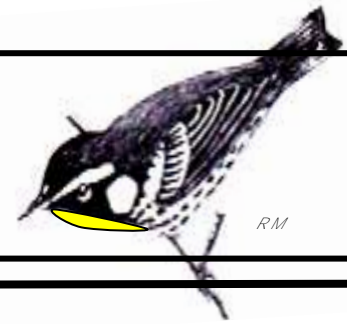


# Sycamore Warbler

Volume 47 Issue 2 Summer 2022



## Turkeys will Keep their Legs

***Or at least, Sycamore Audubon Society will not be selling 100's of them at this year's feast. As mentioned in earlier newsletters, finding volunteers was becoming a problem. Here is the statement about the change and what it will mean to our chapter from our president, Barny Dunning:***

"At our April meeting the Board voted unanimously to make a major change in our fundraising for the future. We voted to no longer participate in the Feast of the Hunter's Moon by doing the turkey leg booth. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and so we did not take this step lightly. There will be several ramifications in the benefits that you have come to expect from membership in Sycamore Audubon so we thought we would explain our decision in depth.

The main reason for deciding not to sell turkey legs at the Feast is the total amount of work involved and who in our group is doing the work. First, we would like to thank profusely those members and friends who have helped with the turkey leg booth in the past. There are a lot of people who have helped and we are very grateful for your efforts. But the facts are that the success of the turkey leg booth depended largely on the work of four people who usually worked all day for both days of the Feast (not to mention the planning meetings, the prep work ahead of time, and the cleanup and storage afterwards). While most Feast volunteers worked 4 hour shifts during the event itself, these four individuals were usually there from 7 am until closing both days. And of those 4 individuals, three of them are over the age of 65 (and one over 75). To be blunt, it has become more and more difficult to expect this level of effort from our older members.



We have worked in recent years to solicit more help for the Feast (and other fund-raisers) from our members. In both 2019 and 2021, we also partnered with a Purdue student group to provide more help. [The 2020 Feast was cancelled due to covid.] But that also means that we had to share the profits. At the end of the day, the total money that we earned, while substantial, was not enough to convince the Board we could continue as we have in the past.

What does this mean for our chapter's finances? The Feast can bring in as much as \$4,000 for the weekend's work. It is also somewhat risky - bad weather (at the Feast? who would expect that?), variable crowds, and/or difficulties in getting the legs from a supplier have all reduced our "take" in a given year. Splitting the work with another group means splitting the profit - the Purdue group in 2021 filled about 1/4 of the shifts and so they earned about \$1200. But the fact remains that this is a very substantial

*Continued on p. 6*

## Area's List of Nesting Species Continues to Grow

Inside This Issue	Page
SAS Chapter News	2-3
Local & Indiana News	3
Conservation News	4
Indiana Miscellaneous	5
Turkey legs & Styrofoam	6
Wood Pellets & Cuckoos	7
Nature Notes & News	8
Notes + NAS CEO	9
Local Global Big Day Count	10
Misc & Tidbits	11
SAS Calendar	12

Recent years have seen the Red-shouldered Hawks return to the area as a nester, along with Mississippi Kites and Sandhill Cranes. A new modern nest record for the SAS area is the Trumpeter Swan. This species once nested in northern Indiana. The first confirmed modern nesting occurred a few years ago in Steuben County in the north-east corner of the state.

A pair, seen on the Warren County May count, have now become the first of that species to nest locally. The pair resides on a privately owned wetland and has fledged three cygnets.



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Pollinatorpalooza is Back

SAS was at Prophetstown State Park on June 25 for the second year for this celebration of pollinators—after all, birds depend on pollinators for food—both the insects they eat, plus the seeds and berries they produce. And where would birds be without the trees, shrubs and plants growing as a result of their pollination efforts? For that matter, where would WE be?

Chuck Tuttle led a 10 a.m. bird walk and he and Susan Ulrich talked to people who stopped by.

## September Program

SAS's next program is the Invitational Program on September 8th. SAS will keep an eye on the situation and the need to offer a zoom option for people who might prefer it. Check the calendar page for additional info.

People interested in having a picnic beforehand can bring their food at 6 p.m. to Lilly Nature Center. And don't forget to bring a **flashdrive or other means to share your pictures** with others. There will likely be more non-local pictures as reduced Covid threat has led to more people traveling.

## Up-coming Monticello Programs

**Audubon Nature Club is meeting** June 6, 13 & 20, at the Boys & Girls Club.

**Exploring Antarctica** July 12, a presentation by Rick Read at the Monticello-Union Township Public Library at 6 p.m. to support the theme "Oceans of Opportunity"

## Birding on the Fly List...

Looking for that species that keep eluding you? Get on the email list for unusual bird sightings. Contact Barny Dunning (see p. 11)

## Rick Read Recent Activities

"April 23rd 7 of us started our 7:30 am bird walk at City Park where we saw 32 different bird species including a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Northern Waterthrush.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
by Roxie Easter

It was so productive we didn't leave until almost 9:30 am. We then moved to Altherr Nature Park and birded until almost 11:00

I added on an 8:30 pm stop at the Altherr Nature Park to see the Great Horned Owl nest. Our group was joined by a family of 6. The two nestlings were slumped down, but we could still see the head of one. As hoped, both adults landed nearby and then departed.

