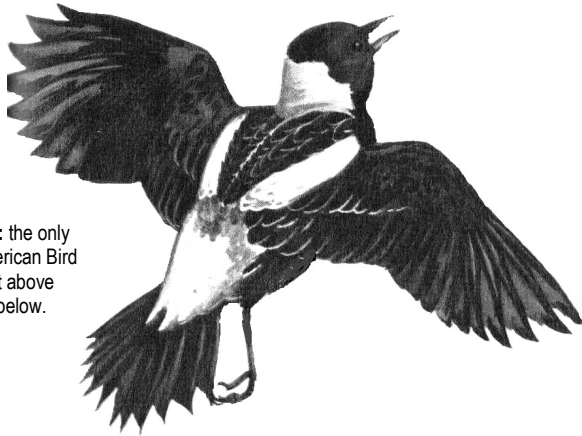




Sycamore Warbler

Volume 39, Issue 2 Summer 2014

Birds of Summer



Bobolink: the only north American Bird that's light above and dark below.

Birding is just one of many things that slow down during the summer. That's not too surprising as it is preceded by the excitement of Spring Migration and followed by Fall Migration. But summer is a critical season for birds as that is when most nest and successful nesting is necessary to replace birds that are lost each year if a species population isn't to decline. There are lots of birds to find even if birding is slower—over 100 regular species that can be found in June and July including late spring migrants and early fall migrants that might be encountered.

Here in Indiana the Indiana Audubon Society collects data via a yearly Summer Bird Count that not only records the numbers of birds of each species seen but also includes indications of nesting ranging from "young or eggs in nest" to "adults on territory". This data is kept by county so whatever county you live in or visit gives an opportunity to notice what birds

are there and record any indication of nesting. Even before June, in Tippecanoe County Russ Allyson noted female Mallards with young, a nesting Grackle, and a Canada Goose building a nest, and Susan Ulrich found a Pileated Woodpecker nest. Shelly Foran found a Woodcock nest in Warren Co during the May Count. See "Hints for Monitoring and Finding Nests" on page 3 for some guidelines.

The Summer Count runs from June 1 to July 31. Nest indications noted before those dates (such as mentioned above) or after those dates should be included, but are distinguished by using lower case (e.g. 'e' rather than 'E' for nest with eggs). There are three county counts in SAS's area which have county coordinators to whom you can send data: Tippecanoe (Barney Dunning); Warren (Susan Ulrich); White (Rick Read). Contact info for all three is on page 7. Landon Neumann keeps records for Cass County which is just outside SAS's area of interest. He can be reached at landonnewmann25@gmail.com. However if you are in another county you can send records directly to the Indiana Audubon Society. Forms to keep your data can be downloaded at their website indianaaudubon.org, or write SAS or email/call the editor and a copy can be mailed to you. Even if you don't participate please contact the proper county representative about any nesting indications noted in their county.

SAS Hosts IAS June 14 At Prophetstown SP

This coming Saturday join SAS along with Indiana Audubon Society members for a bird tour at our local Prophetstown State Park. The primary focus of the trip are the grassland birds such as Grasshopper, Savanna, & Henslow's Sparrows, Bobwhite Quail, etc. most of which are in decline regionally and nationally. There will be lots of other species too. Join us at 7:30 at the Park's Bergamot pavilion near the campground or meet at Celery Bog at 7 a.m. to carpool. Admission fee or permit needed.

