

Sycamore Warbler

Volume 47 Issue 3

Fall 2022



Enjoy Global Big Day Last May? Try it this October.

If you thought Global Big Day was fun, you can do it again on **Saturday, October 8**. It is another 24 hour, day-long celebration of birds but instead of spring migrants, it covers those of the fall. These include many duck and geese species like the blue-phase Snow Goose



shown to the left, and fall/winter sparrows like the Fox Sparrow shown on the right. This year's event is during both International Migratory Bird Day and Global Bird Weekend. Submit at least one eBird checklist during October Big Day to help eBird set a new world record. And let Merlin help out with some of those mystery songs and calls.



If you are unfamiliar with Merlin, see the back page of this newsletter for info. Chuck Tuttle has demonstrated it to people at Outdoor Explore and elsewhere. Not only is it a great way to learn or confirm your knowledge of bird songs it allows us older birders to 'hear' those high pitch songs we otherwise now miss. It is also a FREE app.

Reminder: WE NEED YOUR EMAIL

WE PLAN TO STOP PRINTING AND MAILING HARD COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER AFTER THE DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE.

Instead we will send it via email. Some of you do not have email access or have other issues.

If so, contact Chuck Tuttle (see p.11) .

If you HAVE email capability please send him your email ASAP.

Kankakee Land Protection Plan (LPP) Finalized for Wildlife Refuge

This is great news as it should finally open the way for land acquisition and other on the ground work at the long delayed Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area. The refuge has been on the books for years, but its only physical presence up to now was a small parcel of 144 acres in Illinois donated by the Friends of the Kankakee, an active non-profit group that has been acquiring and rehabbing land parcels as funding permits.

Originally the proposed refuge was to be along the Kankakee River in Indiana and Illinois, an area that hosted thousands of birds and other wildlife, but the then Congressional representative from Indiana was so opposed, the refuge is now only active in Illinois. Hard copies of the LPP will be available at the Friends of the Kankakee's annual meeting on September 24 at Willow Slough, starting at 11 a.m. Three tours are planned, one on the Birds of Kankakee Sands, one a tour of the Savanna Restoration at Willow Slough, and one on radio tracking ornate box turtles. For more info contact Marianne Hahn, Friends president, at 708-799-0249.

The refuge also has a new manager named Cassandra Skaggs. She will be the manager for the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge as well, and has worked in seven states at 9 different refuges and wetland management districts.

<i>Inside This Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
SAS Chapter News	2
Local & Indiana News	3
Conservation News	4
Event Calendar	5
Corridors & Misc.	6
More Misc.	7
Nature Notes & News	8-9
Lear's McCaws	9
Wednesdays in the Wild	10
Odds & Ends + Tidbits	11
Merlin App + Eagles & Lead	12

CHAPTER NEWS

September Meeting May be a Hybrid, Check email

Our invitational September 8 meeting will, as usual, feature photos from members & friends. People who bring a mini program should try to keep it under 5-8 minutes.

Once again we will not have a carry-in dinner, but people who would like, can bring their own picnic and meet at 6:00 before the 7:15 p.m. meeting.

Time to RIP it

This group needs more active members as several have moved away. Call Patty Jones at 765-463-3050 for info. This Fall RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) is working Tuesdays, Oct. 18 to Nov. 29 from 3-5 at Prophet's Rock Woods near Battle Ground, and on Thursdays, Oct. 20 to Dec. 1 from 3-5 at Ross Hills Park. Come out if you can and help improve our local parks and make them more bird friendly.

Busy Time at Riverfest

Susan Ulrich, Gale Turco, and Barney Dunning had a very successful day as many people stopped by, including 75 children who made toilet paper tube owls. Twenty people signed up for the newsletter via email. Hope some of you make it to the

September meeting or another SAS event.

Below are photos Gale Turco took of Barney Dunning and Susan Ulrich talking to some of the visitors.



Carefree Birding Trips

Rick and Debbie Read heard about *Carefree Birding* when they gave their *Exploring Antarctica* presentation at the Monticello library.

The group included a couple who had already booked a tour for Antarctica for this coming winter. They were particularly interested and had lots of probing questions. That same couple are the ones who told them about the organization called *Carefree Birding*. See <https://carefreebirding.com/>.

It appeared to be birding tours that leave from normal cruise ships. Many cruises are in the Caribbean, but Panama and Alaska are mentioned, and even Africa (maybe not on a ship). They hire local bird guides and sometimes experts are onboard.

Birders may compare experiences, review checklists, sightings, etc. One big advantage is you don't have to live out of a suitcase and change hotels frequently.

Birds of Winter Seminar

Rick Read is giving the above seminar Oct 4 at Norway Gardens in Monticello. The program focuses on the summer birds which are leaving and the winter bird arriving that replace them. He will also have tips on bird food and feeders.

SAS Board Supports Grant

SAS's Board wrote a letter supporting NICHES application for a grant through *Indiana's Next Level Conservation Trust* to expand the Williams Woods preserve in Warren County.

New Interactive eBird Status Maps

eBird modeled abundance and range maps are now interactive. Zoom in and get detailed local population information for more than 1,000 worldwide species. (it's even more fun if you say "Enhance" while you zoom in).

