

Sycamore Warbler

Volume 48 Issue 2

Summer 2023



R.M.

Retiring: Dan Dunten and Bob Cheever

Those of you who spend time at Celery Bog and the Lilly Nature Center will be sorry to hear that both Dan Dunten (pictured at right) and Bob Cheever (below) will have retired by the time you get this newsletter. Their last day is May 31. The Nature Center volunteers held a retirement party for the pair, over 50 people, including three SAS board members, attended.



Dan has worked constantly to develop many new exhibits in Lilly NC, such as the recent nest box camera and outdoor musical instruments, making it an exciting place to visit, while Bob has taken care of the physical maintenance, including trail repairs and removal of invasive species as well as setting up chairs, etc. for meetings, and helping groups with their audio-visual problems. Both were easy to work with, and Dan consulted SAS's opinions (as well as financial help) over the years.



Bob is retiring and moving to an apartment in Lafayette, while Dan will be a consultant for the new Monticello Nature Center which opened recently. He may possibly do some work with Pennsylvania State Parks which is looking to ideas to modernize and improve their nature centers.

At this time no replacements have been appointed. Whomever they are, we hope they will hold the same high standards that have make Lilly Nature Center and Celery Bog Park the most loved site in West Lafayette. It is fitting that Dan and Bob's last Mind BOGgling event was a set record for attendees. Both will be missed. SAS wishes them the best in the years ahead and hopes to still see them at some of our meetings.

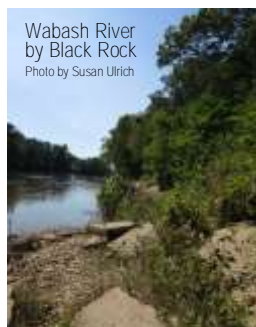
Pipelines, Progress, & Policy: A Public Forum on Water Use and Transfer

Facilitated by the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette at the request of local Public Officials

The proposal to supply water to the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District through a pipeline from the Wabash River alluvial aquifer in Tippecanoe County has generated many questions. Would this affect the current water users or future economic development in the Greater Lafayette area? What is this alluvial aquifer, and who is already using it? Are pipelines the best way to ensure progress? Are policies in place to ensure that our water use is sustainable? If not, what do we need and how will we get there?

The forum will provide the community an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and rigorous analysis to address these concerns. This forum will explore proposals that attempt to balance the concerns for water sustainability and economic development in Greater Lafayette with the need for water for economic development in other regions in Indiana.

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Wabash River by Black Rock
Photo by Susan Ulrich

Forum Topics

- Overview of water use in Tippecanoe County and potential policy issues
- The basics of ground water as a natural resource
- Exploring potential impacts on local water resources
- The Lebanon LEAP project

Chapter News

Next Chapter Meeting is September 8th.

Take lots of Pictures this summer and bring 5 minutes worth to share on September 8 when SAS's new year of programming begins. The program: "Bring your own Slide Show" is at Lilly Nature Center at 7:15 p.m.

For those interested, there will be a pot luck supper starting at 6 p.m. before the meeting. Bring a dish to share or just drop in. There is always plenty of food.

Did you visit a national or state park? Go overseas? Take pictures of local spots, events, or critters of interest? If so, bring your best shots to show and talk about.

Saying "Goodbye"

Rick and Debbie Read have moved to Florida as of the end of June. The two of them have been very active with SAS over the years, especially in Monticello where they gave numerous talks, walks, and started the Audubon after school Bird Club.

We will miss them and wish them all the best in their new home along with lots of new and old species of birds coming to their feeders.

April Garden Expo Report

Wow! Another plant sellout that raised \$1,330 that was divided between SAS and our local Native Plant Society. Half the

plants were gone in the first hour, and most of the rest in the next..

Sales kept George Kopcha, Patty Jones, Ann Piechota, and Susan Ulrich busy helping people, adding up their purchases, and reorganizing and condensing the tables.

We also need to thank Dan Childs who shared some of his booth space with us and helped load and carry in donated plants. Karen Griggs who volunteered her yard and brought a carful to the sale, and everyone else who donated plants, purchased plants, or otherwise helped make the sale such a success. Special thanks to Ron & Gale Turco, Ann Piechota, Patty Rader and _____ who stepped up and helped Susan Ulrich dig and move plants before the sale.

April & May Packed with Events

Two weeks after Garden Expo was the **Fifth Grade Camp Bird hikes** on Tuesday & Thursday with the **May Global Bird Count** following on the Saturday.

This count is when people all over the world, including local birders, went out looking to see what birds they could find. Local data for both Tippecanoe and Warren Counties will be in the next newsletter along with names of the participants. Tippecanoe evidently had 150 or so species. Warren had around 120.

