suggested and managed by *BirdLife International*. Mar Chiquita means 'little sea'. This vast *salina* (salt lake) is a literal oasis. Up to 318,000 Chilean Flamingos (Near Threatened) have been counted, their pink congregation is boosted in winter with up to 18,000 Andean Flamingo (Vulnerable) and smaller numbers of Puna Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus jamesi* (Globally Threatened).

These flamingos are Mar Chiquita's most eye-catching visitors. All three South American flamingo species can be found in abundance, including the globally threatened James's or Puna Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus jamesi*. But the area is also home to an impressive spread of bio-diversity, from the Maned Wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus* – which resembles a fox on stilts – to the Crowned Solitary Eagles *Buteogallus coronatus* (endangered), who roam the air over the surrounding dry, quebracho-stippled Chaco forest. It also supports massive numbers of shorebirds who visit it each winter.

The proceeds from this year's Birdfair will bolster *Aves Argentinas'* existing conservation strategy, which is based around community engagement – participatory planning, empowering local stakeholders and establishing a network of local conservation guardians. Moreover, strengthening the local economy through nature-based tourism is fundamental to the project's long-term success. "A vibrant ecotourism circuit at Ansenusa will lengthen the tourist season and generate sustainable livelihoods over a wider area. Local communities will become strongly committed to the park's long-term conservation" said Srur of *Aves Argentina*.



Puna Flamingo critically endangered

The first Birdfair was held in 1989. All profits are donated to the charity, *BirdLife International*. The fair raised £320,000 in 2015 which is equivalent to \$412,800, and \$5,155,036 since it began.

New Survival Tactic for California Birds

Over a century ago, Joseph Grinnell, a zoologist, launched a massive pioneering survey of animal life in California, a decades-long quest visiting all corners and habitats of the state from Death Valley to the High Sierra.

Ultimately Grinnell, the founding director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley, and his colleagues produced one of the richest ecological records in the world: 74,000 pages of meticulously detailed field notes, recording the numbers, habits and habitats of all vertebrate species that the team encountered.

In 2003, scientists decided to retrace Grinnell's steps throughout the state to learn what changes had occurred in the past 100 years. When it came to birds, they found that of 32,000 individual birds recorded in California's mountain ranges in the old and the new surveys – from tiny sized Calliope hummingbird to the largest raptor—that most species were nesting about a week earlier than they used to.

That one week advance in timing translates into nesting temperatures about two degrees Fahrenheit cooler than the birds would have encountered had they not moved up their breeding time – *nearly exactly balancing the two-degree rise in average temperatures over the last century*. The analysis was published last fall in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. **It showed that the birds' temperature rebalancing act could limit the exposure of eggs and fragile nestlings to dangerous overheating.**

The study of the 202 bird species showed that most of them (but not all) **had adapted with "overlooked flexibility,"** to rising temperatures—an unexpected hope for wildlife in an uncertain time. But will this strategy continue to work as temperatures continue to rise? Nest timing for some species did not change enough to offset the increased temperature. Nesting success may also be lower even if the nesting continues earlier.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Court orders EPA to Ban Chlopyrifos

In a win for public health, a federal court ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to finalize its long awaited ban on the chemical chlorpyrifos, a toxic pesticide known to cause learning disabilities in children from being used on produce sold in the United States. The decision resulted from a lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and part of a coalition of labor and health organizations represented by Earthjustice.

Your Voices Can Make a Difference

It may not seem like your emails and letters do anything, but they help. Harmful ESA riders were dropped from the Defense bill, the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act is making progress in the House and Senate, and funding has been increased for recovering endangered birds in Hawaii. Now is a great time to make your voice heard!

Here in Indiana so many comments came in about initiating a Bobcat hunting season mentioned in an earlier newsletter, that the plan was dropped.

Nesting Plovers Safer At Jones Beach



Piping Plovers that nest annually at Jones Beach State Park in New York no longer face as great a risk of predation from feral cat colonies inside the Park's boundaries. The plover, a small shorebird, is federally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a Threatened species in the Atlantic Coast region, and as Endangered under New York state law.

