

CHAPTER NEWS

Garden Expo ...

A record number of people attended this year, and Audubon made a record amount selling plants and other items. SAS's Handouts went well too. Maryann McGill and Susan Ulrich handled the booth.

Spring Bake & Plant Sale

This March event raised \$500 for the National Lakeshore bird viewing platform. Brad Baumgartner sent SAS a thank you on behalf of the NW Indiana Migratory Bird Association which is coordinating the fundraising.

Goose Pond Intern:

National Audubon Society has hired Ava Robinson as the new Goose Pond FWA land steward intern. Amy is helping with surveys and other activities at this exciting Indiana wetland complex.

No Dakota Report:

SAS's Diane Packett is doing bird censusing in North Dakota this summer. On April 30 she wrote, "Did my first shorebird survey yesterday, following Breeding Bird Survey protocol but only looking for Marbled Godwit, Willet, Upland Sandpiper, Snipe, Avocet, or Long-billed Curlew. (And not starting

until sunrise, yay!) Only had god-wits, snipe, and "uppies", as they say here, but also had a beautiful pair of Short-eared Owls hunting at the first stop, and Swainson's Rough-legged, and Ferruginous Hawks, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, Horned Larks, 3 Great-horned Owls on nests, and assorted ducks."

Diane continues, "There are pheasants every 10 feet or so (a lot of them road kill), and Western Meadowlarks are so thick I'm getting sick of them and their beautiful songs. Also saw coyote, prairie dog, beaver, pronghorn, and jack-rabbits... And lots of cows, occasionally in the road.

It's cold at night here, but gets up into the 60's during the day. As Russ Mumford warned me, the wind never stops blowing, and it blows hard. Trees are leafing out and a few flowers are blooming, but not like in Indiana."

5th GRADE CAMP

Three SAS members helped lead the WL 5th graders on early morning bird hikes the first week in May. Chuck Tuttle, Susan Ulrich

and Noble Kizer all went to camp Tecumseh and helped groups of students find a wide variety of birds. In spite of heavy leaf cover, many birds were very cooperative and put on a show for the students After the hikes, the three stayed for breakfast (Chuck's favorite baked oatmeal on Tuesday, pancakes and sausage on Thursday) before heading back.

Let's Talk Turkey (legs, that is)

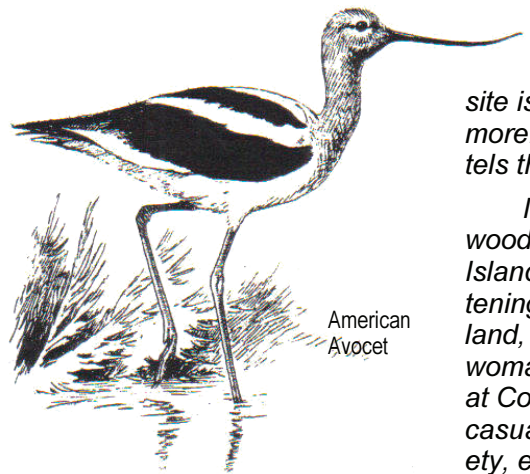
SAS will again host a turkey leg booth at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon this fall. More about that in the next newsletter

However the chapter is interested in building it's own Turkey Leg cooker rather than borrowing charcoal grills. If anyone has an idea for constructing a cooker or a large metal trough they would like to loan or donate, let us know. Info from any similar building experience would be appreciated. If you have the above or some other talent/item that might be useful, such as a smoker, contact **Chuck Tuttle** (p.7). The feast is a lot of fun and is SAS's primary fundraiser so consider coming out next year. Audubon has accumulated various items of costuming volunteers can wear.

SUDDENLY, WISCONSIN ! — Paul Brooks

On A whim I decided I wanted to leave from NW IN May 21 and drive 8 hours through Wisconsin to attend the bird and nature festival that I had heard of through a piece of mail at one of the board meetings. The website is birdandnaturefest.com. I went and I think we should promote this festival more! It's at a great welcome center in a very pretty place with lots of \$50 hotels that work well for the event.