The following Saturday SAS was at Celery Bog for the **Mind**

BOGgling Event, and on the next weekend, Memorial Day, SAS held a **Pop-Up Plant Sale** in conjunction with the local Native Plant Society.

Fifth Grade Camp

Three SAS members helped with the Tuesday and Thursday WL 5th grade Nature Camp at Camp Tecumseh. SAS helpers were Karen Griggs, Brian Schilling, and Susan Ulrich.

An Audubon member with 2 teachers led about 20 students on a 45 minute bird hike to look at birds that were obliging enough to show themselves, learn a song or two, and provided interesting information about the birds encountered.

Mind BOGgling Event

This annual festival had great weather and attracted over 700 people (believed to be a record for attendees). Anne Piechota and Susan Ulrich spent the day at the Audubon booth led a bird hike, talked to people about birds and helping children color cut out pictures of birds, plants, animals etc. to 'repopulate' a forest scene.

SAS also provided funds to bring Kim Hoover, the rehabilitator, from **Hoots to Howls** and her birds to the event. They drew a big crowd of adults & children.

Pop-Up Plant Sale

Just one week later SAS and INPS held their Pop-up Plant Sale over the Memorial Day weekend. The decision to hold it was due to the dozens of people at Garden Expo who asked if there would be one this year.

Birding on the *FLY List*...

Don't want to miss an unusual bird sighting nearby or around the state? Barny sends people on the list an email so anyone that is interested can pursue the bird. Contact him to get on the list. See p. 11.

Update on Kankakee NWR

"Our March 18th with the IL DNR went very well. We had a good conversation about the National Wildlife Refuge, DNR Fish and Wildlife Area properties, the Kankakee and more.

My thanks to Jay Butler, Brent Stack, Jeff Manes, Bill Iltzsche, Tom Larson, Craig Zandstra, Kim Russell, and Rhonda Remesnik for attending and representing the local conservation community and the IWLA well.

Representing the DNR was Deputy Director Chris Smith, Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Amanda Wuesterfeld, Private Lands Program Manager Josh Griffin, and LaSalle FWA manager Zach DeYoung. It turns out that none of them are familiar with any conversation between the DNR and US FWS regarding any DNR opposition to the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and the DNR does not have any policy against a Kankakee NWR. So I will be consulting with my confidants and other conservationists to determine future actions. **Feel free to make suggestions on how to get the USFWS to recommit to the NWR in Indiana. 20,000 acres of public land are on the line."**

Info from Jim Sweeny, new president of the Friends of the Kankakee

It was held at a new location but only a block and a half from the old one. Pam Porterfield volunteered her yard after learning we needed a new site.

The weather cooperated and the sale raised an amazing \$1,160.60 for the two groups.

A big THANK YOU to Patty Rader and Susan Ulrich for organizing the event and to the following donors and helpers (plus those who we didn't get names for): Anna Welch, Connie Brown, Amanda Estes, Sandra Kelly, Sally Carter, George Parker, Patty Jones, Susan Ulrich, Sally Carter, Ann Piechota, George Kopcha, Amanda Estes, Larry Theller, Doug Paprocki, Amy Kreston-Pearson, who brought a donation of Purple Coneflowers donated by the Hindu Temple), and of course, our hostess, Pam Porterfield, who not only let us use her yard, but who carried tables, and plants, plus helped with set up and take down. She also said she would be happy to have us back next year.

MORE Thank You's

—to Gale Turco and Susan Ulrich for the treats at recent meetings. And to George Kopcha bringing beverages each month.

June/July SAS Festival Appearances

If you can help at one of these festivals, please contact Chuck Tuttle or Susan Ulrich.

Riverfest: July 8 from 9 am to 4 pm at Tapawingo Park

Williamsport Street Fair: July 29 downtown Williamsport, Warren County 2-6 pm.

Recent Board Action

Signed a letter to the Bureau of Land Management on their proposed Public Lands Rule, which promotes conservation and prioritizes the health and resilience of ecosystems across those lands. The new Public Lands Rule promoting those goals would help more than 3,000 species.

TNC Indiana: Forestry for the Birds

Begun in 2022 to help Landowners in Indiana manage their forests in an environmentally healthy way, TNC's **Forestry for the Birds** aims to promote the well being of both birds and forests.



Wood Thrush

For a variety of birds to thrive in upcoming generations, one needs a diversity of habitats, including forest habitats. One bird species may need old forests, another young forests, yet others open forests with shrubby or low understory. Think about where you hear and see wood thrush or a gnatcatcher. Since trees grow slowly, planning is needed to ensure these various habitats are available in the amounts needed for each species to maintain Indiana's full variety of birds.