By 9:00 pm we were back at City Park to greet a crowd of 25, including about 6 children. We talked about the owls of Indiana, specifically the 3 species here year-round.

To everyone's delight, I called in 2 Eastern Screech-Owls. Afterwards I learned that no one there had ever seen an owl before, so that was a special night to introduce so many to our nocturnal natural world.

Birds were not all that we saw. A coyote crossed a farm field west of Altherr and an opossum perched on a branch very near the paved trail. And all this happened on my birthday! It doesn't get much better than that! "

## RIP Squad

This spring the RIP Squad worked to remove invasive Garlic Mustard in a variety of local public parks on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from April 5 to June 9. As usual, weather cancelled some outings, but progress is noticeable.

If you'd like to help reduce the adverse affects of invasive plants in our local parks, please call Patty Jones at 765-463-3050 or email her at:

removeinvasiveplants.  
wcinps@gmail.com

## Garden Expo Back

After a two year Covid break, Garden Expo returned in April. The pent up demand for plants was obvious. When the doors opened, the general consensus was, "It was like a hoard of locusts". The eight tables of plants at the Audubon-Native Plant Society booth didn't last very long. Nearly half were sold in the first hour. At any end of the day, all that was left were 11 small plants and \$1,300+ in the till.

Special thanks to the many donors, to Mary Sue Waser and Susan Ulrich who handled the booth, and to Dan Childs and Mike Brattain who ferried plants to the Expo from the staging area in West Lafayette.

## Another Pop-Up Sale

Garden Expo was great! But it was such a late spring that species people potted up last Fall for the Expo weren't up yet. After talking it over, a decision was made to hold another Audubon-Indiana Native Plant Pop Up Sale. Memorial Day weekend was the best option. Once again, thanks go to Temple Pearson, for offering her front yard as the site.

The sale was amazing! People donated plants, plants, and more



plants, Sales were brisk and we ended up making around \$1100 just as we had last year—and this time it was **in addition to** what the two groups made at Garden Expo, not a replacement.

Special thanks to Patty Jones, Susan Ulrich, Anna Welch, Karen Griggs and Doug Paprocki who helped move the plants, get them organized and served as cashiers. We tried to get the names of all the plant donors, but some plants appeared anonymously. Our thanks to those unknown donors as well as Mary Sue Waser, Loren Olson, Martha Kempke, Anna Welch, Phyllis Greenbough, the Hallenbecks, Agnes Clift, Sally Weeks, George Parker, Mickey Penrod, Karen Griggs, Patty Rader and Susan Ulrich. Let us know if you are one of the people left off the list.

Many customers asked if we would have a second sale in the Fall or be at the WL Farmer's Market. So far no plans are in the works. If that changes, we will certainly let people know.

## Outdoor Explore Back

SAS hosted a table at this event after its two year hiatus. Outdoor Explore's purpose is to



Chuck Tuttle demonstrating the Merlin Bird App's ability to ID birds by sound as well as sight at Outdoor Explore. George Kopcha holds an auxiliary microphone to pick up the more distant songs.

## Hummingbird Migration Celebration Returns

The Indiana Audubon Society Hummingbird Migration Celebration is on again this year. The date is August 6th, the location Mary Gray Sanctuary. Registration is now open. You can learn more at [Indianaaudubon.org/events](http://Indianaaudubon.org/events).

In addition to all things Hummingbird, including banding up close and personal, there will be live birds of prey, a number of presentations and talks, and bird hikes—

Although Indiana has only one regular species of hummingbird—our beloved Ruby-throated—there are well over 300 different species in the Americas, and the



Above: Amy Whilms banding a hummingbird at Mary Gray. Below: hummers interacting at a feeder.



family exists nowhere else. There is a family called sunbirds that are somewhat similar to hummingbirds in that they feed on nectar and have long bills and bright colors that exists in Africa and parts of Europe, but they lack the astonishing flying ability of our south and north American hummingbirds.

This year many people have been commenting on the lower hummer populations in their yards and feeders. Let's hope this is just a blip. Summer wouldn't be the same without the antics of these tiny jewels darting around the yard.

give people a chance to learn about various outdoor activities they might enjoy. There are so many different groups involved that two park properties are used: the Tippecanoe Co. Amphitheater and the Bicentennial Nature Park. SAS was at the later site, up the hill away from the congested area by the lake.

Chuck Tuttle, Susan Ulrich, Barny Dunning and George Kopcha were there to talk to people and tell them about bird apps, binoculars, and how to get involved with SAS. Being the last booth along the trail, things were slow in the beginning, but got quite busy later as people worked

their way through the various options to try. A list of 38 bird species were seen or heard. Next year's date for this event is June 10, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## More Thank You's

Thank you, Anna Welch, for your extra donation to the chapter.

## Audubon Outreach: Busy Spring for Chuck Tuttle

Chuck gave bird programs to three different groups this spring: the Wyandott Library, the Senior Center in Elwood and the Dayton's Ladies Group. He generously donated his speaker honorariums to SAS.