I took a trip up to a little sand bay and saw Common Loons and lots of woodland birds. The area of Ashland, Bayfield, etc are right on the Apostle Islands, and very good for birding. I also went to a refuge, did some night listening for animals, and the last day I went on an hour boat ride to Stockton Island, an island with tons of different habitats. The keynote speaker was a woman named Laura Erickson who has written books and is the science editor at Cornell Lab. My boat trip allowed me to go birding with her and ask lots of casual birding questions. It was a great trip and perfect for people in the society, especially those with family in Wisconsin or Minnesota.



American Avocet

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

You can support national conservation efforts by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). When you join NAS, you will 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 contribute directly to our local chapter and its projects.

Membership Application

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

Note: SAS's membership year runs September 1 through August 31.

New member Renewal

I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by: e-mail or paper copy.

National Audubon Society membership \$20 for first year \$ _____
Special introductory offer for new members (renewals are \$35/year)

Additional contribution to SAS \$ _____
For _____ (if specific purpose)

Total enclosed \$ _____

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

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"GREAT" is Right

The 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) made history, breaking the record for the most checklists submitted. More than 63,000 people submitted 97,209 checklists! Tallies came in from all 50 states and all ten provinces and three territories of Canada.

What Does The Data Show?

When it comes to large-scale patterns, one of the more notable trends was the scarcity of winter finches such as Pine Siskins and redpolls. That's in stark contrast to the massive siskin invasion during the 2009 GBBC. Over time, the GBBC has captured dramatic swings in the numbers of these species. The fluctuations may be influenced by the birds' food supply and/or reproductive success far to the north.

Birds at the Top of the Count.

In terms of overall numbers, the American Robin led the way by a huge margin with 1,850,082 individuals reported. (Of these, 1,450,058 were from Saint Petersburg, Florida, where robins roost in massive numbers!) Canada Goose was second with 748,356 birds. Snow Goose, American Crow, and European Starling all came in at roughly 500,000 individuals each.

Rare Sightings

Participants reported some rare—and wonderful—sightings. In Lake Havasu City, Arizona, numerous birders reported a Black-legged Kittiwake while in McAllen, Texas, 16 GBBC participants reported a Crimson-collared Grosbeak—the first time the species has been reported during the count since 2005. Birders off the coast of San Diego added a new species to the GBBC species list this year when they sighted a Red-billed Tropicbird, the first verified sighting of this species for the GBBC.



SNAIL or E MAIL? Those of you receiving paper copies of the newsletter can opt to receive an email or website version. It saves paper and also saves SAS mailing and printing costs. Just email the editor at sueandtedulrich@msn.com and we'll do the rest.