TNC has two publications about the **Forestry for the Birds** program which can be viewed or download at natrue.org/Indianaforests

CONSERVATION NEWS

Grizzlies Habitat Safe At least for now...

Last month the Center for Biological Diversity and its allies went to court to halt a logging project threatening grizzly bears in Montana's Kootenai National Forest.

Since then a federal judge sided with the center and the bears, saying agencies involved hadn't properly studied how it could hurt grizzlies. Only 42 of

the bears remain in this forest, and four of them (including a mother with cubs) live in the proposed logging site.



The project, known as the Knotty Pine timber sale, would allow logging on more than 5,000 acres of public land — including massive clearcuts. It would also create miles of new roads, which are especially deadly for grizzlies.

This decision keeps the bears safe until the judge gives a final ruling.

BIG NEWS! A Global Ocean Treaty

Success! Finally on March 6th, the world has agreed on a Global Ocean Treaty—it is a monumental win for ocean protection, the biggest news for the ocean's wildlife in decades..

The treaty will protect at least 30% of the world's oceans. These protected marine sanctuaries will give stressed marine animals — from whales to fish to turtles — places to recover and rebuilt numbers. It also gives a pathway for the oceans to survive climate change and the continuing increase in plastic pollution. Healthy oceans not only help combat climate change by locking away carbon, they also provide food security to more than 3 billion people and the ***ocean's sea-birds***.



Over five and a half million people around the world built the movement that led to this treaty. It was back in 2005 that Greenpeace first developed the core of this idea. the very first Greenpeace International briefing on this topic, written way back in 2005! Since then, the treaty has had many names, but the core remained the same — the oceans needed protection.



Carbon-Free Energy Club Grows

Minnesota has joined 21 other states, Puerto Rica, and the District of Columbia in the 100 Percent Carbon-free Energy Club. In February Gov Tim Walz signed into law a standard to make the state carbon-free by 2040.

The new standard includes provisions that pursue environmental justice and ensure the transition will be carried out equitably.

State Conservation Land Gets a Boost

In 2021 Indiana lawmakers used \$25 million in federal pandemic recovery money to purchase land for conservation.

Heavy use of Indiana's parks and other public lands during the pandemic showed the need Hoosiers had for more protected areas. Indiana has only 3% of its land saved as parks, forests, etc. This is the lowest percentage for any Midwestern state.

The \$25 million was given out by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The eleven projects approved for funding added a total of 3,700 acres to Indiana's protected public lands.

One of the 11 successful projects was from our local NICHES Land Trust. The grant went to purchase land that expands one of NICHES existing properties in Warren County.

Thanks to grants and local public support, NICHES now owns nearly 5,000 acres in 8 local counties. Public use has doubled in the past few years since the pandemic began.

Three Lost Birds Found in 2022. One still Lost

The ***Search for Lost Birds***, a partnership between *Re-wild*, *American Bird Conservancy*, *eBird*, and *BirdLife International*, seeks to find birds whose species have not been reported for years. After all, you can not prevent extinction if you don't know where the bird may be so you can develop a recovery plan. Expeditions in 2022 rediscovered three species while a fourth species remains 'lost' and possibly extinct.



The newest 'found' bird is the **Dusky Tetraka** (left) from Madagascar. The species, not seen since 1999, was found again in December of 2022 in a remote site of tropical forest in northeast Madagascar, and in Jan 2023 at a 2nd site. The discovery team was led by the *Peregrine Fund's Madagascar* program.

In November of 2022 a team of scientists and conservationists rediscovered the **Black-napped Pheasant-Pigeon** in New Guinea. Although a large ground-dwelling bird, it had managed to escaped detection since 1896.

The last of the three, a hummingbird, was rediscovered in Colombia in July of 2022. Known as the **Santa Marta Sabrewing**, this was only the 2nd time the species had been documented since 1946. The *American Bird Conservancy* is supporting a project by Colombian NGO *Selva*, which has been able to documented the species consistently since its rediscovery last July.

The one miss was the **Sinu Parakeet** (right) from northwest Colombia. This was the second expedition which tried and failed to locate the parakeet. The expedition did discover the first Harpy Eagle in the Cordoba Department in 50 years plus 297 other species, several of which were new to the Cordoba Department. **See update on an earlier 'found bird' on p. 7**



Boundary Water Protection Challenged

The last Warbler reported on a measure to prohibit mining for 20 years in an area of the Boundary Waters. Since then a measure to undo the 20-year ban on mining in the Boundary Waters was authored by Minnesota's Eighth District Congressman Pete Stauber (R). Stauber's measure also included provisions to restore two federal mineral leases key to the development of the proposed Twin Metals mine, near Ely, and requires that **all environmental and regulatory review** for the proposed mine be completed within just 18 months.