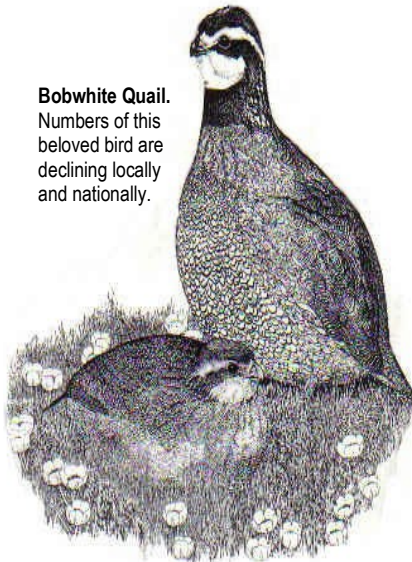
Celery Bog Goose Banding

Come to Celery Bog a half-hour early on June 14th to see the start of the DNR's annual Canada Goose Banding. The DNR conducts these banding efforts during the two week period when most geese are in molt and can't fly. For those of you not going on the Prophetstown trip, the banding starts at 6:30 and lasts until 10 a.m.

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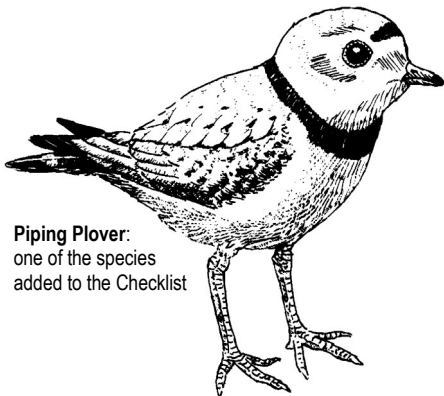
Bobwhite Quail. Numbers of this beloved bird are declining locally and nationally.



CHAPTER NEWS

SAS Updates Celery Bog Checklist

The Celery Bog checklist which hadn't been changed since it was put together in 2000, has finally been revised. The number of species found increased from 165 to 237. Of the 40 species listed as "most likely to be found next" on the original checklist, all but the following four have been reported: Snowy Egret, Black-bellied Plover, Short-eared Owl, and Bell's Vireo. If you have seen one of those species in the park, or other species not on the new list, please let us know.



Piping Plover:
one of the species
added to the Checklist

Prophetstown State Park & Clegg Gardens

With one checklist done SAS has volunteered to draft bird checklists for NICHES' Clegg Gardens and Prophetstown State Park which currently have no lists. To do this we need your help! Please send any information you have on birds you see or saw in these areas to the editor, Susan Ulrich by email or phone. (see p. 7.)

Friends of SAS (p.7) are asked to renew their membership in August/September for the upcoming year. This makes it easier on the Treasurer.

Some unfortunate news to report:

The Berlovitz Children's Forest has fallen through. The City of Lafayette and the Park Board which initially were in favor, decided to use Berlovitz Woods as a more traditional park. After seemingly approving the project — which had a lot of support and would have given local children a place to play and explore nature—it was a big disappointment.

Zonda Bryant is now looking for an alternative site close enough to Lafayette to make it feasible for children to get there easily. If you know of an area or have such an area and would be willing to sell it (or even better, donate it all or in part) please contact Zonda. See p. 7.

October 4-5 Feast of the Hunter's Moon

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss it. SAS will again be serving turkey legs and cider. Help at the booth is always appreciated. Four hours of volunteering gives you a button which is a free pass to the feast for both days. Contact Chuck Tuttle or Barney Dunning to volunteer (see p.7).

Mini-Programs & Dinner

As usual, Audubon's September program is the **Invitational Bring Your Own** event where people are invited to bring 5 minutes or so of pictures to talk about and share. It's always an interesting evening seeing what others experienced locally or globally. Also as usual, the program is preceded by a 6 p.m. carry-in dinner. People can bring a dish to share. SAS supplies plates, utensils, napkins and beverages as well as good company.

Monticello Audubon Club

SAS spent \$522, part of the Carroll-White County REMC grant that Rick Read got that was mentioned in the last newsletter. This paid for the 182 student session held this spring in Monticello

And, if you get the Monticello Paper, you saw Rick Read's picture of a loon in the April 7 edition.

Tippecanoe Nature Club

The club continues to grow. Four of the docents will be back next year and new ones are expected to join. This coming year students from 3rd to 7th grade will be eligible to join, not just 4-6th graders. In addition new school systems have been added. Call out for 3-4th graders in August and for 5-7th graders August both from 7:30-9:30 at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park.