These data products can be easily downloaded and added to your favorite mapping software with just a few clicks.

Access to Swallow Nests Needed for Research

A Purdue Researcher is looking for swallow nests to dust for mites.

The goal is to use genetic sequences on the mite themselves. No birds would be affected as swallows will have abandoned

Birding on the Fly List...

Don't want to miss an unusual bird sighting nearby or around the state? Barney sends people on the list an email so those interested can pursue the bird by themselves or maybe via a carpool. Contact him to be on the list. See p. 11.

their nests by this time of year. Barn Swallow nests would be ideal as they are easier to reach than nests of some of the other swallows, such as Bank or Cliff Swallows. Pass any suggestions for remnant swallow nests to check to Barney Dunning.

Indiana Dunes Keynote Speaker for 2023

A bird lover and prolific author, Jennifer Ackermann, will be the keynote speaker at the May 13, 2023 Indiana Dunes Birding Festival in Chesterton Indiana.



Jennifer's most recent book, ***The Bird Way*** (Penguin Press, 2020) explores research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds—how they live and how they think. It was named "A Nature Book of the Year" by the *London Sunday Times* and was a finalist for the Edward O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. Jennifer's books have been translated into 30 languages, and her articles and essays have appeared in *National Geographic*, the *New*

Dan McCain named 2022 Golden Hoosier

The Golden Hoosier award is a collaboration between the office of Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana FSSA. It is the highest honor bestowed upon a senior citizen of Indiana, given in recognition of those who have devoted their lives and services to help fellow Hoosiers and improve their communities

It isn't hard to see why Dan merits this award. Dan has provided the leadership for the Delphi Canal since his retirement, spending countless volunteer hours. He brought many projects to fruition through his tenacity and his good will, including the grant which built the Canal Conference and Interpretive Center in Delphi. His mother Rosalind was one of the founding members of the Carroll County Wabash and Erie Canal Inc.

One of Dan's favorite areas of interest is the trail system that he helped develop over the years through a vast coalition of volunteers. Even today, he is still known to work on the trails and help keep them pristine and ready for the public to enjoy.

The Golden Hoosier Award ceremony will be held on Monday, September 26 in Indianapolis at 1:00 PM Eastern time. Anyone wishing to attend can do so virtually by visiting the following website: www.in.gov/e/lq/2532.htm and clicking on the "Golden Hoosier Award ceremony" icon.

York Times, *Scientific American* and other publications.

Volunteers Help Make Celery Bog Nature Park Unique

Dan Dunten, Park Director for Celery Bog Nature Park in West Lafayette, recognizes two volunteers who have improved the park with their artistry.

Cindy Suseland repainted and refurbished the nature preserve sign marking the woods on the park's west side between the Lilly Nature Center and University Place.

And Ms. Randy Schmidt built and painted the display showing the wingspan of an eagle, a hawk, and other birds which is located under the porch to the right of the main entrance to Lilly Nature Center. If you spend time there you will see numerous visitors checking their own "wingspan" against the birds on the display. Karen Griggs Photo, to right

Save the Dunes Turns 70

2022 marks the 70th year for ***Save the Dunes***. The group has made an incredible impact here in Indiana. Without them the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park would likely not exist. Nor would there be the amount of public access to Indiana's beaches along the lakeshore.

The group fought to protect and provide access to Indiana's unique great lakes habitat and continues today to vigorously fight pollution and projects that would have negative effects on the area. Thank you, *Save the Dunes*, for 70 years of advocacy.



CONSERVATION NEWS

Another Plastic Threat: Plastic Pellets

Believe it or not, plastic pellets (also known as nurdles) which are the building block of all plastic products are not covered by ANY regulations. Trillions are produced every year, many of which are dumped and end up in the world's oceans and waterways. How many? The estimate is that 200,000 tons—or about 10 Trillion nurdles—end up polluting water bodies.

There is lots of data showing how bad plastics in water are for marine life, from fish to birds. The group, Environmental Action, asks people to write their representatives in favor of the **Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act**. This bill would require the EPA to prohibit discharge of these plastic pellets

Feds Quash Trump Rule Weakening Habitat Protection

America's animals, birds and plants now have a better chance of escaping extinction.

In late June the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries revoked a Trump-era rollback that severely limited their ability to protect habitat for endangered species.

The rule limited *critical habitat* to areas that could *currently support* endangered species and excluded areas the species *used* to occupy that could be restored—as well as areas the *species might need* as climate change shifts where they can live.

Stephanie Kurose, a senior policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity said "I'm relieved the Biden administration has taken this important step ...with the extinction crisis accelerating, it needs to move faster to restore the power of the Endangered Species Act and reform federal agencies."

Livestock : "YES", up to 72 Grizzlies: "NO"

Up to 72 Grizzly Bears near Yellowstone National Park could be killed — just so livestock can graze on public lands. Trump's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service first issued this plan in 2019. The Service still wants to turn over parts of Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest to industry. Bears and other wildlife, including bird species, could pay for it with their lives.

The Center for Biological Diversity and its allies took legal action to block the plan but a district court just kept the plan alive. Now the Center is appealing that decision based on several flaws in the



A Carbon Reducing Strategy Under the Radar

Reducing food waste is way up there in reducing carbon. It is projected to save around 87 gigatons of CO2 between now and 2050. Just behind it is a way estimated to save 83 gigatons of carbon. What is it? Expanding family planning and educating girls.