The measure, known as the *Superior National Forest Restoration Act*, would also prohibit judicial review of the issuance of new mineral leases or permit, which would eliminate rights that Americans have long held to challenge most significant federal decisions in court.

Staauber says Duluth Complex contains 95 percent of U.S. nickel, nearly 90 percent of cobalt, and a third of our copper," and argued that the Biden administration is being hypocritical in promoting an agenda to transition to green energy while locking up the country's largest mineral deposit that could fuel that transition. In fact, no more than 20 percent of the Duluth Complex is impacted and the ban does not impact the proposed PolyMet mine or other potential copper-nickel deposits located outside of the Rainy River watershed.

Solar United Neighbors

Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is coming to Greater Lafayette and Montgomery Counties. Anyone considering Solar Power can get the financial benefit of being part of a group that can get a discount from a supplier the group members select.

The League of Women Voters in both areas have signed on to encourage households, businesses, non-profits, etc. to consider the switch to solar power. Although voting and participation in government is the bedrock issue for the League. they also work on other important issues. Should their formal process of study and deliberation lead to agreement on official positions, they take action based on those positions. One position is that "climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet" and among the important solutions is "promotion of renewable resources ...to...ensure a stable climate system for future generations."

Local governmental entities are also partnering with Solar United Neighbors to reach out to all who might be able to consider making the important switch to solar power.

Endangered Species Act Turns 50

"The American Birding Association (ABA) just released a report **Celebrating 50 Years of the Endangered Species Act**".

The ESA was passed with broad bipartisan support in 1973. Then-president Richard Nixon signed the bill into law. Today the ESA represents what successful conservation looks like. For species on the brink of extinction, the ESA is invaluable. It has many success stories, the best known being the return of the Bald Eagle.

Their report sheds light on the ESA's record of success and considers ways the law can be strengthened in the future. As birds face unprecedented threats, a strong ESA will be critical for ensuring biodiversity thrives. "Throughout its history, the Endangered Species Act has safeguarded Endangered and Threatened avian species," said Steve Holmer, ABA Action Fund Vice President of Policy. "The law's significance remains unwavering in the face of political and ecological threats. American Bird Conservancy Action Fund will continue to work to remove political barriers and advance bird conservation through the ESA."

Among the many successes outlined in the report is the recent delisting of the Black-capped Vireo, Kirtland's Warbler, and Interior Least Tern from the ESA. These species serve as examples of how ESA recovery plans produce tangible conservation results.

The report also emphasizes that species continue to need ESA protection. For instance, the Greater Sage-Grouse (picture below), Gunnison Sage-Grouse and many Hawaiian Honeycreepers require the ESA to help avoid extinction. Better oversight of toxic pesticides is another way ESA protections can be strengthened.



"Given the escalating threat of toxic pesticides to Threatened and Endangered species, the Endangered Species Act's role in safeguarding birds and their habitats becomes increasingly indispensable," said ABC's Birds and Pesticides Campaign Director of Government Relations Hardy Kern. "Proper assessment of these toxic chemicals is imperative to protecting species."

The Endangered Species Act is a testament to the power of bipartisan lawmaking and its vital role in bird conservation. The celebration of the ESA's 50th anniversary is a reminder to Congress to continue protecting birds through the ESA.

No Conifers, Please

One recommendation for improving habitat for Sage Grouse is to cut conifers in their habitat. They can't survive where trees occupy more than 4% of the habitat. In fact, no active sage-grouse leks were found within two-thirds of a mile of locations where these conifers exceeding 4% of the habitat.

Desert-Nesting Seabird?

Strange but true, Markham's Storm-Petrel, nests in a desert in northern Chile. Its nesting area, known as *Pampa Chaca*, is now a community reserve of 1600 acres where 20,000 of the birds nest. Previously the colony was on public land subject to energy projects, mining and military activities. The government gave *Red de Observadores de Aves y Vida Silvestre de Chile* (ROC) a 5 year concession on the area to be managed specifically for conservation purposes.

Several other Storm Petrels living off the coasts of Peru and Chile nest in the Atacama Desert, frequently under saltpeter with a landscape resembling the surface of Mars.

Puerto Rican Parrot #'s Rise

Only a baker's dozen of these parrots remained in the 1970's when efforts began to save the species from extinction.

Efforts were set back in 2017 by hurricanes Maria and Irma which devastated the island, but efforts revved up and the parrots are nesting at two old sites and a new site to which they were reintroduced. The wild population is now estimated to be about 250 with several hundred more at breeding facilities.

Stories from ***BIRDCONSERVATION***
by the *American Bird Conservancy*

Star Light, Star Bright

Did You Know the Earth's Axis completes a rotation every 26,000 years? Right now, and for the last 2,000 or so years, Polaris has been the North Star, but in 12,000 years the axis will line up with Vega and it will become the North Star.