A lawsuit filed by American Bird Conservancy alleged a violation of the ESA based on a concern that New York State Parks was not doing enough to ensure feral cats did not harm the Piping Plovers and their chicks. Under a settlement agreement and court order, the current cat colonies will be removed by the end of the year and any subsequent cats found in the park will be removed. Mike Parr, president of the American Bird Conservancy was delighted and said, "By removing the cat colonies, New York State Parks has ensured a much safer environment for the plovers to help them nest successfully into the future."

Wildlife Bill Needs Indiana Sponsors

According to the National Wildlife Federation, one-third of U.S. wildlife is at risk of extinction. To compound this risk, state agencies are woefully underfunded.

Recently a bipartisan measure, *Recovering America's Wildlife* Act (HR 4647), was introduced by Representatives Fortenberry (R-NE) and Dingell (D-MI). It would redirect \$1.3 billion dollars of the existing revenues each year to those state-led efforts—by far the most significant investment in wildlife conservation in a generation.

Currently the bill has 80 bipartisan co-sponsors—37 Republicans and 43 Democrats. Unfortunately, none are from Indiana. Your help is needed to change that!

Your representative needs to hear from you. Tell him or her that wildlife conservation funding is important to you as well as to many other Hoosiers. Only if enough hikers, birders, hunters, campers, and wildlife watchers contact them, are our representatives likely to sign on.

Recipe for Improving Indiana's Air: less Coal & More Renewables

For far too long Indiana's monopoly utilities have polluted Indiana citizen's air and water with coal-burning power plants including five *Super Polluter* coal plants. *Super Polluter* coal plants are defined as the nation's largest toxic and greenhouse gas polluters. With five located within its borders, Indiana is home to more of these Super Polluters than any other state. In fact, Indiana releases more greenhouse gas pollution than Greece, Israel, and 185 other nations. As a result, air quality in Indiana ranks as one of the worst in the nation.

Northwest Indiana is home to one Super Polluter plant, while the other four are located within thirty miles of Evansville - leading some to call Southwest Indiana "the sacrifice zone." Since the news of Super Polluters broke in 2016, Indiana's monopoly utilities have failed to create transition plans that would move Indiana away from coal, and towards more renewable energy and better energy efficiency. Even worse, Indiana's monopoly utilities continued to lead legislative attacks on rooftop solar and efficiency programs in the state.

WEDNESDAYS in the WILD ~ SEP-NOV 2018

Natural History Talks/Workshops/Field Trips 1-3p.m. or As Noted (times are all Eastern time)

Like us on Facebook at "Wednesdays in the Wild"

(NOTE: NOV 14th is our last program in 2018. Wednesdays in the Wild programs will RESUME mid-JAN 2019.)