This is not something that is talked much about when discussing climate reducing measures, but is something to be aware of: fewer people mean big reductions in the output of carbon.

In contrast, driving electric cars is estimated to save 8 gigatons of carbon by 2050. That's a **lot** of carbon AND worth doing. More will be removed as electric car numbers continue to grow, but is far behind the impact that expanding family planning would have.

Pesticide Win for Bees

The use of the insecticide sulfoxaflor—a neonicotinoid-like chemical with devastating effect



on bees, was halted in California. This has national significance as many colonies from other states are brought to California to fertilize California's almond crop and other foods.

Service's proposal. One is ignoring the presence of mother grizzlies in the areas where bears will be targeted for killing. The potential of those females and the impact their deaths would have on grizzly bear populations was ignored.

The Stars at Night...

There is a nine-million-acre area of Chihuahuan Dessert in west Texas and northern Mexico named the **Greater Big Bend International Dark Sky Reserve**.

It is the largest protected dark skies area in the world. The area includes The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountain Preserve and the commitment within it of local communities, like Marfa, TX to reduce artificial light pollution.

The Dark Sky Reserve will benefit both humans and wildlife by advancing astronomic research and tourism in the area, and support the many nocturnal species found in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Amphitheater Invasives

Mary Cutler of the Tippecanoe County Parks Department is working to reduce invasives at the Tippecanoe Amphitheater. Progress has been made but there's a lot more to do. A workday is planned for Nov.12 for anyone willing to help. Contact Mary at 765-567-2993 for more info.

Fall Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2022

Meeting programs are currently hybrid: in person and by zoom. Field Trips are outdoors and obviously in person. Bring a mask if you desire, and of course binoculars if you have them. Extra pairs available if not.

- Thursdays at 8 a.m. **Early Bird Walks. Every Thursday during migration at Celery Bog.** Meet at the Gravel parking lot (first right) at 8 AM. The birds are always changing. A great way to start your day.
- Sept 8 Thursday **Hybrid Invitational program.** Members and Friends bring 5-10 minutes of pictures they took during the last year to share (birds, plants, insects, vacations, etc.). Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, WL. 7:15 PM. Bring a picnic at 6 PM and join others before the meeting.
- Sept 17 Saturday **Audubon at the Overlook.** Prophetstown State Park 7:30 to 9:30 AM at the end of the park road. We will look and listen and share info with people passing through.
- Sept 24 Saturday **Fall Migrants Field Trip.** 8 AM Things are moving through and we will see what we can find. Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog. 3 hour trip.
- Oct 9 Sunday **Audubon at the Overlook.** Prophetstown State Park 5-7 PM at the end of the park road to see what may be around and talk to park visitors passing through.
- Oct. 13 Thursday **Hybrid Program of Mystery .** Barny went to his son's wedding before he got details from the speaker. Lilly Nature Center, 7:15 PM. Dinner for people interested is at 6 PM at the Parthenon Restaurant just off US 52, N of West Lafayette (turn after 2nd Marathon Gas).
- Oct. 15 Saturday **Waterfowl Field Trip.** 8:30 to 11AM. Numbers of ducks and geese, etc. will be moving through. Meet at Celery Bog. We will go to other local areas depending on what is reported.
- Oct 29 Saturday **"Potential" Lakeshore Trip** for waterfowl and possible jaegers. Trip is "potential" and will depend on how many are interested as well as the weather. Contact Barny Dunning p. 11. Another option would be to schedule this in November depending on who is interested.
- Nov 10 Thursday **Hybrid Program: NICHES Land Trust News.** Sam Cody, NICHES Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator will share info on new acquisitions and other activities of our local land trust. 7:15 PM. Lilly Nature Center, WL. Dinner with Sam at 6 PM. at the Parthenon Restaurant, WL
- Nov 12 Saturday **Back to the Bog Field Trip.** 8 AM Meet at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog, one of the top birding sites in Indiana to find late migrants such as Rusty Blackbird, sparrows, & geese.
- Nov 19 Saturday **Audubon at the Overlook.** Prophetstown State Park 8-10 AM. We will meet at the end of the park road and see what is around and share our sightings with park visitors.
- Dec 4 or 3 Sun (Sat?) **Potential Bus Trip to Jasper Pulaski** to see the amazing congress of Sandhill Cranes. Barny Dunning will have more details such as time and exact date later. He hopes to get a Purdue Bus to take students and any interested SAS members. Call him closer to the date (see p. 11 for his contact info). Update in next newsletter.
- Dec 8 Thursday **Lafayette CBC Sign Up.** Want to help with the longest continuous running CBC in Indiana? You can sign up for a territory or to help with a territory at 6:30 PM before the Dec. 8th program with Ed Hopkins the compiler (contact info: birder4in@gmail.com; 765- 463-5927) .
- Dec 8 Thursday **Hybrid Program: Hoots to Howls.** Kim Hoover, a wildlife rehabilitator from Star City who works mostly with birds will be the speaker. She gives a kid-friendly program with live raptors and likely her favorite turtle. SAS will be making a donation to Kim's center, **Hoots to Howls**, which costs her \$2,000 every other month to run (given inflation, probably more now). Anyone who would like to contribute and donate can do so at the meeting. Rick Read who saw one of her presentations said, "This is a not-to-miss program". Dinner at Parthenon at 6 p.m.
- Dec 17 Saturday **Lafayette Christmas Bird Count.** If you didn't sign up at the Dec. 8th program, give Ed Hopkins, the compiler, a call or drop him an email (birder4in@gmail.com; 765- 463-5927). There are always uncovered or lightly covered areas that could use someone's attention.