# CONSERVATION NEWS

## Banning Water Futures

No one should be allowed to gamble with clean, safe water – but that's exactly what Wall Street is doing by trading water futures. They're on a dangerous mission to profit from water price hikes from climate change driven droughts and shortages.

Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Ro Khanna introduced the **Future of Water Act** – legislation to ban water futures trading. This bill will protect water as a human right by declaring that water is not a commodity for Wall Street speculators to gamble with. Tell your members of Congress to **co-sponsor the Future of Water Act (HR 7182, S 3886)** that would ban water futures trading!

In December 2020, following a devastating wildfire season with the anticipation of another major drought in California, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange launched the world's first water futures market, allowing stock market traders to gamble on water prices in California.

It's dangerous to allow financial speculators to profit off climate change-driven water shortages and drive up prices on a resource that we all need to live. From increased water prices to the loss of small family farms, the only people who would benefit from water futures trading are stock market gamblers.



## EPA Upholds Chlorpyrifos Ban: a major victory for birds.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently upheld its ruling to ban chlorpyrifos, an insecticide that has been shown to affect a bird's ability to fly, migrate, and reproduce. The chemical has also been linked to neurological complications in human adults and infants.

Chlorpyrifos will no longer be used on food crops meant for domestic consumption — a huge victory for bird and human health.

## Lawsuit Agreement Over Border Wall

Following the 2019 Center for Biological Diversity lawsuit over the Trump emergency declaration that funneled Defense Department funds into border-wall construction, the Center and allies have now reached an agreement with federal agencies. Besides banning military spending on border walls, it calls for funds to restore the borderlands and a study to assess how the wall hurt habitat for wildlife like jaguars, Mexican gray wolves and Mexican spotted owls.

"The wall and its infrastructure have carved a monstrous wound across one of the most biodiverse regions on the continent," said Brian Segge, a senior Center attorney. "Federal agencies can never erase the damage this destructive wall did, but at least now they can try to heal it."

## Banks Financing Fossil Fuels

US banks continue to be the top world-wide financiers of Fossil Fuels. JP Morgan Chase remains at #1. The information below is from the Executive Summary of **Food and Water Watch**.

"Overall fossil fuel financing remains dominated by four U.S. banks — JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America — together these four banks account for one fourth of all fossil fuel financing identified over the last six years.

RBC is Canada's worst banker of fossil fuels, with Barclays as the worst in Europe and MUFG as the worst in Japan."

## New High Seas Treaty Fills Vital Gap in Ocean Protection.

About 64% of the ocean's surface making up over 45% of the globe in total area, falls within areas beyond the jurisdiction of any single country, and is often referred to as **the high seas**. With underwater mountains taller than Everest, the high seas offer a network of marine habitats that host a diverse array of species. However, resource exploitation and global climate change are driving biodiversity loss.

See

<https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/03/14/new-high-seas-treaty-to-fill-vital-gap-in-ocean-protection/>





## Birds of the Celery Bog

### Exhibit by Dan Miller

Many of you are familiar with Dan Miller's wonderful photos from Celery Bog. You can now see and purchase some of his work at an exhibit which opened June 24 and runs to July 30 at **Artist's Own**, 518 Main St. Lafayette.

## The Next Level Conservation Trust

Indiana is making an unexpected investment of \$25-million to protect the state's rich natural heritage.

This new program—the **Next Level Conservation Trust (NLCT)**—is for purchasing land to protect important conservation, recreation, and historic areas across Indiana. The funding is coming from the dedicated federal COVID relief package. In the pandemic, people flooded Indiana's parks and other areas in record numbers, going hiking, biking, camping, fishing, birdwatching etc. Recognizing that Hoosiers want and will use more access to the outdoors, Indiana lawmakers voted to use part of the COVID fund to preserve natural lands.

This new funding is not good news, it's **GREAT** news. The \$25 million NLCT is a momentous step forward for the state which lags far behind neighboring states in public lands and in the money invested to preserve natural areas. Sales from the environmental blue license plate generate less than \$1 million each year to fund the purchase of land for conservation. NLCT means a better, richer future for all residents of Indiana.

## Global Big Day Early Results for State

Nearly 49,000 people participated in Global Big Day this year. Of those, 1,301 of the checklists were from Indiana producing total of 223 species for the day. This ranked Indiana as the 24th highest of the U.S.'s 50 states.

**For species totals locally, go to p. 10.**

## Dunes Birding Festival Seeks Feedback

The 2022 Dunes Festival had a record breaking attendance. If you are one of the many people who attended, the Indiana Audubon Society would like to hear from you about your experiences, including rating individual field trips and events.

## Easier than Herding Cats...



Canada Goose  
by Roxie Easter

If you were at, or passed by Celery Bog early on June 21, you may have seen the annual Canada Goose round up by the IDNR.

This time of year geese are molting and can't fly. IDNR herd them onto the golf course where the geese are banded before being released.

## Tippecanoe Co. Invasive Plant Swap

You can get a free native tree or shrub when you remove an invasive Callery Pear or Burning Bush. The offer is good for removing up to 3 plants. Don't wait, the deadline for this offer is August 1, 2022. Both of these species are growing problems in local natural areas including parks.

Replacement species offered are : Alleghany Serviceberry; Pagoda Dogwood; Overcup Oak; American Hornbeam; Redbud; Black Choke-cherry; Winterberry; and Arrowwood Viburnum.