- Sep 12th 1-3pm Why Indiana Native Plants? ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Why do we insist on bringing exotic vegetation from around the world to our gardens when our own native plants are best suited for this use? Tom Hohman, who served as past president of the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society (INPAWS) and currently oversees the INPAWS Central Chapter's invasive removal efforts, will explore this question as he shares the advantages of using native plants in our home landscapes.
- Sep 19th 1-3pm Seed Collecting Workshop ----- **CARPOOL leaves LNC 12 noon** ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/FOS
Seed collecting is essential for converting agricultural fields to high quality prairies. Join Gus Nyberg (NICHES Land Trust Executive Director) and help collect seed for a prairie restoration at Fisher Oak Savanna in Jasper County. Participants will learn techniques for collecting seed, be introduced to a variety of species and will be provided bags to use for the seed collecting effort.
- Sep 26th 1-3pm **Frogs' Glory Hike** ----- **CARPOOL leaves Battle Ground 12:15pm** ----- outdoor pgm—NICHES/FRGL
Fall is in the air! NICHES Executive Director Gus Nyberg will lead this hike to view firsthand the restoration efforts at this Carroll County property and also explore the history of this area of the Tippecanoe River valley.
- Oct 3rd 1-3pm Exploring Wild Mushrooms ----- outdoor pgm—WNC
Steve Russell (President, The Hoosier Mushroom Society) will lead participants on a wild mushroom hunt on the grounds of the Tippecanoe Battlefield to learn how to identify the mushrooms we encounter. We should expect to find a number of edible fall species during this foray. Meet at Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center (WNC).
- Oct 10th 8-10pm* Introduction to the Universe -- **CARPOOL leaves WNC 7:15pm*** -- indoor/outdoor pgm—CULLOM
The Wabash Valley Astronomical Society will take us on an out-of-this-world tour of our universe before heading to the facilities of the Prairie Grass Observatory (on the grounds) to view celestial objects with astronomical telescopes. Meet at the nature center, just past the Camp entrance. * **NOTE special evening TIME**
- Oct 17th 1-3pm Fall Color Walk ----- outdoor pgm—HHP
Fall is a great time to see all the native trees and shrubs at Happy Hollow Park. Join Sally Weeks (Purdue Dendrologist, and author of two books covering Midwest native trees, shrubs and woody vines) on this walk to not only identify the many different tree, shrub and wildflower species but also to enjoy their Fall colors.
- Oct 24th 1-3pm A Twice a Year Birding Extravaganza! -----Bring binoculars----- indoor/outdoor pgm—LNC
Susan Ulrich (experienced birder & naturalist) gives an indoor waterfowl and fall migrant talk followed by a marsh birding walk.
- Oct 31st 1-3pm Ghastly Predators of the Insect World ----- indoor pgm—LNC
It is scary to be an insect! In this Halloween presentation, Jeff Holland (Associate Professor of Spatial Ecology & Biodiversity, Purdue Entomology) will explore physical and behavioral adaptations that make insect predators very good at hunting their prey.
- Nov 7th 1-3pm Pollinator Plantings at Celery Bog: Pretty Plants or Prolific Providers? ----- indoor pgm—LNC
Cliff Sadoff (Professor of Entomology, Purdue University) will discuss which pollinators were found this summer in the Celery Bog plantings & compare it to other plantings in northeastern IN, plus take questions about what people can do to protect pollinators.
- Nov 14th 1-3pm From Pioneer 1 to the James Webb Space Telescope: NASA's 60 Year History of Exploration and Scientific Discovery ----- indoor pgm—LNC
B.J. Austin (aerospace engineer and NASA Solar System Ambassador) will review NASA's 60 year role in studying our planet and exploring the moon, our solar system and the universe.

LOCATIONS of these FREE PROGRAMS (unless otherwise noted) which are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NOTE: If a Carpool is noted, it will leave from either LNC (West Lafayette) or WNC (Battle Ground) – please don't confuse!

CULLOM (Camp Cullom Nature Center): Meet 8pm at 6815 W Co Rd 200 N, Frankfort 46041 **OR join 7:15pm CARPOOL from WNC.**

NICHES/FOS (Fisher Oak Savanna-Jasper Co): Meet 1pm at the south side of the property (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org)

OR join 12 noon CARPOOL from LNC.

HHP (Happy Hollow Park): In West Lafayette off Happy Hollow Road--meet in the first parking lot by the playground.

LNC (Lilly Nature Center/Celery Bog Nature Area): In WL, on north side of Lindberg Rd, between Northwestern & McCormick.

NICHES/WL (Weiler-Leopold-Warren Co): Meet at 1pm in Weiler-Leopold parking lot (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org)

OR join 12:15pm CARPOOL from LNC.

NICHES/FRGL (Frogs' Glory-Carroll Co): Meet at 1pm at the property (directions at www.nicheslandtrust.org)

OR join 12:15pm CARPOOL from the Battlefield Monument parking lot in Battle Ground off N. 9th Street.