2010 Big Day in May Bird Count Results

| Species | Tippecanoe | Warren | Species | Tippecanoe | Warren | Species | Tippecanoe | Warren |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------------|------------|--------|----------------------|------------|--------|
| Canada Goose | 187 | 156 | Bank Swallow | 106 | 2 | Blue Grosbeak | 0 | 1 |
| Wood Duck | 34 | 16 | Cliff Swallow | 147 | 155 | Indigo Bunting | 97 | 52 |
| Mallard | 78 | 12 | Barn Swallow | 281 | 80 | Dickcissel | 5 | 8 |
| Blue-winged Teal | 25 | 10 | Carolina Chickadee | 40 | 18 | Bobolink | 7 | 25 |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | 6 | 6 | Tufted Titmouse | 51 | 29 | Red-winged Blackbird | 490 | 279 |
| Wild Turkey | 9 | 7 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 19 | 17 | Eastern Meadowlark | 40 | 33 |
| Northern Bobwhite | 2 | 6 | Carolina Wren | 13 | 5 | Common Grackle | 172 | 197 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 3 | 1 | House Wren | 68 | 12 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 301 | 72 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 12 | 0 | Golden-crowned Kinglet | 1 | 0 | Orchard Oriole | 6 | 3 |
| Great Blue Heron | 32 | 15 | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 1 | 0 | Baltimore Oriole | 76 | 29 |
| Great Egret | 2 | 0 | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 48 | 41 | House Finch | 42 | 26 |
| Green Heron | 3 | 2 | Eastern Bluebird | 37 | 31 | American Goldfinch | 153 | 135 |
| Turkey Vulture | 110 | 71 | Veery | 10 | 1 | House Sparrow | 144 | 70 |
| Bald Eagle | 4 | 3 | Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 | 4 | Total individuals | 6342 | 3032 |
| Northern Harrier | 1 | 0 | Swainson's Thrush | 13 | 13 | Total Species | 134 | 134 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 5 | 1 | Hermit Thrush | 1 | 0 | | | |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 5 | 1 | Wood Thrush | 10 | 5 | | | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 2 | 0 | American Robin | 654 | 182 | | | |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 23 | 10 | Gray Catbird | 66 | 25 | | | |
| American Kestrel | 3 | 2 | Northern Mockingbird | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 0 | 1 | Brown Thrasher | 11 | 17 | | | |
| Sora Rail | 8 | 0 | European Starling | 738 | 156 | | | |
| Common Moorhen | 1 | 0 | American Pipit | 0 | 2 | | | |
| American Coot | 20 | 0 | Cedar Waxwing | 54 | 10 | | | |
| Semi-palmated Plover | 1 | 0 | Blue-winged Warbler | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Killdeer | 31 | 21 | Tennessee Warbler | 29 | 32 | | | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 13 | 1 | Orange-crowned Warbler | 0 | 2 | | | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 11 | 1 | Nashville Warbler | 5 | 9 | | | |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 16 | 1 | Northern Parula | 9 | 5 | | | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 5 | 2 | Yellow Warbler | 32 | 17 | | | |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | 9 | 1 | Chestnut-sided Warbler | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Western Sandpiper | 3 | 0 | Magnolia Warbler | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Least Sandpiper | 3 | 28 | Cape May Warbler | 1 | 4 | | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 0 | 2 | Yellow-rumped Warbler | 34 | 0 | | | |
| Dunlin | 1 | 0 | Black-throated Green Warbler | 4 | 6 | | | |
| American Woodcock | 0 | 1 | Blackburnian Warbler | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | 1 | 0 | Yellow-throated Warbler | 4 | 1 | | | |
| Black Tern | 1 | 0 | Prairie Warbler | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Rock Pigeon | 37 | 14 | Palm Warbler | 7 | 4 | | | |
| Mourning Dove | 114 | 62 | Bay-breasted Warbler | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 2 | 2 | Blackpoll Warbler | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Great Horned Owl | 0 | 1 | Cerulean Warbler | 0 | 2 | | | |
| Barred Owl | 3 | 0 | Black-and-White Warbler | 3 | 3 | | | |
| Chimney Swift | 18 | 2 | American Redstart | 19 | 9 | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 10 | 11 | Prothonotary Warbler | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Belted Kingfisher | 4 | 6 | Worm-eating Warbler | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 5 | 10 | Ovenbird | 7 | 5 | | | |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 38 | 17 | Northern Waterthrush | 8 | 2 | | | |
| Dowry Woodpecker | 23 | 12 | Louisiana Waterthrush | 11 | 3 | | | |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 16 | 3 | Kentucky Warbler | 9 | 7 | | | |
| Northern Flicker | 19 | 10 | Common Yellowthroat | 76 | 29 | | | |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 14 | 5 | Wilson's Warbler | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | 3 | 5 | Yellow-breasted Chat | 4 | 1 | | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 1 | 4 | Summer Tanager | 0 | 2 | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | 0 | 1 | Scarlet Tanager | 10 | 10 | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | 0 | 2 | Eastern Towhee | 19 | 14 | | | |
| Eastern Phoebe | 17 | 8 | Chipping Sparrow | 116 | 39 | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 18 | 14 | Field Sparrow | 31 | 31 | | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 56 | 63 | Vesper Sparrow | 13 | 2 | | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | 6 | 7 | Lark Sparrow | 0 | 2 | | | |
| Bell's Vireo | 1 | 0 | Savannah Sparrow | 14 | 5 | | | |
| Solitary Vireo | 0 | 1 | Grasshopper Sparrow | 6 | 0 | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 0 | 4 | Henslow's Sparrow | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Warbling Vireo | 40 | 15 | Song Sparrow | 92 | 12 | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 17 | 8 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 0 | 3 | | | |
| Blue Jay | 69 | 24 | Swamp Sparrow | 0 | 2 | | | |
| American Crow | 95 | 59 | White-throated Sparrow | 16 | 8 | | | |
| Horned Lark | 3 | 5 | White-crowned Sparrow | 52 | 52 | | | |
| Purple Martin | 16 | 36 | Dark-eyed Junco | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Tree Swallow | 113 | 26 | Northern Cardinal | 134 | 37 | | | |
| No Rough-winged Swallow | 184 | 100 | Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 47 | 18 | | | |