## NEW: Cost Share Program for Removing Invasive Plants

There is a new experimental program for landowners in Tippecanoe county who have 15 A or less where they want to control invasive plant species. It is a cost share program that pays \$350/A.

Applications open 7/15/22 If interested, call 765-474-9992 for more information or email [soil.Water@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:soil.Water@tippecanoe.in.gov) or visit the website [www.tippecanoe-county-wcd.org](http://www.tippecanoe-county-wcd.org). A site visit and conservation plan will be required.



**Species covered include but are not limited to:** Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive (picture of fruit at left), Burning Bush, Wintercreeper, Bush Honeysuckles, Reed Canarygrass, Callery Pear, and Multiflora rose.

## INDY 500 Balloon Release Cancelled

The annual balloon release for 2022 was halted in 2022, and the release is on "indefinite" status.

The program was ended as the result of advocacy from many environmental groups including the Indiana Audubon Society and our local chapter.

Previously thousands of multi-colored balloons were released over the speedway to kick off the INDY 500. This was a deadly tradition that needed to end. It is well documented that balloons end up killing wildlife including many birds.

# Banning Single Use Styrofoam

The foam cup you get your iced coffee in from the drive-through may be convenient in the moment, but it's also takes hundreds of years to fully degrade and is one of the worst forms of plastic pollution. **Less than 3% of polystyrene foam is ever recycled**, most ends up in landfills or in the natural environment.

In a single year, Americans throw out **25 billion** polystyrene foam cups. Polystyrene foam products, like most plastic products, are made with petroleum and a host of other highly polluting ingredients. They are essentially non-recyclable and they can even leach toxic chemicals into our food and drink.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has listed styrene -- the chemical released from

polystyrene containers -- as a potential carcinogen. To make matters worse, polystyrene foam can take between **100 and 1 million years** to fully degrade. They will outlive us all.

As of now, eight states have passed laws banning single-use polystyrene foam. Recently Canada passed a similar law. Nothing used for five minutes should pollute our planet for generations to come. Getting rid of single-use polystyrene foam will encourage less waste and more reuse.

**Join others in calling our governor.**

**Tell him it is time to ban**

## *Turkey legs continued from p 1*

portion of our annual income.

Here are the basics: as a chapter, our fixed costs involve insurance (\$900 per year, we can't have meetings and field trips without liability insurance), speaker fee's and dinners for the monthly meetings (\$750-900 a year), and the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter (about \$1,500 including the post office fee for bulk mailing, stamps, printing costs, etc.). That is about \$3,200 per year. In addition, we routinely donate \$500 a year to Celery Bog for bird seed as well as money to conservation causes, sponsor the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, and fund small research projects by students.

In recent years we could do all that with the income from the Feast, from plant and bake sales, and from member annual donations. And we have thrived: we currently have \$26,000 in the bank plus a small endowment with the Greater Lafayette Community Foundation.

Without the Feast, here are our expectations. We get about \$1,100 from National Audubon Society from member fees. We also get a similar amount (\$1,200) from the endowment. We have had several other annual fundraisers, namely plant and bake sales in the spring, at the Garden Expo and at the West Lafayette Public Library's two book sale events. However, the library has not run their book sales in recent years due to covid and it looks like they may not use that format in the future. Garden Expo was cancelled in 2020 & 21 but we ran "pop-up" plant sales in the spring at Temple Pearson's home which worked as a substitute. We make about \$600 or more at these sales. So with 1-2 plant sales and the other income, we can cover our fixed costs, with some changes.

Here is what you can expect: ***the major way we can save money is to no longer distribute the newsletter by mail***, but instead make it available online. We can distribute it via email (assuming we have your email address, of course) and continue to post it on social media like Facebook, which we already

do. We will print a few copies to mail to members who do not have email or use computers. But even if we mail those newsletters as first-class mail, we can eliminate much of the current \$1,500 cost associated with maintaining our post office permit, printing, and postage.

We will continue to have insurance coverage for our activities and to pay honoraria and dinner for the speakers at our meetings. But we will probably have less money to devote to conservation work and supporting research. So we will watch our budget more closely, know how much we can donate in a given year to such work, and ask you, the members, directly to donate for specific causes. We won't do the last part frequently but some direct donations will allow us to continue to play a role in local and regional conservation and research. We can also choose to use the money in the bank strategically to support important causes. As our endowment grows, we will have a larger annual income to devote to these causes also.

This will be a change - I for one will miss dressing up for the Feast and seeing all the people there that I know. But eventually change is necessary."

## Emails for Newsletter

We are starting to collect emails for the eventual cessation of printed newsletters sent out by mail. If you currently get a paper copy but have reliable internet service, please send your email to Chuck Tuttle, SAS's membership chair. See page 11. If you don't, call and let him know that instead.

# Wood Pellets NOT Carbon Neutral

Wood pellets are made from forest biomass and are burned as fuel to produce electricity in power plants. It's big business for **Enviva**, the world's largest wood pellet producer. Most of Enviva's pellets are shipped overseas, to be burned in power plants in Europe, with the E.U.'s blessing — all because of a misunderstanding of the science.