Help for Sage Grouse

One recommendation for improving habitat for Sage Grouse is to cut juniper and other conifers in their habitat. They don't survive where trees occupy over 4% of their habitat. In fact, no active sage-grouse leks were found within two-thirds of a mile where these conifers exceed 4% of the habitat.

Why does a Chicken/Bear/Animal Cross the Road?

Sometimes it's because she has to herd young from point A to point B, as in the case of a harried mallard mom. Sometimes it's to bring a big salmon dinner home, as was caught on video of a bear a few months ago in Alaska. Sometimes no goal can be discerned beyond getting to the other side.

Whatever punchline you prefer, it is not a joke: wildlife are routinely forced to navigate a grid of roadways, fences, walls and other obstacles people have erected in their habitat and migration corridors over the last couple of hundred years.

A lot of the time, the crossing doesn't work well. Every year there are estimated to be more than 1 million instances of vehicles crashing into large mammals (a study focusing on California alone found more than 557 black bears killed during one five-year period). The Department of Transportation had earlier found that 21 threatened or endangered animals, including the Canada lynx and Florida panther, face road mortality as a "major threat" to their survival. (It's quite dangerous for the people behind the wheel, too.)

Roads thwart animals' pursuit of food & shelter, and can lead to inbred populations in the long run.

Even when no collision happens, roads and other human-made obstacles threaten wildlife at the population (and potentially species) level. Animals that find their path blocked by a highway or tall fence might not be able to reach others of their kind. If they can't do that, their mating options are limited, resulting in a less diverse mix of genes and, over time, to an inbred population. It has been shown that mountain lions in Southern California suffer from this lack of genetic diversity. The primary culprit there: roadways.

One solution: wildlife crossings such as bridges or tunnels in problem areas. The infrastructure bill passed earlier this year had funds for this purpose. In Trappers Point, WY, sits a



complex of over & underpasses that some cite as the start of this trend. There, herds of migrating pronghorn antelope and deer cross U.S. Highway 191 by the thousands each winter and summer. The

numbers alone attest to its success—among them, an 80-percent reduction in wildlife-vehicle crashes and a 300% increase in pronghorns crossing the road at the intended area.

"We need it to be recognized and understood, that it is important to prevent extinctions.

It's also important to keep the common birds common."

Roger Safford Senior Program Manager
Preventing Extinctions Birdlife International

Population & Democracy

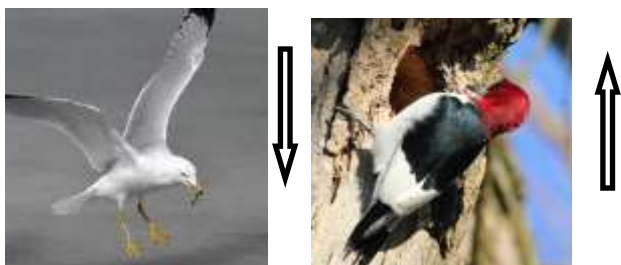
In 1984 **Garret** Hardin (1915-2003) gave a paper at the Annual Meeting of the *Society of American Zoologists* titled "Human Ecology: the Subversive, Conservative Science." It included a list of what he considered to be the foundation stones of the science of human ecology. The 8th (of 12) was

population growth ultimately makes democracy impossible.

He supports this statement as follows: "Easy communication is the *sine quo non* for an enduring democracy. All communications functions are inherently affected with *dis*economies of scale, since (for every well defined communication network) the burden created by the communication of *n* people increases as the *square of n*. This burden expresses itself in information overload, leading to misunderstandings, social pathologies, and (ultimately) the acceptance of a totalitarian regime as the least of the evils available to an overpopulated political unit. In the face of unlimited population growth the *word* 'democracy' can be retained, *but not in fact*."

Global human population has increased from about 5 billion in 1986 to 7.4 billion in 2016, an overall increase of 48%. Today the human population is increasing by nearly a million people every 4 days and is predicted to reach 9.8 billion by mid-century. If this materializes, it will happen on an Earth increasingly depleted of essential resources, both in quantity and quality.

Population growth (in less-developed countries), increased resource use and environmental impact (especially by those in more-developed countries) and common sense, predicts that an additional 2.4 billion people in 2050, when added to the current population will find us more crowded and competing and confronting each other. This, along with Hardin's "information overload," will pose serious challenges to the survival of democracies and freedom worldwide. And Hardin didn't even consider the effects of *dis*information.



Chicago Area Bird Changes Mixed

Results are in for a 22-year monitoring study showing breeding bird trends in the Chicago area's main habitats. It reveals some encouraging news. Some birds, in general decline nationally, are showing noticeable population increases around Chicago. These include the Red-headed Woodpecker, Marsh Wren, Henslow's Sparrow, Sora, Dickcissel, and Wood Thrush,

Species the figures show to be declining include Upland Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Black-crowned Night-heron, Great Horned Owl, American Redstart, and House Sparrow. You can see more data at bcnbirds.org/trends21/trends.html.