ID That Hawk!



Drawing of
an Osprey

Last fall Indiana Audubon Society's *Cardinal* contained an article titled **Raptors in Flight ID, How to approach learning** by Vic Berardi. His very first recommendation is to watch raptors more carefully and pay more attention to small clues. Even if an osprey is too far away to see the black and white field marks, you can note the long wings and their bowed appearance.

Another way is to see **lots** of raptors. The article included two hawk watch sites close to northern Indiana. One, the **Detroit River Hawk Watch** is near Detroit, the other the **Illinois Beach State Park Hawk Watch** near Zion, IL. You can look them and other sites up on **hawkcount.org**. Sites for hawk watches are areas where numerous hawks move through in season, giving viewers many chance to learn the slight variations in proportions and light patterns.

The author also recommended studying two books by Jerry Liguori, a raptor expert. Another tidbit in the 2 page article is to remember that "crows row and raptors flap".

Bird "Found" 5 years ago now has its own Reserve

The Antioquia Brushfinch, which was found and reported on in the *Warbler* five years ago, now has an 880 acre private reserve north of Medellin, Columbia. The reserve was acquired with aid from conservation groups and is owned and managed by *Corporacion SalvaMontes* Colombia and *Corporacion Neotropial Innovation*.

The species population is estimated to be 108 birds, found locally at 25 different spots. In addition to the 880 acres, 472 acres of land is under conservation agreements with local landowners within the birds range. In addition to the brushfinch, the reserve is also inhabited by the Black-throated Flowerpiercer, and a number of native imperiled plants. Part of the reserve protects paramo, one of the native grassland habitats.

Looking Back & Predicting Forward

The average hottest day of the year between 1971 and 2000 in Indiana was 95-degrees F. In 2050 it is expected to be 105-degrees F.



Number of days reaching 95-degrees or higher in that same period was 2. Projected for 2050 it is 37

Average coldest day in those years was minus 13-degrees F; in 2050 it will be minus 3-degrees F.

Spring rainfall is projected to be 16% higher by 2050 for the entire state of Indiana.

Wabash Water Monitored

Most of us have never heard of a super gauge—an invention of the US Geological Survey. Nevertheless one is quietly working along the Wabash River near New Harmony just before the Wabash discharges its waters into the Ohio River.

Every 15 minutes, 24 hours every day, 365 days a year, the gauge samples the water in the Wabash. It collects water level, flow, and chemical parameters of the river including pH, sediment, and various nutrient such as phosphorous and nitrogen. The data helps to provide knowledge of the river which drains roughly two-thirds of Indiana.

The data clarifies the picture of both the quality of the Wabash's water and indicates actions needed to achieve water quality improvements here and elsewhere. The Wabash drainage is about 3% of the entire Mississippi basin, providing 1-7% of the Mississippi's flow, **however that 1-7% contains 11-20% of the nutrient overload** in the Mississippi causing the dead spot at its mouth.

It is clear water quality improvements **within** Indiana would have a major effect downstream. Changing agriculture conservation practices is the best way to do this. Purdue University new **Indiana Nutrient Research and Education Program** will help determine the scale, scope, and new programs—as well as the funding—needed to achieve the significant results desired.

Nature Notes & News

● The spring's first reported Red-winged Blackbirds and Killdeer were by Michael Mayer Feb 26th.

● Ted Leuenberger saw White Pelicans March 14 while crossing the bridge where the Monon enters Lake Shafer. He counted a dozen the next day.

● Bicentennial Nature Park had a good assortment of birds on March 25. Larry Theller had a possible Mississippi Kite about 11 am plus 30 Blue-winged Teal and 24 Ruddy Ducks. A bit earlier, Barny Dunning had 11 Ruddy Ducks and 16 Red-breasted Mergansers— no teal or kite. The mergansers were doing courting displays. On the 24 Barny had a breeding-plumage Common Loon.

● Lucas Wilson and Vivek Govind Kumar found a calling LeConte's Sparrow in a field close to Horticulture Park east of route 231 bypass and State Street on March 27th.

That same day Ed Hopkins emailed he was looking at two Black Vultures perched in a tree at the Bicentennial Nature Area.

● April 4th Two to three American White Pelicans spent the day at Celery Bog, based on a number of reports. Barny Dunning checked about 5 pm and didn't see them, but others saw them that afternoon close to that time.

● John Skene had a number of shorebirds at a flooded field north of the Purdue Beef Cattle Barns. He reported Pectoral Sandpiper, Wilson Snipe and 80 American Golden Plover. That was also the day Susan Ulrich had her first of the year Louisiana Waterthrush.