When the European Union (E.U.) created a Renewable Energy Directive in 2009, they classified wood biomass as a renewable energy. That was a major mistake which overlooked the fundamental science — the fact is, at the smokestack, wood emits more carbon dioxide than coal for every unit of electricity produced. **According to one estimate, power plants that burn biomass emit 150 percent more carbon dioxide than those burning coal.**

*"It's convenient for Big Oil and policymakers if we stay silent as we watch the climate crisis wreak havoc on the planet. We're here to shake things up." Abby Malloy, June 6, 2022 about youth and the big oil and the climate crisis.*

The U.S. could make the same mistake the E.U. did back in 2009. This year, Congressional proponents of the biomass industry succeeded in inserting a stealth "rider" into a must-pass appropriations bill aimed at characterizing forest biomass as "carbon neutral." The biomass industry is trying to win clean energy subsidies as well as exemptions from the Clean Air Act by falsely claiming that they are carbon neutral.

In order to avoid the worst effects of climate catastrophe, we need to understand biomass fuel for what it is: a threat to our climate, wildlife, forests, air quality, and the vulnerable communities where polluters like Enviva set up shop. For the full story on biomass, how it is produced and the harm it causes the climate, forests, and communities, visit [NRDC.org](http://NRDC.org).

## Often Heard but Seldom Seen

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a migratory species that manages to stay well hidden in deciduous woodlands. According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology they usually sit stock still, even hunching their shoulders in order to conceal their crisp white underparts, as they hunt for large caterpillars. Bold white spots on the tail's underside are often their most visible feature on a shaded perch.

This species has one of the shortest nest cycles of any bird – a mere 17 days from incubation to fledgling. In eastern North America, cuckoos are still relatively common, but western populations have plummeted and are candidates for federal Endangered status with fewer than 500 left.

In migration the two groups converge in the western Amazon basin before assembling in the Gran Chaco area. It is estimated the birds may be there five or six months in separate groups: the eastern population occupying northern areas of the Chaco and

the western population the central west region. While there, the birds mix with native and resident cuckoos, including the Guira Cuckoo.

Gran Chaco stretches from Argentina to southeast Bolivia, Paraguay and south-western Brazil. Twice the size of France, it is large enough to influence weather patterns affecting the adjacent Pantanal wetlands and Brazil's Cerrado grasslands.

It is an important wintering area for a suite of migratory birds that breed in the Arctic, temperate North America, and the Neotropics, including shorebirds and several species of songbirds and raptors whose populations are declining.

Since its formation in 1997, Guyra Paraguay has been at the forefront of Gran Chaco conservation efforts. Dedicated to saving and promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity in Paraguay, the group has worked with a range of stakeholders, actively promoting the



region's protection.

As part of its efforts in the landscape, and with the support of the World Land Trust and others, Guyra Paraguay has bought and created three private reserves – Reserva Cañada El Carmen, Reserva Campo Iris and Reserva Pantanal Paraguayo. Extending nearly 21,000 hectares, the reserves provide for a diversity of resident and endemic Chaco species.

While conservation efforts in the Gran Chaco continue, National Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy (BirdLife Partners in the United States) are working to safeguard the breeding habitat for cuckoos in northern America.



## Nature Notes & News

● March 1 Roxie Easter went to Mulvey Pond for her lunch break and saw a Snow Goose among the Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese. It was the only one there and seemed to have the black grin patch on its bill. She also had a Yellow-rumped Warbler in her yard.

● March featured a lot of waterfowl. On the 5th Barny Dunning emailed "I just had 54 American White Pelicans flying low over Walmart and Applebees, apparently headed to Celery Bog."

● March 16 Rick Read couldn't resist the nice weather and took his boat out on Lake Freeman. He & Debbie picked up some friends and ate sandwiches while watching the marvelous sights of pelicans, loons, eagles, cormorants, and grebes. Oh, and mergansers in flight. They had 115 American White Pelicans, most on the west side of Ski Island.

● On the 18 Sam Hartzlel looked for the loon at Bicentennial Nature area and had what looked like a Ross's Goose + a blue morph Snow Goose pair in with the Canada Geese.

● On the 22nd Ed Hopkins reported a Red-throated Loon at Bicentennial Nature Area.

● Andrei Gabrielov reported the young Great Horned owls were now visible in the nest at Celery Bog on March 20.



Great Horned Owlets as of April 5. Chuck Tuttle.

● March 31 was raw and Barny Dunning wrote: "I was the only one without enough sense to skip this early bird walk. But I was rewarded

for my lack of common sense by seeing three Caspian Terns over the main wetland basin. ...I also had a pair of Hooded Mergansers, my first Great Egret for the spring and large numbers (50+) of Tree Swallows and Ring-necked Ducks. Land birds were pretty quiet but I did have a calling Golden-crowned Kinglet."

● The Behelers house-sat in Fountain county in March. Late on the 31st, a Loggerhead Shrike perched in a tree 5 feet away from the bird feeders. Amanda got a lovely look at him - "my brain first went 'that is the biggest chickadee I have ever seen' before I took him in fully. " The bird bobbed his tail a few times and flew off before she could get a photo. She didn't get a good look at the legs to see if this Indiana endangered species was banded.