WNC (Wah-ba-shik-a Nature Center): In Battle Ground, at the end of the Battlefield Monument parking lot off N. 9th St.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO HELP WITH PROGRAM PLANNING, contact:

Mary Cutler 765-567-2993; Dan Dunten 765-775-5172; Joan Mohr Samuels 765-532-3245, mohrsamuels@comcast.net

SPONSORED BY

Mary Cutler, Naturalist, Tippecanoe County Park & Rec Dept. — Sycamore Audubon Society — NICHES Land Trust
 Dan Dunten, Lilly Nature Center Director, West Lafayette Parks & Rec Dept. — West Central Chapter of INPAWS

First Nations Win Court Case Against Oil Sand Pipeline

The Canadian Federal Court of Appeal just ruled in favor of British Columbia First Nations against the Trans Mountain tar sands expansion pipeline. In effect, the Court halted construction of the 1,150-kilometre project indefinitely.

Fall Hummers

Our annual reminder about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. By the end of August



most adult males have headed south leaving females and

young of the year behind. Females and most young generally leave by the end of September/early October, with adult females going first.

One reason is that the male birds build up energy reserves in the form of fat earlier. Females use more energy building nests and feeding the young without help. The young are starting from scratch so usually need a few days more to build up the fat needed for a successful migration.

That means feeders are important for those lingerers. Keep your feeders going as long as you have 'customers'. Depending on demand you can cut back on the number of feeders or how much sugar solution you put out at a time (don't want it to sit in the feeder for a week and go bad).

Check Really Late Birds

Make sure birds seen in late October and especially November aren't Rufous or another odd hummer who migrated the wrong way. If you do have a late hummer that might not be a Ruby-throated, please email Barny Dunning (see p.11) and Don Gorney dongorney@yahoo.com).

September Action for Year of the Bird: Three Ways to Help Migrating Birds

Make Your Windows Obvious

Anywhere from 100 million to 1 billion birds a year are estimated to die as a result of impacts with clear or reflective glass. Windows can confuse birds in a couple of ways. Sometimes the glass reflects the trees and surrounding landscape, causing the bird to think the reflection is just more of the natural world. Sometimes the window can make it appear that there is an open space on the other side. Either way, the result is often the same: a lethal impact.

One solution is decals which can drastically reduce window bird strikes. As birds are used to darting through narrow spaces, use multiple decals close enough together to actually deter them (just one or two in the middle of a window won't do much). The gaps shouldn't be bigger than 2 x 4 inches, or no larger than the space a sparrow would fly through.

If colored decals don't appeal, you can use films with dots on them, strips of translucent tape, or opt for UV stickers, which are less apparent to people but are highly visible to birds (stick to the same spacing guidelines). A Canadian Wildlife Service biologist has been evaluating small white dots called Feather Friendly at the federal Pacific Wildlife Research Centre out in British Columbia. In the two years before the center was treated, there were 53 deaths from window strikes; since dots were applied in 2016, only four.

You could also get creative, putting up streamers, beads, or other items that could prevent strikes. **Dirty windows also reduce impacts. So you don't need to feel guilty if your windows don't sparkle.**

Go Lights Out

Another way to prevent bird impacts is to minimize your household or apartment lights from dusk until dawn. Many birds that migrate during the night—the Blackburnian included—use the stars and moon to help guide their way. But artificial light, can easily confuse birds. Studies suggest that up to a million birds a year die because of light pollution. Sometimes the birds are attracted to or disoriented by the lights and run into a building or window. Other times they can get **"trapped" by a city's glow** or by powerful beams, exhausting themselves as they continuously circle. The **9/11 Memorial's Tribute in Lights**, which features dozens of powerful bulbs pointed skyward, is a famous example of this hazard. Thousands of fall migrating birds are lured by the glow. Stuck flying around the beam, birds waste valuable energy they need to fuel their long journeys. Thanks to the hard work of New York City Audubon, the city now partners with the chapter to monitor how many birds get trapped. When the number gets too high, they shut the lights for 20-30 minutes to let the birds escape and continue along their way.