"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water." — DOUG TALLAMY

A Little Help for Right Whales

The past few weeks have brought some wins for Right Whales in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Off the coast of Alaska, North Pacific Right Whales moved closer to escaping extinction when, in response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and partners, NOAA Fisheries announced the whales may get expanded habitat protections. With only about 30 individuals left in their eastern population, these are the world's most endangered whales, ranging from the Bering Sea to Baja California.

And in the Atlantic, where lobster fishing poses a dire threat of entanglement, critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whales have declined to only 336 individuals in just a handful of years. But this week a federal court ruled in favor of the whales — and the Center and allies — in our long-running case challenging the Fisheries Service's failure to take sufficient action to save them.

Separately, an appeals court reinstated seasonal protection for Right Whales off Maine, where lobster fishing lines will be banned in certain federal waters between the months of October and December.

Why the Navy Has a Forest In Indiana

In the early 1970s, as the United States began preparing for its Bicentennial, Boston decided that the U.S.S. *Constitution* would be a focal point of the city's anniversary celebrations, with a new museum to the celebrated ship opening at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

The 3-masted heavy frigate, launched in 1797, was named by George Washington and built with copper bolts forged by Paul Revere. The *U.S.S. Constitution* protected American ships against the French in the Quasi-War of 1798-1800 and quelled pirate attacks in the Mediterranean during the First Barbary War.

The armed vessel defeated five British warships in the War of 1812, and it was after one of those naval battles—in which the American crew watched the enemy cannonballs bounce harmlessly off *Constitution's* strong white-oak hull—that the warship earned its famous nickname: "Old Ironsides."



Constitution fulfilled its last mission, seizing a slave ship near the Congo River, in 1853 but remains today a fully commissioned warship of the U.S. Navy and—225 years after its launching—the oldest warship still afloat anywhere on Earth.

In 1906 the *Constitution* had its first major overhaul to be restored to its original War of 1812 configuration. In order to maintain the ship's seaworthiness, a near-full restoration would need to be undertaken every 10 years after. But in 1976 when the Navy sought materials for the restoration ahead of the 1976 Bicentennial, the oaks needed were hard to find in the NE so the Naval Shipyard eventually bought timber from a private seller in Ohio.

"Someone in the Navy caught wind of it and wondered why they didn't just come another four or five hours west, where they had fantastic white oak right on Navy property that they could have gotten for free," recalls Trent Osmon, the environmental manager at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane, a Navy installation 35 miles southwest of Bloomington, Indiana.

That prompted the Navy in 1976 to begin harvesting white oak for the U.S.S. *Constitution* at NSA Crane. To celebrate the occasion, they established ***Constitution Grove***, a ceremonial 40-acre dedicated section of forest on the sprawling base where much of the timber that keeps the formidable warship afloat is harvested. Today, NSA Crane is the only forest in the U.S. managed by the Navy to support its fleet.

Condensed from a story from National Geographic.

Nature Notes & News

- May 27 Fritz David found a late Mourning warbler at Celery Bog.
- On June 10 Peter Dy-Liacco had a Prothonotary Warbler at Celery Bog, indicating the species was nesting there again this year.
- River Otters have found Jim McGlone's property in Warren County. He saw one building a nest in the bank and spotted at least 3 individuals.
- Mark Arvin's visit to Celery Bog on May 29 produced a Northern Mockingbird & Hooded Merganser.
- On May 30, Joey Mayfield saw a Wild Turkey, a species somewhat uncommon around the Bog.



- June 26 Chuck Tuttle took the above picture of a juvenile Cooper's Hawk utilizing his bird fountain.

- July 1 Greg Fraley posted that Horned larks have been at the intersection of 125 north and Kerber Rd the last couple of days. He wondered if this was really early this year.

- Rick Read and the Monticello Parks superintendent inspected the Purple Martin house July 8. Martins are now in 4 of the 8 compartments and have 15 chicks. House Sparrows still try to nest. Their eggs & nests continue to be removed.



- Barny Dunning returned from traveling July 9 and checked on the Mississippi Kite in WL. He had an adult flyby and a juvenile in a dry tree near Essex Street.

- On July 14 Barny noted that this time of summer marks the influx of Sedge Wrens at grassland sites. Sedge Wrens are unusual as they don't show up (at least they aren't singing) at the start of the summer, instead they become more vocal late in the summer. When he wrote, there were multiple reports from Prophetstown State Park, including many sightings near the Pond trail Barny had one the day before near the basketball court along with young Northern Bobwhite at the picnic area and a singing Blue Grosbeak at the park entrance.

- That same morning, thanks to the dry conditions water levels were low exposing mud along the edges of Celery Bog. Chuck Tuttle, Michael Levine and Barny Dunning had 8 Least Sandpipers, a Spotted Sandpiper and a Semipalmated Sandpiper, all south of the Lindberg Bridge.

- A Black Tern and a Ruddy Duck were reported at the Bog on July 23 by Peter Dy-Liacco.