May Count Notes:

Everyone knew seeing birds would be made difficult by the advanced state of leaf-out, but the high winds which kept birds from flying around and singing made them even harder to find. The number of individuals was down about 10% from last year. Species count was down as well by about 10 species per count. That said, a number of interesting birds turned up. For the first time, both the Tippecanoe County and the Warren County Count recorded the same number of species,—but not the same ones. Each count turned up 21 species that were unique, meaning 155 species of birds were found in the two counties (cf. last year's 165 species). No data was reported from White County.

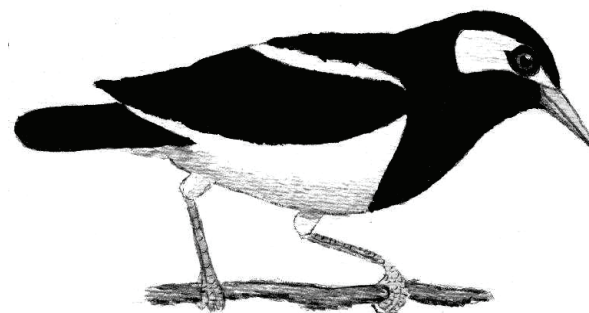
Seventeen people participated in the Tippecanoe County Count: Russ Allison, Del, Kevin & Mark Arvin, Michael Brattain, Barny Dunning (Compiler), Travis Harris, Angela Hoffman (visiting from Tennessee), Noble Kiser, Larry Miller, Harry Potter, Marianna Sadowski, John Skene, Larry & Becky Theller, Chuck Tuttle, and Ning Wu. Here are Barny's comments: "It was an ugly day last Saturday in Tippecanoe County, as was true in many areas. Our Big Day effort was complicated by cold temperatures, strong winds and extensive leaf out by canopy trees. We managed to glean 134 species on the day (normal for us is 140-150). Many common species were detected in very low numbers (e.g., Acadian Flycatcher 1). Some highlights include 22 Eastern Kingbirds in one spot, feeding on insects in the grass under a walnut plantation (we had 41 kingbirds total on the day), a decent scattering of shorebirds but no lingering waterfowl, and two DARK-EYED JUNCOs, one of which had been seen carrying nesting material. Some species that were reported only as single individuals include NORTHERN HARRIER, RING-BILLED GULL, BLACK TERN, YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, BELL'S VIREO, both kinglets, and CAPE MAY WARBLER."

Warren County had eleven participants: Brian, Amanda & Phoebe Beheler, Joanna Billiard, Bill & Barbara Crane, James Huston, Ellen Tobias, and Ted & Susan Ulrich (compiler). Species seen in Warren county but missed in Tippecanoe were Peregrine Falcon, Pectoral Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Great-horned Owl, Willow & Least Flycatchers, Solitary & Yellow-throated Vireo, American Pipit, Orange-crowned, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Worm-eating, Wilson's, & Cerulean Warbler, Summer Tanager, Lark Sparrow, Henslow's, Lincoln's, & Swamp Sparrows, and Blue Grosbeak.

2010-11 Programs

SAS is starting to line up potential programs for the coming year. Our first program will be September 9th at Lilly Nature Center and will be our usual popular bring your own program preceded by a carry-in dinner. Bring a dish to share. The society provides plates, napkins, utensils and some beverages.

Know a program you think SAS members would enjoy, or have a program you are willing to give? Contact a board member (p.7). Russ Mumford has volunteered to give a program on Trinidad and Tobago. He is already drawing birds to help illustrate his talk (a drawing from his India program is to the right).



Asian Pied-starling by Russ Mumford.