Two Successful Events

SAS's semi-annual Bake & Plant Sale went very well, raising \$632.90. Our thanks to everyone who helped through donations of food and plants, and those who helped at the booth: Elsa Janle, Dorothy Jones, Anne Piechota, Susan Ulrich, Mary Ann McGill, and Marilyn Hinze.

One hundred dollars of those funds went to HEE—Purdue's 100 year forestry study underway in southern Indiana. They requested funds to help pay for lunches at their conference. The remainder will be used for education and conservation projects arising during the year.

A few weeks later on April 26 SAS had a successful day at Garden Expo at the Fairgrounds, setting a new record by raising \$457.30 selling plants and other donated garden-related items. Lots of people stopped by to talk and pick up printed materials. All the funds were specifically designated for the Ross Hills Honeysuckle Removal project which continues to make progress clearing the park bit by bit.

Susan Ulrich and Mary Ann McGill helped at the Expo booth. A number of people donated plants and items and there was less left over than usual. Temple Pearson kindly loaned space in her driveway to hold plants in advance of the sale.

Wanted: Species Reports for NICHES Properties

NICHES Land Trust is working to develop natural history inventories for its various properties—everything from birds, to plants, animals, all the insects, etc. If you have any records or remember specific sightings, Please pass that information along. Needless to say include the name of the property along with the species! This is a huge multi-year project. All info appreciated. Send it to niches@nicheslandtrust.org

Honeysuckle Assassins Wanted

SAS and INPAWS continue to partner at Ross Hills County Park to remove the extensive number of Bush Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive shrubs. Fall is the best time for this work but plants can be removed at any time. If you have spare time your help would be appreciated. Email Susan Ulrich (p.7) for more information.

There will be regular RIP (Remove Invasive Plants) events from 3-5 on Thursdays this Fall along with some weekend scheduled workdays. Look for the dates in the next newsletter.

Passenger Pigeons

100 years ago this September the Passenger Pigeon became extinct. Joel Greenberg wrote a book about the species and its history. Some of you may have heard his interview on PBS station WBAA. Joel is coming to Purdue as part of the

Forestry and Natural Resources Department's Lecture Series. He will be here January 20. Barny has arranged for him to also give a special evening program to SAS that day in place of our usual January program. Watch for more on this in the next newsletter.

Hints for Monitoring & Finding Nests

John Bigham, Jr. of New Paris, Ohio monitored 24 nests of 13 different species this past year for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Nest Project. Below are some lessons he's learned which he hopes will encourage newbies to get out in the field and collect more and better nest data.

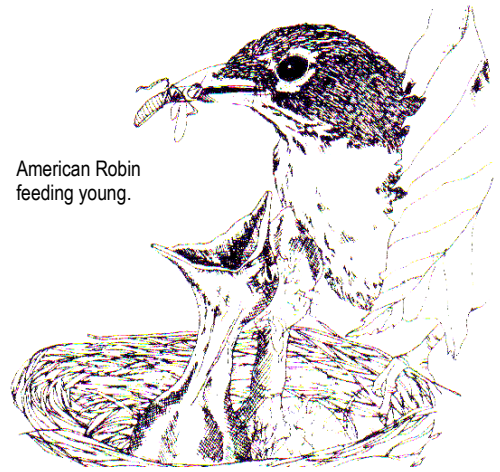
1. Avoid checking nests too close to the fledging date.

Checking nests that are within 2-3 days of fledging puts nestlings at risk of leaving the nest prematurely. Always check from a distance using binoculars when chicks get close to fledging (they're fully-feathered and alert). This is particularly true for open-cup nesters.