- Five days later Chris Wiles had 2 Black Vultures there and on July 31 Ed Hopkins had 3 Caspian Terns.



- Suzanne Caffee and her husband found a Turkey Vulture nest in the base of a hollow tree in their backyard. They noticed the adults in the area and got out the step ladder to look in and found the young. Young vultures are white, before they get their adult dark plumage. Although Turkey Vultures are

commonly seen, finding a nest is uncommon.

- Activity to pick up in August. A rare to this area, American Avocet, was discovered on the 5th by Doug Wade.

- On the 6th John Skene found a Marsh Wren and a Black-billed Cuckoo, while Mark Arvin ran into a Least Bittern.

- Amanda and Brian Beheler had a Black vulture fly over Attica on July 8 shortly after they had commented on not seeing one this summer. On Tuesday Aug 2 their family was at Ivy Tech and saw 5 White Pelicans and a bunch of Cattle Egrets. Shorebirds too, but no one had binoculars to i.d. them.

- Aug 13 at Celery Bog, Fritz Davis spotted a visiting Sora Rail.

- A Peregrine Falcon was seen the next day, Aug 14, by Vivek Govind Kumar. That same day Karl Wood had an American White Pelican at the Ivy Tech retention pond

- One update to an earlier report – the one tree. It is still partially alive, so perhaps that is why it was sphomeowners who took down the dead trees at the "Mississippi Kite spot" left ared. In any event, Karen Griggs saw a kite there since the large tree was cut and Barny Dunning saw both adults and a juvenile kite using the tree after all the disturbance was finished..

- On Aug 15 Barny Dunning got several reports – an Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported from the Purdue campus, and Roxie Easter had a female Blackburnian and a male Yellow-throated Warbler at her home near Division Road.. The



Lear's Macaw Recovery Threatened?

Endemic to the dry Caatinga forests of Bahia in Brazil, **Lear's Macaws** nest in burrows within sandstone cliffs dotted in the landscape. First described in 1856 from an illustration by the poet Edward Lear, wild Lear's Macaws were only discovered in 1978. Surveys showed the species on the brink of extinction, with habitat loss, hunting, and the pet trade reducing the global population of Lear's Macaw to as low as 60 birds by the 1980s.

Intensive conservation efforts, including engaging local communities to stop trade, and habitat clearance, as well as establishing and protecting the Canudos Biological Station – a privately run reserve where most of the world's Lear's Macaws roost (supported by **American Bird Conservancy** USA) and managed by ABC's Brazilian partner the *Biodiversitas* Foundation.

As a result there are now close to 2,000 Lear's Macaws occurring in Bahia with the species' down listed to Endangered in 2011. The limited distribution makes this recovery precarious, and a new wind farm being built by the French company Voltalia may threaten these extraordinary conservation gains. Granted a license by the State Environmental Agency in 2020, the project is in the Canudos region of Bahia State – a Key Biodiversity Area and an Alliance for a Zero Extinction (**AZE**) site given it is home to the entire global population of wild Lear's Macaws. In early 2021, Voltalia cleared land to make way for the wind farm and recent images have shown the first turbines are now installed. This despite the fact that the Public Ministry of the state of Bahia recommended the project be suspended in July 2021.

"The increase in the population of Lear's Macaw ... is an example of a successful conservation story resulting from a collective effort by NGOs, government and the local community," says Pedro Develey, Director of SAVE Brasil (BirdLife Brazil). "The installation of a wind

farm project in the species' small distribution disrupts these conservation gains". The fact that the wind farm overlaps with an AZE also contradicts

Voltalia's own sustainability commitments to meet the International Finance Corporation's performance standards on environmental and social sustainability.

Voltalia did conduct a small impact assessment – as well as proposing certain mitigation measures within the facility– however a full Environmental Impact Assessment will only be conducted once the facility is in operation. This is concerning, as Lear's Macaws have multiple characteristics that often make species vulnerable to wind farms: they are large-bodied and highly mobile, often flying up to 70km at high speeds in search of food, usually during the dimly lit hours of dawn and dusk, making collisions more likely. "In my opinion, I don't think the site where the Canudos Wind Farm is being implemented is adequate because it's in the center of the species' route to their main roosting and feeding areas," states Lorinho Reis, a birdwatching guide in Canudos. Conservationists are already working hard to conserve the species from several persistent threats, notably the capturing of hatchlings to supply the illegal pet trade, collisions with powerlines and the lack of growth of the Licuri Palm, their main food source. Adding collisions with wind turbines to this list of threats may be enough to curtail the recent population recoveries, particularly given the species is long-lived and highly sensitive to increased adult deaths.



Yellow-throated Warbler breeds locally, but both the flycatcher and the Blackburnian Warbler were Fall "passage migrants" – birds just coming through. .

● Other migrants followed at the Bog. On August 21 Vivek G Kumar reported seeing Green-winged Teal while Ed Hopkins had a Lesser Yellowlegs, and on the 22nd Fritz Davis had a Nashville Warbler and John Skene a Swainson's Thrush. August 23th produced the tiny Bell's Vireo for Karl Woods.

● That evening, at 715 p.m.. just before sunset, Karen Griggs counted 80 to 100 Great Egrets at Celery Bog. The next morning at 7:15 a.m. they

were all gone—just a few. white feathers floating around.