● April 19 Dan Miller saw an American Woodcock with chicks at Celery Bog while Chuck Tuttle saw both Canada Geese and Mallards with hatched broods.

● Migrant reports came in fast after that. On the 20th. Lots of "first of the season" records were reported – House Wren, Pine Warbler, Chimney Swift, Orchard Oriole, Sora, and others. A Com-

mon Loon hanging out at the Bog was in the main wetland basin north of Lindberg. On the early bird hike Barny Dunning counted eight Pied-billed Grebes —probably migrants—as were the small flocks of Blue Jays moving north. Hike participants counted up to 30 birds in 90 minutes.

● Five days later the best birds of the week were the Prothonotary Warbler and Hooded Warbler seen at Celery Bog. Both were singing from the Point south to below the southernmost boardwalk with a bench. Lots of first-of-the-season including Orange-crowned Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow & White-eyed Vireo.

● In late April the "floodle" (a flooded field area on County Road 750 North east of the Purdue Beef Farms) continued to attract shorebirds. Reports included Dunlins, 108 Pectoral Sandpipers, and a Solitary Sandpiper.

● Several people got to see a Virginia Rail south of the Lindberg Bridge at Celery Bog on May 26th.

● Migration speeded up May 5th. At Celery Bog there was an American Bittern, Common Gallinule, Least & Great Crested Flycatchers, Scarlet Tanager, Red-eyed & Yellow-throated Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, etc. Ruby-throated Hummingbird had been reported for a few day, Kaitlyn Young had a Sedge Wren in the fields along Division Road that often hosts Bobolinks. And Black-throated Green, Nashville, Yellow,

Tennessee Warblers and others are replacing the Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers.

● By far the rarest bird discovered was a "Lawrence's" Warbler first found by Vivek Govind Kumar May 6. This hybrid of Golden and Blue-winged Warblers was a vivid male singing a Blue-winged Warbler song. Several others got good looks and some got photos.



Lawrence's
Hybrid
Warbler

● Brian Beheler forwarded a report from a neighbor living by Lugar farm who heard a Whip-poor-will calling on May 8th. It was in the southwest portion of the property. No further calling so most likely a migrant.

● Another migrant rush was on May 10, Barny Dunning visited Martell Forest and had a singing Black-throated Blue Warbler, plus Bay-breasted, Magnolia, multiple Golden-winged, and Kentucky warblers, and first-of-the-season Gray-cheeked Thrush and Acadian Flycatcher. Overall he recorded 18 warbler species. The Merlin phone app told him it 'heard' a Worm-eating Warbler but he didn't.

Many of those species showed up at Celery Bog and other local areas that morning, plus Blackpoll, Cape May, and Blackburnian Warblers. Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at Celery Bog but no Yellow-billed. The Great Horned Owl nestlings were starting to leave the nest, and officially became fledglings.

● The "floodle" on C.R. 750 North was almost dry by now but a Dunlin and Semipalmated Plover were there on the 10th along with Pectoral



Photo by
Rick Read

Ultra-small Dinosaur

Amber, primarily mined in Myanmar for jewelry, is also a rich source of fossil material. Analysis of one piece discovered a **tiny dinosaur skull** preserved in Cretaceous amber. This rock-hard substance is actually fossilized tree resin which trapped some animals and even parts of plants that couldn't get out of the sticky substance and over time essentially froze them in a honey-colored tombs.



This dinosaur was only about the size of a modern hummingbird. It featured a jaw packed with sharp teeth along with a set of oversized eyes (picture above). A relative of the bird-like dinosaur Archaeopteryx, the Lilliputian creature has big implications for our understanding and knowledge of how dinosaurs made the transition from ancient humongous herbivores and carnivores to today's feathered fowl.

The skull is also the latest example of the unique remains being found encased in Burmese amber—and it raises a host of questions about the ethics involved in this particularly rich source of fossil material. It is used for jewelry but is also a unique source of knowledge about the Cetaceous and the species that lived then

Sandpipers and Wilson's Snipe seen by Emily Green. .

- After a bit of a slowdown birds picked up again May 14. Vivek Govind Kumar had 21 species of warblers at Celery Bog & Purdue's Campus. including Golden-winged, Mourning and Canada. Kaitlyn Young, Barny Dunning and Anne Talbot had a Connecticut Warbler at the Purdue Wildlife Area,
- On the 15th Celery Bog was jumping. Barny Dunning didn't let a light rain stop him and ended up with 54 species of birds in his first hour including 14 warbler species. There was a singing Connecticut Warbler below the nature center and multiple Canada, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Nashville warblers, and American Redstart; among others.