Become an Advocate

Perhaps the best thing you can do is to become an advocate for birds. Speaking at city planning meetings, making appointments with elected representatives, and letter writing can affect much larger changes. For example, campaigning for your city to enact bird-friendly architecture guidelines can produce real results, as did as the bird-safe building standards Golden Gate Audubon helped get implemented in San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond, California. And when lights of a building in Texas killed hundreds of migrating birds this past spring, Houston Audubon worked with the building's owner to turn the lights off.

Many people are unaware lights pose such a threat to birds. This one act could make an extraordinary difference. In fact, one study found that shutting the lights off at night in a single building reduced bird deaths by 80 percent.

National Audubon News



National Audubon 2019

Milwaukee, Wisconsin is the site for next summer's 2019 Audubon Convention. The dates are July 26-29th. It's great for learning and networking as well as for birding opportunity. Watch for more information soon. Wisconsin birders are looking forward to welcoming you.

Market Choice Initiative

MARKET CHOICE Act is the first major federal climate legislation led by a Republican in a decade. "An overwhelming majority of Americans want to see pragmatic solutions to the problems facing our warming planet, and the MARKET CHOICE Act is a refreshingly bold move," David Yarnold (president and CEO of National Audubon Society, said of new legislation from Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL). "There is no easy solution for reducing carbon pollution and we're going to have to find new ideas that can work in this intensely partisan political moment. This proposed legislation is a ... framework for a much-needed conversation that Audubon supports." The main features of the act are:

- It replaces the federal gas tax with a carbon tax.
- The revenue generated by the tax will be invested in roads, bridges and other infrastructure; efforts to

protect coastal communities from storms and sea-level rise; and programs to help low-income families with their energy bills.

- There is a conditional moratorium on EPA regulation of reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases at stationary sources (power plants and factories). However EPA can continue to regulate emissions for other purposes, like air quality standards, even if the regulations also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Leading modelers predict greenhouse gas reductions will be

close to 30 percent by 2030, similar to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Clean Power Plan.

"Climate change is the biggest threat to birds and the places they need. We can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good...We can feel and see in the weather all around us that the status quo is increasingly a losing proposition" said Yarnold.

Given the urgent threat climate change poses, Audubon supports common-sense, bipartisan solutions that reduce carbon emissions at the speed and scale necessary to protect birds and the places they need.

2nd Chance At Survival

Just three years ago in June 2015, ornithologist Rafael Bessa who was working on an environmental assessment along a stretch of cerrado in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, heard a bird song he didn't recognize. Bessa recorded the song and then played it back to see if it would draw out the singer so he could identify it.



It did, but he couldn't identify it!. A dove-like bird Bessa had never seen before flew in. Bessa took photos and noted the dove was small, with a tawny reddish body and several sapphire blue spots clustered on its wing. The photographs convinced Bessa and others that the bird was a Blue-eyed Ground Dove, *Columbina cyanopsis*, a species that not seen in 75 years and thought to be extinct. This was a cause for celebration but could the bird be saved? In a year of searching only a dozen birds were found. The biggest threat was loss of habitat. After extensive surveys, conservationists determined that the bird lived in an extremely limited region of the cerrado, one of the most threatened biomes in Brazil. Studies suggest the cerrado is second only to the Atlantic Rainforest in being impacted by vegetation loss and deforestation.

Additionally, the specific area where the doves were found was private land whose owner wanted to prospect for iron ore. Luckily *Instituto Grande Sertão* (a local NGO) had been working since 1999 to try to convert the surrounding area—home to several endemics and nearly 2,000 species of plant, 300 types of bird, and mammals including the maned wolf and giant anteater—into a protected park.

The *Rainforest Trust* and *Save Brazil* joined them in a fundraising campaign to buy the land where the Blue-eyed Ground Dove had been found. They also talked with local communities and the State Environmental agency, stressing the need for a protected area to conserve the bird and the unique ecosystem that is the cerrado.

In January 2018 they managed to buy the original plot as well as much of the cerrado around it. In July the Government of Minas Gerais recognized an additional 89,000 acres as protected, creating the Botumirim State Park. The dove is now under legal protection and numbers between 15 to 20 individuals.