● Shorebirds made it onto lists on Aug 26 when Fritz Davis saw a Solitary Sandpiper and Doug Wade a Greater Yellowlegs and a Semipalmated. Sandpiper.

● Vivek G Kumar visited the Bog on the 27th and enjoyed seeing Bank Swallow, a Canada Warbler and especially, a Baird's Sandpiper.

● Michael Meyer had a Little Blue Heron at the Bog on Aug 30 along with 1 Black-crowned Night-heron, 1 Osprey, and 7 species of warblers: Tennessee, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll. Black-throated Green and an American

Redstart, .

● September started with a bang at the early bird hike. Lots of warblers and other species passing through/

● On Sept 3 Barny Dunning emailed. "Fall birds continue to be reported." he had a Red-breasted Nuthatch Sept 2 on the Purdue Campus and an American Redstart at the Bog. Mark Arvin found a Snowy Egret among the great Egrets south of the bridge at Celery Bog and heard a number of Red-breasted Nuthatches. He also had a flock of warblers by the Nature Center

● Barny Dunning passed on Andrei Gabrielo's report that the Mississippi Kite is still hanging out on Covington south of Cumberland street in West Lafayette as of Sept 3.

Eating the Problem?

The European Green Crab made its way to Maine, one of many species that arrived in ballast water of ships as far back as the 1800's. The small crabs are exquisite, seemingly carved from Jade, the big ones look more like a monster. The crabs are nimble and chaotic, and likely now to be found under any rock in the Gulf of Maine.

But it is an invader. Since arriving the crabs have established a thriving population, feasting on soft-shell clams and blue mussels, overtaking the fisheries that have sustained Mainers for centuries. Their gigantic appetites and canny ability to adapt and reproduce outcompeted efforts to remove them. Their scientific name is *Carcinus maenas* or "raving mad crab" which reflects their nature to annihilate any species they share a space with, including each other.

One of the last defenses against these marauding creatures now being studied is,
not to eradicate them, but to eat them.

To study the feasibility of creating a soft-shell green crab fishery in the United States, Carissa McMahan, director of fisheries at the environmental nonprofit Manomet, and Jessica Batchelder, a researcher, have been counting green crabs three times a year. The count involves a square-meter PVC pipe contraption called a quad, a bucket for fleeing crabs, and hands willing to be pinched as they plunge into seaweed in search of the snapping crustaceans.

Green Crabs are unfortunately not alone. The Gulf of Maine is heating up faster than 99 percent of the world's oceans, a consequence of the warming Labrador Current, (that has historically filled the gulf with frigid Arctic water) and the northward shift of the Gulf Stream (which brings warmer air and water currents). The warming water causes lots of problems for Maine fishermen which include an increase of at least 64 invasives, with more expected. Many of the invasive species arrived thanks to aquaculture introducing non-native oyster species like the European oyster.

Wednesdays In the Wild Natural History Programs Thru October

All trips are outdoors and limited to 20 registered participants..

There is no fee except as mentioned.,

Registration is required by noon on the Monday prior to the program.

**To register call Mary Cutler, the Tippecanoe County Park Naturalist
 at 765-567-2993 or email her at mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov.**

If spaces for a particular program are full, you can be put on a waiting list in case of a cancellation.

**If you register and then can't make it, please contact Mary
 so someone on the waiting list can take your place.**

September 14: **Restoring a Lost Landscape: Prophetstown Wetlands:** 10 am to noon. Tom Swinford, Director of Stewardship for the Indiana Nature Conservancy. Meet at the end of the park road. Limit 20

September 21: **Discovering the Beauty of Fisher Ok Savanna** 1-3 pm. Susan Ulrich, SAS. Meet at the property parking lot or join noon carpool at Lilly Nature Center. Limit 20 Jasper Co.

September 28: **Celery Bog's Fall Floral Finale.** 1-3 pm Dan Childs, weed scientists & author of 3 wildflower books. Meet at Lilly Nature Center to explore the diversity of goldenrods, asters, and other flowers Limit 30

October 5: **Geology of Turkey Run Hike.** 1-3 pm. Aaron Douglas, DNR Interpretive Naturalist. \$1 fee program fee, no gate fee. Find fossils, learn to identify signs of glaciers, and much more. Meet at Turkey Run State Park Nature Center. Parke Co.

October 12: **Pinhook Bog Tour.** 2-5 p.m. EDT. Join Kipton Walton, National Parks Ranger to see this amazing Indiana Treasure. Meet at the Dorothy Buell Visitor Center for the Indiana Dunes (1215 SR 49 in Porter Co.

October 19: **Autumn at Shawnee Bottoms Nature Preserve.** 1-3 p.m. Bob Easter, NICHES Stewardship Director. **See what this property offers in fall. Meet at the property's parking lot at 1 pm or join the carpool at noon at Lilly Nature Center.** Fountain Co.

October 28: **Ross Biological Reserve.** Over 70 years of ecological study makes this the best studied woodland in Indiana. Dr. Kerry Rabbenold, professor emeritus, Purdue. Meet at the property parking lot (451 S 875 W, WL between Ross Hills Park and the Ravines Golf Course. Tippecanoe Co.