● Big news the morning of April 4 were the large number of American White Pelicans at Celery Bog. They were hard to miss and stayed for several days drawing many county and nearby residents as well as birders. Their numbers varied, Ed Hopkins counted up to 85.

Photo by Chuck Tuttle. Note the band on the leg.

● On that day, Barny Dunning spent the morning banding birds with his students at the Purdue Wildlife Area. One highlight was the large number of Rusty Blackbirds mixed in with an even larger number of Red-winged Blackbirds. The Rusties were in the trees by the dock and along the water's edge. In mid-morning they were singing but were mostly gone by 11:30 a.m.

● The Thellers had a surprise on April 4 too. They saw a Black-crowned Night-Heron in a pine tree out their second floor window. Larry noted: "So far he is facing away from our goldfish pond and seems to be just resting and preening, but two years ago we returned from a two week trip about this date and all our

goldfish were gone...Becky says we may be a migration stop with a private buffet." The Thellers also located a Red-shouldered Hawk nest by watching the birds carry limbs and pine boughs. The now occupied nest is in a yard two doors away.

● Susan Ulrich just happened to visit Celery Bog April 4 so saw the White Pelicans. There were also Ring-billed Gulls with at least 3 Bonaparte's Gulls mixed in. It was easy to see the white leading edge and gray underwing, as well as the smaller size. Two of the three Bonies only had partially black heads.



● Gulls were reported several times over the next few days. Ring-billed Gulls were the norm, but there were small numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls at both Celery Bog & Bicentennial Nature Area.

● Less mentioned were the unusual numbers of common species. Both Fritz Davis and Barny Dunning counted large numbers of Pied-billed Grebes at Celery Bog. Fritz had 63 in the morning and Barny had 67 without even going to the wetland basin near Walmart. A few days later, Fritz had 40 Double-crested Cormorants drop into the water at the Bicentennial Nature Area just as



## Senate Committee hears from Audubon's CEO

**Dr. Elizabeth Gray**, CEO of the National Audubon Society, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on four important pieces of legislation:

**The Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2021**, which would authorize technical assistance for grant programs targeted to habitat conservation to improve coastal community and ecosystem protection;

**The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act**, which authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to work with states and other agencies to develop and execute proposals to conserve, restore, and manage fish and wildlife populations and their habitats;

**The Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act**, which would reauthorize critical conservation programs throughout the Delaware River Watershed and improve the equitability of federal funding provided through the Act; and

**The Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2022**, which would expand the bipartisan Coastal Barrier Resources Act and its system of protected areas, protecting vital coastal ecosystems while saving federal tax dollars.

Dr. Gray conveyed Audubon's support for all four bills, with particular emphasis on the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act, not yet introduced in Congress. This draft bill would add 277,000 acres of protected areas to the Coastal Barrier Resources System as recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. It would also expand the definition of a "coastal barrier" to include more undeveloped areas like those on the Pacific Coast, in the System in the future, and authorize a pilot project to add marsh migration corridors to the System so that wetlands can naturally "migrate" inland to keep up with sea-level rise.

he and Barny were leaving.

- The floodgates really opened up April 23-4 with a host of warblers and other migrants being reported at local sites. Barny went out to Celery Bog for an hour two days later "and ... hey, what is with the cold weather again?" In spite of the lower temperatures he did see some of the birds reported over the weekend, including Baltimore Oriole, Nashville Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, etc. Probably the most interesting bird of the last few days were Forster's Terns. At least one was still present at 9 am during his visit, resting on an exposed log in the main wetland basin on the golf course side. Barny saw John Skene working his way up the east side of the Bog hoping for a photo.



Forster's Tern

- Bird movement picked up steadily at the end of April. People had their first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds of the season, Chimney Swifts were seen over Purdue's Campus and Mark Arvin heard a Least Flycatcher at the Purdue Wildlife Area.

- On the regular Thursday Early Bird Hike on April 28, Chuck Tuttle reports that one of participants near the rear of the group quietly stopped and pointed to the side of the trail. There, at eye level, maybe 6 feet off the trail in plain view, sat a male Cooper's Hawk that people had walked right by. Seemingly oblivious to the presence of 10 people staring at it, the hawk calmly dropped to the ground and poked around.

- After 3 years of effort, Rick Read finally lured Purple Martins to nest in a Martin House in Voight Park in Monticello. He used a game caller he borrowed from the Purdue Natural Resources Department to play calls of Purple Martins to entice the birds to the area. The caller was purchased in part with SAS funds for the Saw Whet Owl banding project. This year the caller worked. Rick reported that a mated pair moved into box #4 on May 29. Re-checking the box on June 8,

Rick found two Martin nests with four eggs each and the start of a third nest. House Sparrows had also begun three nests but hadn't yet laid any eggs. Rick removed the sparrow nests and discarded them.



Purple Martin Pair

- A lone Female Purple Finch is still coming to Susan Ulrich's sunflower seed as of June 26th. The finch appears healthy and can fly so the reason she didn't migrate when the rest of the Purple Finch left back in May is not known. Perhaps at the time she was ill or injured and when she recovered, the urge to migrate had passed. Will see what happens when migrating Purple Finch return in Fall.