Blackburnian Warbler



- Barny wrote about the 'missing' nesting Mississippi Kites on June 2 "I have seen a couple of reports in the general area. Annie & Theresa Meyer have seen Mississippi Kites soaring over W.L. Elementary School further east on Cumberland in the last week. Today Holden and Emily Green saw a kite soaring over George Lommel Park about 2 blocks east of the "usual tree." He suspects that the kites

are nesting somewhere in the general area even if they aren't in the same corner of Salisbury/ Cumberland and Covington.

He suggests driving around the area. "It would be worth driving through the area looking for bird in, the tops of dead trees (left from the Ash Borer Invasion). Remember to respect private property and be careful driving around on city streets – best to have a "spotter" with you." The Kites shift may be due to a nest of Red-shouldered Hawks.

- June 4 four people went with Chuck Tuttle and Barny Dunning for a 3 hour stroll at Prophetstown SP. The 7 am start avoided most of the heat. They tallied 56 species for the morning, including most of the target grassland species. The Henlow's Sparrow in particular put on a show with several males perched up singing making them easy to photograph. There was a lone Sandhill Crane circling and calling a couple of times in the morning, plus lots of Great Blue Herons flying back and forth over the restored prairies (or two who couldn't make up their minds?).
- Common or Caspian Terns flew briefly over Celery Bog June 15. Originally thought to be Common terns, Chuck Tuttle's photos favored Caspian when run through several ID programs, due to birds the tail shape and length.

- Saturday, June 17, a short banding session at the Purdue Wildlife Area by Barny Dunning and his students was slow but multiple Yellow Warblers and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak were caught. The highlight, was seeing a pair of River Otters in the main wetland basin.

Upland Sandpiper



- Upland Sandpipers were reported on the 17th in a spot where they have been breeding for the past few years, near the junction of C.R. 750 North and C.R. 850 West. South of the junction C.R. 850 W makes a right-

angle turn to the east. The birds are usually seen in the general area of the farm fields here, but the eBird reports from this year showed that people are seeing them closer to the intersection with C.R. 750 N, Angie Archer and others saw an adult with 3 chicks, which confirmed that this species—greatly reduced in number nationally due to habitat loss—is still breeding locally (Listen for a song like a wolf whistle).

- On the following day, Vivek Govind Kumar, Ed Hopkins and others reported hearing two Marsh Wrens singing from the cattails south of the Lindberg Bridge at Celery Bog.

Natural Bird Foods

By Karen Griggs

On a weekly Thursday morning field trip last Fall to the Celery Bog, northwest of West Lafayette, Professor Barney Dunning told the small group of birders, "The secret to Fall birding is to look for the wild foods that birds eat, and the birds will be there."



American Goldfinch Female
feeding on native Thistle.
By Roxie Easter

I found that goldfinches in my front yard flock to faded coneflowers and blooming cup plants with their tall, yellow flowers and shiny green seed heads.

At the Celery Bog Nature Area, when tall cherry trees have begun to ripen, they will attract many birds. Wild grapes, poison ivy, and dog-wood bushes are common plants where the birds may feast.

In addition to fruit, seasonal insects are bird food sources. Earlier in the year, tent caterpillar nests, with gauzy "cotton candy" shape (right) attracted both Yellow and Black Cuckoos, and Baltimore Orioles. In late summer, when the roar of cicadas begins in West Lafayette, I've seen the Mississippi kite swoop in to the cicadas resting spots, then feeding them to their young fledglings perched on bare branches. Kites are large, pearly gray birds with white feathers on their sleek heads. The juvenile kite has stripes on its breast, so you consult a field guide to see the dramatic change from fledgling to adult.



Mississippi kites are newcomers to our area, but have successfully nested on the north side of West Lafayette for about four years.

At the Whitewater State Park in southeast Indiana, there is a nice grove of chokecherries in the large group campground. The chokecherries are native to the state, and their fruit benefits song birds, mammals, deer, and ruffed grouse. They have broader leaves compared to other cherries. Birds nest in the chokecherries, too (Weeks & Weeks, *Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest*, Purdue UP, 2012.

Feeding Behaviors

Finches stay at feeders and eat sunflower seed after sunflower seed. They manipulate the seed through tongue-bill coordination. Smaller finches may have trouble manipulating the larger seeds and often drop them. They don't appear to ever use their feet to hold the seed.



Doves and Turkeys "gobble" down seed after seed. They can eat 90 or more a minute which they can store in their crop. After feeding they can shunt the seeds to their gizzard where they are ground by small rocks the birds swallowed.

Woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches and titmice come to a feeder or food source and take one sunflower seed fly off to insert it into a cleft in the bark of a tree and hatch it open. This is how nuthatches got their name. After eating the interior of the seed, they fly back to the source and grab another seed, fly away, and so on.