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

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

SAS Chapter Membership Application **Date:** _____

Name : _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone(s): _____

Send to : Sycamore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 2716, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2716.

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

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

☐ New Friend member ☐ Renewing Friend

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

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

Sycamore Audubon Society 2019-20 Board of Directors

Barry Dunning, President, Field Trips
7509 N 75 E, W Lafayette, 47906
(C) 765-412-8760 (W) 765-494-3565
jdunning@purdue.edu

Chuck Tuttle, Vice President, Programs
1708 Maywood, W Lafayette, 47906
(c) 586-4806 chuckt1708@gmail.com

Karen Griggs, Acting Secretary
100 Thorn bush Drive,
W. Lafayette 47906 463-5215

Jennifer Tuttle, Treasurer
1708 Maywood, W Lafayette, 47906

Paul Brooks, Webmaster
219-221-0254
paulbrooks@gmail.com

George Kopcha, At Large
510 Asher Street, Lafayette, 47904
gkopcha@gmail.com
gkopcha@indot.in.gov
(c) 765-714-5126

Rick Read, At Large
402 E Terrace Bay, Monticello 47960
574-583-3431 rickread.in@gmail.com

Susan Ulrich, Publications
11907 E 500 N, Otterbein, 47970
765-583-2275

Tidbits

◆ Around the world, roughly 90% of land plants rely on pollinators to reproduce.

◆ About 3 out of 4 global food crops rely either partly or entirely on pollinators for reproduction. In a world without bees, many of our favorite foods would no longer be able to grow.

◆ Roaming Bison boost native plant species richness by 86%

◆ Bahrain plans to double its landmass by building artificial islands.

◆ Our native Solomon Seal plants get their name from annual scars on their rhizomes said to resemble the seal of King Solomon of the bible. Their seeds are a favorite of birds.

◆ 8% of our DNA comes from viruses.

◆ **A chickadee's brain grows larger when it** needs to store and find food for caching. Brain cells are added to the hippocampus, increasing the chickadees spatial memory. In spring, the brain shrinks back to its previous size.

◆ When you see a bird pick up one seed then put it down and pick up another, it is weighing the seed to select the heaviest one which should give the bird a better energy return.

◆ Woodpeckers and nuthatches take sunflower seeds, inert them into clefts in the bark of a tree then hatch them open with their beak to eat the seed inside. This feeding behavior is how nuthatches got their common name.

Fallen Leaves are a Free Lunch for Plants

From a gardening perspective, fallen leaves offer double benefits. Leaves form a **natural mulch** that helps suppress weeds and at the same time **fertilize the soil** as they break down.

Why buy mulch and fertilizer when you have a free source? Simply let leaves lie where they fall or move them into your garden beds to protect your plants' roots, suppress weeds, preserve soil moisture, reduce erosion, and eventually become compost.

Fashionista

A newly discovered species of fuzzy-looking crab wears a living sponge on its head like a cap. The beige-brown crab, one found recently by a family on a beach in Western Australia, were named *Lamarkdromia beagle* after Charles Darwin's ship.



After picking up sea sponges whose biochemicals help ward off predators, these "fluffy crabs" cut them down to size with their claws, perch them atop their heads, and wear them indefinitely. Snazzy.

Urban Canopies Fight City Heat

When it comes to addressing unbearable summer heat in urban areas, few investments offer as many benefits as street trees. Urban trees cool cities in two main ways: by providing shade and through evapotranspiration.

Leafy canopies help prevent sunlight from penetrating windows or being absorbed by dark surfaces. And as trees grow, water is released from their leaves and from the soil beneath them providing additional cooling as it enters the atmosphere.



Sycamore Audubon Society
P. O. Box 2716
West Lafayette, IN 47996

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Email: sycamoreaudubon@gmail.com

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

An Improved 'ear' for Birdwatchers.

What is Merlin Sound? If you are unfamiliar with this phone app, it is from Cornell University and draws on their renowned Sound Library to ID calls. Essentially it can identify a bird sound when the microphone on your phone picks it up in the field.

Tips for Merlin Sound ID

Sound ID in Merlin Bird ID can help you to learn and identify the calls and songs of 685 bird species in the US, Canada, and Europe.

For best results, set your location and hold the phone still. You can see if it agrees with your guess, or compare the song against the example recordings in Merlin before reporting them. You are encouraged to trim, edit, and upload your recordings to your eBird checklists on ebird in order to put them to work for science and conservation. Recordings will be added to the library to improve Merlin's identification Skills.



Still a Threat to Eagles

Three threats to Bald & Golden Eagles: DDT, habitat destruction, and poaching have been on the decline for years. But, the fourth, lead bullets, is still a major problem. Lead has been known to poison eagles for years, but there hasn't been a rigorous substantial study documenting the extent of the problem.

Now there is. A recent large-scale study led by wildlife research biologist Vincent Slabe has shown that nearly half of Golden and Bald Eagles experience lead poisoning.

The study acquired samples from over 1,200 Eagles, both living and dead from 38 states. The results showed that 47% of Bald Eagles and 46% of Golden Eagles showed signs of recurring lead exposures. This has an effect on the growth of their populations. Bald Eagles are still growing by 1% but Golden Eagles are declining by 1% which is of concern as their population is only a tenth of that of the Bald Eagle.