## 2022 Global May Bird Count May 14

Species Name:	War	Tip Co	Species Name:	War	Tip Co	Species Name:	War	Tip Co
Trumpeter Swan	2	0	Red-eyed Vireo	17	49	Summer Tanager	5	10
Canada Goose	170	71	Blue Jay	48	39	Scarlet Tanager	12	10
Wood Duck	71	14	American Crow	57	43	Eastern Towhee	19	17
Mallard	7	22	Horned Lark	13	1	Chipping Sparrow	51	18
Blue-winged Teal	7	1	Purple Martin	4	0	Field Sparrow	41	30
Northern Pintail	2	0	Tree Swallow	11	47	Vesper Sparrow	2	1
Green-winged Teal	2	0	No Rough-winged Swallow	25	13	Savannah Sparrow	5	2
Hooded Merganser	1	0	Bank Swallow	0	6	Grasshopper Sparrow	1	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	5	5	Cliff Swallow	35	0	<b>Henslow's Sparrow</b>	3	3
Wild Turkey	4	3	Barn Swallow	36	8	Song Sparrow	15	22
Northern Bobwhite	2	1	Carolina Chickadee	14	22	Lincoln Sparrow	1	3
Double-crested Cormorant	0	56	Tufted Titmouse	38	52	Swamp Sparrow	1	0
Great Blue Heron	11	22	White-breasted Nuthatch	16	17	White-throated Sparrow	1	3
Great Egret	1	6	Brown Creeper	0	1	Northern Cardinal	73	56
Green Heron	2	3	Carolina Wren	6	15	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	31	15
Turkey Vulture	83	25	House Wren	31	34	Blue Grosbeak	0	3
Mississippi Kite	4	2	Marsh Wren	0	1	Indigo Bunting	94	65
Bald Eagle	1	4	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher	36	42	Dickcissel	56	20
Coopers Hawk	5	4	Eastern Bluebird	15	12	Bobolink	6	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	3	Veery	4	2	Red-winged Blackbird	312	89
Red-tailed Hawk	5	9	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	4	Eastern Meadowlark	26	7
American Kestrel	5	0	<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>	8	32	Common Grackle	68	21
Sandhill Crane	3	2	Hermit Thrush	1	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	86	69
Killdeer	49	10	Wood Thrush	17	22	Orchard Oriole	3	6
Solitary Sandpiper	0	1	American Robin	121	71	Baltimore Oriole	34	35
Spotted Sandpiper	0	4	Gray Catbird	33	53	Purple Finch	1	0
American Woodcock	8	0	Brown Thrasher	8	3	House Finch	12	7
Rock Pigeon	6	0	European Starling	143	17	American Goldfinch	48	54
Eurasian Collared Dove	2	0	Cedar Waxwing	31	14	House Sparrow	162	6
Mourning Dove	119	20	Blue-winged Warbler	4	1	Total Individuals	3001	2013
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14	13	Golden-winged	0	1	Total Species	126	131
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	2	Tennessee Warbler	7	25			
Eastern Screech Owl	1	0	Nashville Warbler	9	1			
Great Horned Owl	1	0	Northern Parula	22	20			
Barred Owl	1	2	Yellow Warbler	38	20			
Common Nighthawk	3	0	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	2			
Chimney Swift	13	2	Magnolia Warbler	0	8			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14	16	Cape May Warbler	1	0			
Belted Kingfisher	6	3	Yellow-rumped Warbler	0	3			
Red-headed Woodpecker	7	18	Black-thrted Green Warbler	0	3			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	21	36	Yellow-throated Warbler	1	6			
Downy Woodpecker	11	15	Prairie	0	1			
Hairy Woodpecker	2	4	Palm Warbler	2	0			
Common Flicker	7	10	Bay-breasted Warbler	0	10			
Pileated Woodpecker	9	11	Blackpoll Warbler	2	21			
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	1	Cerulean Warbler	1	0			
Eastern Wood Peewee	35	49	Black & White Warbler	7	1			
Acadian Flycatcher	16	25	American Redstart	10	30			
Alder Flycatcher	0	2	Prothonotary Warbler	1	3			
Willow Flycatcher	2	3	Ovenbird	5	1			
Least Flycatcher	0	3	Northern Waterthrush	1	1			
Eastern Phoebe	13	10	Louisiana Waterthrush	4	5			
Great Crested Flycatcher	33	18	Kentucky Warbler	11	7			
Eastern Kingbird	36	17	Connecticut Warbler	0	1			
White-eyed Vireo	6	8	Mourning Warbler	0	1			
Yellow-throated Vireo	11	7	Common Yellowthroat	56	45			
Blue-headed Vireo	0	1	Hooded Warbler	0	1			
Warbling Vireo	16	17	Canada Warbler	0	1			
Philadelphia Vireo	2	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	5	14			

### 24 Tippecanoe Participants:

Fritz Smith, Chuck Tuttle, Barny Dunning (compiler), Larry & Becky Theller, Mark Arvin, Joey Mayfield +4 others, John Skene, Barb Brown, Jill Evans, Tatana Sato, Trumand Best, Sara Coapstick, Danielle Shively, Nicolas Renteria, Chris Wiles, Kristen Jones, olden Green, Peter Dy-Liacco, and Ashley Baldwin.