FIELD TRIP NOTES - Barny Dunning

Four hardy souls gathered to listen and look for American Woodcock at the Purdue Wildlife Area on March 7. The rain petered out by the time we started and we heard 10-12 displaying males. We got very close to several, and had one probable female fly by (judging by the lack of noise made in flight). We also heard a late evening flyover flock of Sandhill Cranes and saw one very fierce opossum.

On March 20 ten people gathered for a morning bird walk at Celery Bog. The number of waterfowl was low, but there was a nice array of divers: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, No Shoveler, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead & Coot.

Thirteen people gathered on an excellent morning for a field trip to Tippecanoe River State Park & Winamac State Wildlife Management Area. Organized by Jon Chapman and Seth Keller, this was the first outing to this area for the Sycamore Audubon Society (West Lafayette). We had a great time - by my count we totaled at least 92 species on the day. Probably the most outstanding birds were a PHILADELPHIA VIREO, of which we got excellent views, and eating lunch with flyby passes by a PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Most startling sight was FIVE AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS right at the Pulaski/Starke county line. But the best result of the day was seeing the beautiful woods, wetlands, and shrublands of the area.

ART ON THE GREEN

Saturday June 12, 11 am - 4 pm

Join us on the lawn for free & green family fun

WEAR SOMETHING GREEN to celebrate the ART in EARTH!

SPECIAL EVENTS

11 am - 2/3 pm Mandala Installation. Watch as guest artist Bonnie Zimmer creates an artwork on the lawn. Bonnie will need 16 helpers ages 10 and up. RSVP Glenda@glmart.org to participate.

11 am - 12 pm Drum Circle. Join in with your own percussion instruments - store bought or homemade.

12 am -1 pm Reused Fashion Revue. Show off your recycled fashions! Do you alter or create your own outfits by recycling? Model your creations for everyone whether fun, funky, practical, glamorous, or vintage.

12 pm - 1 pm Select drummers accompany the Recycled Fashion Revue

1 pm - 3pm Joe Peters, performing songwriter, original folk music with a conscience.

3 pm - ? Howie Clark's Old-time Dance Band with circle dances called by Barry Rubin.

ALL DAY EVENTS

Nature and Environmental Information from these groups and more:

NICHES Land Trust
Sycamore Audubon Society
Lafayette West Lafayette Visitors and Convention Bureau

Indiana Plant & Wildflower Society
Go Greener

Art Activity Stations

Leaf through my Book: Try a different media/concept for every page
Chalk drawings: leave your figure on the pavement

Facebook Photo Ops

Me Green: Create a wild green outfit from our costume box for your photos. If you have green clothing articles to contribute to the costume box, bring them along. (Wildest green outfit posted on the Art Museum's Facebook page by September 11 wins a prize!)

Ready, Set, Go Figure: Create your own figure in 10 minutes, using the materials donated by Hoosier Recycling. (One creative figure from recycled materials posted on the Art Museum's Facebook page by September 11 wins a prize!)

Family Challenge - Can you bring & eat a picnic on the lawn without any trash?

Puppets - Help the animal puppets have a conversation about the earth

Nature Notes & News

● **Amanda Beheler** had 4 Whooping Cranes fly over her yard in Warren Co on March 16th. She stopped to look at a flock of Sandhill Cranes and notice the 4 Whoopers flying higher in a separate flock. That same day her husband **Brian** had a pair of **Golden Eagles** by the Eli Lilly Wildlife Area. The birds were vocalizing and grappling.

● **Larry Miller** also saw two **Golden Eagles**. His were in Stewart Woods by the Purdue President's house. His sighting was March 21, about 5.5 miles from the earlier pair.

● March 14 was a good day for **Ring-necked Ducks**. **Chuck Tuttle** reported over 100 in several groups at Celery Bog.

● Three **Common Loons** made **Rick Read's** day on March 20. This was his FOY voyage by boat onto Lake Freeman. One of the loons was still there April 4.

● **Ed Hopkins** had 70 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Kankakee FWA in March & 686 **Ring Necked Ducks** & 175 **Green-winged Teal**.