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

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

Chapter Membership Application

Date: _____

Name : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Zip: _____ 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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Facts Omitted from Bears Ears & Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Reviews

Last year President Trump ignored the wishes of most Americans by following Interior Secretary Zinke's recommendations to cut two million acres from Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. It turns out political motivations were the driving force behind that decision.

According to the Washington Post and other news reports, the Department of Interior concealed essential facts during the national monument review by redacting information to downplay the economic benefits of national monuments, and ignoring information directly from experts about the risks of removing protected status to Native American sacred places and archeological sites. **It's clear that our national monuments have been victims of a biased process, designed to strip away our public lands without a fair hearing.**

Low Emission Decomposition

Do you know that your carbon footprint doesn't end when you do?

America could build a new Golden Gate Bridge every year using the metals that leach into the ground from traditional caskets. Take into account all the concrete also buried and we could construct a new two-lane highway beneath that new bridge. Factor in the annual carbon emissions that result from cremations and you could drive to the moon and back. This is according to Elizabeth Fournier, the one-woman operation behind Boring, Oregon's Cornerstone Funeral Services. Located in a rehabbed goat farm, Cornerstone is also the first green funeral home in the Portland metropolitan area. Fournier is commonly known as the "Green Reaper."

Tidbits

◆ In the last 75 years, 90 percent of Africa's lion population has been lost as humans build on critical wildlife habitats and poachers hunt them relentlessly for profit.

◆ In its first 5 days out of the nest a Wandering Albatross spend most of the time swimming rather than flying. But by the end of their first year the birds average 184,000 km at sea—equivalent to four times round the world.

◆ Skeleton features that "lock" their outstretched wing into position keep the heart rate of gliding Wandering Albatrosses low (around 80 bpm)—barely faster than the rate of birds resting on the water (around 60 bpm).

◆ The Emperor Penguin is the champion diver among seabirds. The maximum depth recorded for an Emperor is 564 meters with the longest duration underwater lasting 21.8 minutes.

◆ Much of the speed of a penguin exiting the sea comes from air bubbles trapped within its feathers. As the bird rises water pressure drops, and the bubbles expand causing the bird to pop up like a cork to the surface.



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

Endangered Species Act Emergency Alert- continued

a listing because of economic reasons. The Greater Sage-Grouse has been a major target for anti-ESA legislation. Two identical bills in the House and Senate are proposing that states take over federally managed grouse lands while also blocking the bird from landing on the endangered species list until 2027.

Currently the administrative proposals are in a 60-day comment period that ends in late September and the new House bills have not yet had a hearing. This means there is still time to act. Audubon will provide opportunities to comment on the new regulations, but in the meantime please ask Congress to uphold the ESA & defend against ANY efforts that would undermine protections for birds and other wildlife.

The ESA currently protects about 100 U.S. bird species, including the Whooping Crane (pictured to right), Piping Plover, and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The law prohibits harm to listed species, designates "critical habitat," and initiates a recovery plan with population goals and specific management activities. The ESA has also served as an important tool for incentivizing large-scale conservation efforts, such as is the case with the Greater Sage-Grouse. The ESA has helped numerous bird species recover and be delisted, such as the Brown Pelican, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon, and has set many other species on the path to recovery. Instead of weakening protections, Congress and the administration should provide more resources for species recovery, including for habitat conservation, and deploy these measures earlier. By the time many species are listed their populations have fallen precipitously, making it much more difficult and expensive to maintain and increase their numbers. The most effective conservation strategy is to *prevent the conditions that lead to the need for ESA protections by funding and supporting proactive conservation*. While there are opportunities to simplify implementation practices that could result in better and faster conservation outcomes, too many of these proposals would only put birds at greater risk.

The Endangered Species Act is a lifeline for birds and it is far too important to allow its vital protections to be chipped away. Audubon is working to ensure the ESA continues to provide science-based decision-making, incentives for collaboration on proactive conservation, and protections for imperiled species and the places they need to survive.