### Barney Dunning on Tippecanoe Co's Results:

Probably the best bird of the day was Worm-eating Warbler at Happy Hollow Park. Tatyana posted a note in eBird that includes a recording of the song. A few others heard the bird that day, while several people searched on the 15<sup>th</sup> and did not. Other rare / uncommon species included Marsh Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, and a Solitary Sandpiper. Warblers and other migrants were sparse - it seemed like a big pulse went through several days before but the birds did not linger.

9 Warren Participants: Brian, Amanda, Phoebe, Callum & Liam Behaler; Shelly Foran; Ellen Tobias; & Susan Ulrich (compiler).

Warblers were in short supply as mentioned for the Tippecanoe Count, as were shorebirds. Best birds were the nesting Trumpeter Swans, followed by the late Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Hermit Thrush & Purple Finch, plus the Cerulean Warbler.



## Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

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

**SAS Chapter Membership Application**      **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Friend of the Sycamore Audubon Society**    \$15/year x \_\_\_\_\_ year(s)    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ New Friend member      ☐ Renewing Friend

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

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

**Total enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dan Dunten, WL Stewardship Manager shows SAS members some of the signs donated to the Celery Bog. The signs will help people learn the English name and Scientific name of the various tree species in the park.

Many new trees are being planted to replace the dead and recently cut White Ash.

Photo by Karen Griggs



## Plant Pots Needed!

SAS got lucky with plant sales this spring (see p2). The sales used up 500-600 plant pots so we need some sizes for next year.

Most needed are the 1/2 gallon size, roughly 5-6 in across and 5-8 in deep. The other size needed are 4-4.5 in across by 5 in deep. Non-standard plastic such as 1.5 to 2 lb yogurt, sour cream, and cottage cheese containers work fine, we can add holes. Lastly 1 gallon plastic milk jugs. If you have any of these or can save them for us, Call Susan Ulrich at 765-583-2275. There is an answering machine. Several people already responded to our email request. Thank you! We have been busy filling your pots.

## And they Work for Free

About 200,000 species of pollinators are insects —bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, wasps, ants, & moths — and about 1,000 pollinator species are vertebrates — birds, bats & small mammals.

Pollinators produce nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually in the United States. But climate change, habitat loss, and increased pesticide use is affecting many of those pollinators. It is estimated that 40 % of the insect pollinators are threatened or endangered. We rely on pollinators to grow our food — so if they're in trouble, it means our food is too.

## Sycamore Audubon Society 2019-20 Board of Directors

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## Tidbits

◆ Billions of tons of plastic have been made in the past decade. But a whopping 91% - has never been recycled..

◆ 65% of drinking water in the United States comes from rivers.

◆ Since 2009, the bald eagle population in the lower 48 states has quadrupled.

◆ Traps monitored in Marion County IN show a 500% increase in the number of mosquitoes from 1981 to 2016, likely due to climate change.

◆ In Native American culture feathers are given as a sign of respect and honor. They are held in high regard as they represent freedom, power, wisdom, honor, trust and strength.

◆ the American bison (*Bison bison*) is the national mammal of the United States.

◆ Only one of five Americans can see the Milky Way because of light pollution

◆ One out of every three bites of food is pollinated by honey bees,

◆ The Dovekie is the smallest and most abundant auk (alcid) found in the Atlantic. Alcids spend most of their time at sea and are usually seen on land only during the breeding season.

◆ A wild moss, known as Big Star, can be used to monitor the amount of sulfur dioxide in the air in as little as ten seconds.





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**The Sycamore Warbler** is published four times a year by the Sycamore Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society serving Audubon members in Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties in central northwest Indiana.

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

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## Summer Sycamore Audubon Calendar

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**July-Aug  
POP-UPS**

**POP-UP Audubons at the Overlooks** Because rain, heat & other weather conditions have cancelled so many Overlook events, the decision to hold one will be made on the basis the weather forecast. People on the email lists will get announcements as to date and time one is planned. If you aren't on the list, send your email to Chuck Tuttle or Susan Ulrich to make sure you get notified. Notification may occur only a couple of days in advance in some cases. Meet at the end of the park road and bring binoculars.

**July 9  
Saturday**

**Riverfest 2022.** This big event along the Wabash at Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette goes from 9 am to 4 pm. It is a family oriented event with music, games, face painting, food, and much, much more including the team voyageur canoe races. Check out the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation website for details on all that is going on. Audubon will be there to interact with people, have a craft for kids, and answer questions about birds. Helpers needed, contact Susan Ulrich, see p.11 for phone/email.

**August 25  
Thursday**

**Early Bird Walks at Celery Bog** This is the start of this fall's Early Bird Walks which are held weekly. Meet at the gravel parking lot at 8 a.m. Lilly Nature Center. Bird for an hour before class, work, or whatever else you have that day.

**Fall Kickoff Membership Meeting.** Bring Your Own 5-8 minute program featuring photos of nature, birds, summer trips, etc. Judging by all the pictures the editor has seen on Facebook. We have lots of really good photographers out there. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, and bring a picnic at 6 p.m. or so, to eat before the meeting along with a flashdrive with any adventures you might like to share. SAS will supply beverages, napkins, etc.