● A Wacky **Woodcock** trip to the Edward K. Hufford Wildlife Habitat Trust in Carroll County produced 4 peenting woodcocks for **Rick Read** and others. He reports that by moving during flight displays they were able to "have one land within yards of us". The next afternoon, **Tom & Marion Goffe**, reported a woodcock hit a window and was stunned and bleeding from the beak. Rick called the Wildcat Creek Wildlife Center and retrieved and delivered the bird to the center in Delphi. The bird survived the night and seemed energetic, but unfortunately, was found dead Monday morning.

● **Russ Allison** found a **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest in the woods at Celery Bog on March 23. **Jim Peterson** reported a nest at Clegg Gardens on April 8. Jim said snakes were apparently on the menu. He saw the adults bringing several 2-2.5 foot snakes to the young. Garter snakes, maybe?

● **Susan Ulrich** noted **Louisiana Waterthrush** returned and were singing on territory on April 1 this year.

● **Ed Hopkins** found **Smith's Longspurs** & **American Golden Plover** in NW Tippecanoe Co on April 3, but the highlight of the day was finding an incubating **Sandhill Crane** at Mulvey Pond, 1 Mi N of Montmorenci. He also had 8,852 **American Coot** at Willow Slough FWA in Newton County.

● On April 7 **Diane Packett** was driving in Randolph County and scared up a flock of 100 **American Golden Plovers**.

● On April 9 **Rick Read** and **Jon Chapman** got a new life bird in Indiana for both of them—a juvenile **Golden Eagle** at Wina-mac F&WA. On the 10th Rick had 6 **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Lake Freeman.

● That same day **Russ Allison** spotted a flash of white in one of the dead trees at Celery Bog and found his first **Osprey** of the year. It was finishing a fish meal and sat for half an hour. Russ also had a **Swainson's Thrush** and **Horned Grebe**. On May 23 he watched an **Osprey** catch 2 fish. The bird always left in a westerly direction.

● At Weiler-Leopold **Susan Ulrich** flushed an American

Woodcock off a nest with four eggs on April 11.

● **Marianna Sadowski** had the 3rd sighting of a **Wild turkey** in her yard in 34 years on April 20.

● A gorgeous male **Hooded Warbler** on April 24 was a new addition to **Matt Hall's** bird list for Celery Bog. On May 6 he noted sparrows were moving through the area. Among others were 6 **Lincoln's Sparrows** and 10 **Swamp Sparrows**.

● **Russ Allison** had a **Black Tern** at Celery Bog Park May 2.

● **Ning Wu** found 6 **Long-billed Dowitchers** and 1 **Greater Yellowlegs** at the Bog on May 2. Two days later he saw a **Dunlin**, and the following day, 8 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** along with **Lesser Yellowlegs** and **Solitary Sandpipers**.

● Celery Bog was busy. On the morning of May 13, **Barny Dunning** noted lots of birds along the west edge. He saw 52 species in just an hour. The highlight was three **OSPREY** all visible at the same time in the northern part of the wetland

● At a different venue, Happy Hollow Park, on May 13 **Mary Sue Waser** was pulling garlic mustard and had a **Barred Owl** calling nearby—suddenly she realized why—a young **Barred Owl** was on the ground not far from where she was working.

● At Martell Forest on May 15 **Ed Hopkins** found a number of the late migrating Warblers including **Canada, Connecticut and Mourning Warblers**. He also had his first **Blue Grosbeak** for the site.

● **Mary Beth Miller** positively identified a **Henslow's Sparrow** on the Purdue Cross-Country course May 18. It sat in view for at least 10 minutes, calling. She and her husband clearly noted the olive head, rose-colored wings, flat head, and white & black stripes on the head. A life-bird for both.

● **Michael Retter** noted good numbers of empids and **Mourning Warblers** on May 24 at Celery Bog. Overall he had 65 species including a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, 9 warbler species and three **Henslow's sparrows**.

● **Sean Fitzgerald** had a pair of **Black-necked Stilts** at the CR 700 S and CR 100 E (an ebird hotspot) in Montgomery Co. on May 23. Also present were 3 **Black-bellied Plovers**.

● **Barny Dunning** also found a pair of **Black-necked Stilts**. His were May 27 at Pine Creek in Benton County. He noted the wetland basins there were quite full but the only herons present were **Great Blue Herons**. He was pleased to finally get his first-of-spring **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. A sound of interest was a very distinct "kicky-poo" call from the tall wet grass along the dike forming the southernmost basin. It sounded like a **Black Rail**, but only gave the one call, so he had to put it down in his notes as "possible" but not confirmed.