Biodegradable Glass

Glass making began about 4,000 years ago. Glass' durability is such that today's glass could still be with us for another 4,000 years.

Recently researchers at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) debuted a kind of glass that included chemically modified amino acids and peptides. These building blocks of DNA and protein were added along with chemical groups that attached to the ends of the acids and peptides to provide the heat resistance needed to withstand the high heats used in glassmaking.

Because of the biological origins of the peptides and amino acids, the glass proved to be biodegradable while still performing like normal glass. Not only was it biodegradable, lab tests showed was also bio-recyclable.

The ingredients are readily available so it could become a commercial product, but more research is needed to develop and refine this new type of glass.

Our newsletter, *The Warbler*, has gone digital.

To subscribe to the free digital version of *The Warbler*, enter the link below in a web browser or point your phone camera at the QR code to the right.

Either method takes you to a landing page where you can subscribe.

The newsletter has many interesting features about birding and conservation both regional and national. The calendar includes events in our six-county region.

The newsletter is released 4 times a year as a PDF. We will no longer mail a paper version.



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Sycamore Audubon Society

a local Indiana chapter of the National Audubon Society serving members in Tippecanoe, Warren, Benton, Clinton, White, and Carroll counties
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Facetime: not just for humans

According to a recent study at Northeastern University in Boston, parrots that have been taught to contact their feathered peers with a video call app showed signs of feeling less isolated and lonely.

Parrots are a highly social species, said Kleinberger, a Northeastern University assistant professor. "When they're kept as pets, very often they're the only bird in the household," He told *As It Happens* host Nil Koksai, "They do not have the opportunity to develop their own species identity."

The parrots were taught the association between ringing a bell and their owner bringing an iPad with a selection of birds. Then, the parrot could choose which one of the birds they'd like to call via video. It was important to allow the parrots to choose which of their "friends" to call, according to Kleinberger.

Rebecca Meagher, assistant professor at Dalhousie said that similar experiments could benefit other social animals. She said similar work has been done before, involving showing videos of other animals to primates.

"Finding new ways to allow social contact when animals can't actually be housed with other members of the species certainly has the potential to benefit the welfare of social species," said Meagher, who was not involved in the study. "This type of a technological approach has potential applications to many animals kept as companions or in zoos and on farms if they have to be housed alone."

Tidbits

- ◆ Intertidal ecosystems count for over have the sea's diversity.
- ◆ 25% Of fossil fuel emissions come from public lands.
- ◆ Rivers are the most degraded ecosystems on the planet.
- ◆ Mangroves store up to 5 times as much carbon as tropical rainforests.
- ◆ Cardinals are redder in winter. The birds molt in late summer and early fall. Many of their new feathers are tipped with a bit of gray. As these new feathers wear, the gray is worn off revealing the more brilliant red.
- ◆ Seeds of half the plants on earth rely on distribution by animals. Research shows the system is fraying due to the loss of birds and animals. This will impact a plants ability to spread and keep place with climate change, particularly species with long lives which may not reproduce often.
- ◆ Scientists didn't learn how to sex crocodiles until 1963
- ◆ Excepting the Gharial, Crocodile moms carry their young in her jaws after hatching and take them to water.



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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.

Summer Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2023

Meeting programs are currently hybrid: i.e. in person or by zoom. Field Trips are outdoors and obviously in person. Bring binoculars if you have them. Extra pairs available if not.

-
- June 24
Saturday **Pollinator Palooza.** Learn more about pollinators and the role they play. Held at Prophetstown State Park. Prairie View Picnic Area from 10-2 . SAS will be there—some birds are pollinators and most all rely on pollinators for food and shelter. Make a day of it in the park and stay for **Audubon at the Overlook**, below.
- June 24
Saturday **Audubon at the Overlook.** Prophetstown State Park 7 to 9 pm at the end of the park road to see what birds may be around and talk to park visitors passing through. Another chance to improve your skills and meet others.
- July 8
Saturday **Riverfest.** This popular event is worth a visit. Lots of activities and booths to visit (including Audubon's). Voyager canoe races, rock wall to climb, face painting, balloon animals, food, float trips, live music and other activities. Tappawingo Park in WL 9 am to 4 pm. Help at booth needed.
- Sept 14
Thursday **Bring Your Own Program.** Presenter: YOU and others. Everyone is invited to bring up to 5 minutes or so of images to show. Lilly Nature Center 7:15 p.m. Come at 6 p.m. for a **POT LUCK** dinner. Just bring a dish to share or bring your own dinner and join us to eat. There is always plenty of food.
- August 26
Saturday **Field Trip at Celery Bog.** Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the gravel parking area. Should be some bird migration going on so join us and see what species are moving thru.