● **Barny's** second Breeding Bird Survey of the season covered areas north and west of the Lafayette area, ending in northern Benton County. The highlight was a singing **Western Meadowlark** near the junction of County Road 1100 East with County Road 800 North.

● **Susan Ulrich** turned up a pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** May 7 along "Bobolink Road" (450 N) in Warren County. Near Mound's Cemetery she had 4 **Semipalmated Sandpipers**.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Audubon Oil Spill Webcast June 23

The National Audubon Society has been working hard to respond to the oil spill in the Gulf. NAS has over 12,000 volunteers registered and has been able to respond to a number of requests for help. As this environmental tragedy continues to unfold, Audubon will be there with the support of its chapters and volunteers. Audubon held a very successful one hour webinar on May 24, hosted by Audubon policy director Mike Daulton and featuring Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Bird Conservation, and Sean Saville, National Outreach Coordinator. Greg had recently returned from Louisiana where he toured many of the areas that feel the impacts of the spill. Sean has been on the ground in Louisiana helping to coordinate NAS's volunteer response.

Because Audubon's first oil spill response webcast was such a success, a second webcast is planned for June 23 at 1:30 PM EDT. While Audubon was able to cover quite a few questions at the first one, time did not allow getting to them all, so NAS's has prepared a FAQ (PDF) that covers some of the others. This webinar is available for viewing at: "register.webcastgroup.com/13/wid+0650524105231."

If you registered for the webcast, simply enter your email to view the archived version. If not, you'll need to register first to gain access to it (Note: only Audubon will have access to your registration information).

Wanted: Permanent Protection for the Arctic Wildlife Refuge

Time and again, Audubon and others have rallied to protect the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—the biological heart of the Refuge that has been called "America's Serengeti". Without permanent protection, which only the U.S. Congress can provide, this irreplaceable national treasure will always be at risk. But now, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has the opportunity to take a critical first step toward protecting the Coastal Plain forever, by recommending to Congress that it, and other parts of the Arctic Refuge be designated as permanent Wilderness.

Public Comments on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan were due June 7. Although it is now too late to comment directly, you can still contact your legislators and let them know you favor this idea. Established for the purpose of preserving its unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains the greatest wildlife diversity of any protected area in the circumpolar north. It provides habitat for 180 species of birds from six continents for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting. It also provides important habitat for 36 land mammals and nine marine mammals including polar bears, musk ox, arctic fox, and beluga whales. Providing permanent protections for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge will provide a balanced approach for managing our nation's Arctic resources and is com-

patible with the purposes for which the Refuge was established.

Through the years, we have fought to protect this special place from oil development. Now we have a unique opportunity to secure the heart of the Arctic Refuge for generations to come and keep it safe for the birds and wild-life that depend on it.

BIG HABITAT NEWS ALONG THE WABASH

The proposed 6,000-acre Wabashiki River Fish and Wildlife Area near Terre Haute moved a giant step closer to fruition with the March 10 announcement that the National Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved \$1 million in federal funds toward the project. The funds are coming from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Indiana's \$1 million share in the federal funds plus an additional \$2,353,417 in partner contributions will support the Indiana project.

This area is especially promising for waterfowl since it's adding to the corridor that already includes Goose Pond, Greene-Sullivan, Hawthorn, Dugger, and Turtle Creek, from east to west, and Pine Creek and Kankakee Sands to the north.

"This is a tremendous boost for recreational opportunities and the quality of life in Terre Haute and west central Indiana, said Robert E. Carter Jr., director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. "It's a really unique project and goes a long way toward the goal of protecting 16 river miles of wildlife habitat right next door to one of Indiana's larger cities."

Wabashiki is the Miami Indian name for Indiana's longest river, the Wabash.

And that isn't all!

Governor Daniels and several conservation partners will announce a **MAJOR** land conservation initiative June 10th at noon that expands the Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area project. Think of it as potentially having a "flyway-changing" impact. A second follow-up announcement will take place Friday, June 11.