2. **Assess possible reasons for nest failure, and make any necessary adjustments.** John reports that he definitely notices higher success for nests when he is able to meander around compared to nests that must be checked on a dead-end path. If nests can only be approached using a dead-end trail, it might be best to observe only from a distance or not monitor that nest at all. He is also careful to watch for any nest predators (e.g., jays, crows, cats) that might be around to avoid leading them to nests.

3. **Just let go.** Despite a person's best intentions, nests sometimes fail for reasons that are out of our control. Whether it's because of drought, storms, or just bad nest positioning, John encourages others to just let go of what you can't control.

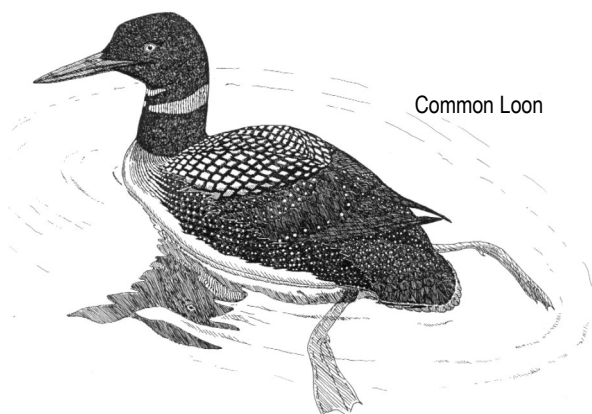
4. **You can't find what you're not looking for.** John monitors some nest boxes, but prefers open cup nests. But how does one find nests of birds like American Goldfinches, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown Thrashers, and others? John says target the specific birds in the habitats they prefer, then cue on those vegetation structures that might be attractive. For example, that low shrub in an open field might be perfect for a goldfinch. That thorny rose bush near a pond is a likely home for a Gray Catbird. By learning about habitat preferences, and knowing a bit about each species' behavior, you can find many more open cup nests than you think.



American Robin feeding young.

Nature Notes & News

- Early evening March 21 Susan Ulrich noticed multiple dark 'spots' at a flooded area along the Wabash. They were ducks—at least 2,000 of them. Many were Lesser Scaup, followed by Mallards but there were Redheads, Blue-winged Teal and Ring-necks and probably others, alas the light was fading and she didn't have a scope. Ducks were still arriving as she left.
- Landon Neumann and Bud Dodrill continue adding to bird info for Cass Co. On the 22nd Landon had two Trumpeter Swans and on the 25th Bud had 4 Ross's Geese.
- Ed Hopkins stopped at Warren County's Otterbein Lake March 26th and had 2 Ross's Geese. On the 28th he found a California Gull there. Michael Retter relocated the geese and saw a number of Herring & Ring-billed Gulls. A gull that may have been the California was too far away to identify.



Common Loon

- Rick Read heard loons and then saw 12 Common Loons on Lake Freeman March 29th along with 2 Horned Grebes. On April 12th he had early Barn Swallows, one Loon, and zillions of American Coots, even in yards.
- April 5 Russ Allison enjoyed watching a Hermit Thrush at his feeders and then had great looks at a Red-necked Grebe at Celery Bog.
- The eleven people gathered for SAS's first non-rained-out early bird walk at Celery Bog in West Lafayette on April 10 were rewarded by returning spring migrants. In addition to a

Horned Grebe on the water, they had Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Towhee, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

- Landon Neumann finally found a flock of American Golden Plover—his nemesis bird—in Cass County April 12.
- SAS's early bird hike found another good scattering of migrants April 17 at Celery Bog, both water-related (Horned Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Solitary Sandpiper) and terrestrial (Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler). John Skene spotted the FOS Yellow-throated Vireo and an Osprey.
- On April 30th while looking for rails, Landon Neumann found something better at the Highway 17 marshes: 9 Willets. He and Bud had an excellent day with 16 species of Warblers.
- May 1 Barny Dunning went for the paper and was surprised to hear a

Red-breasted Nuthatch. He hadn't had one all winter. On the early bird walk that same morning there were large numbers of swallows (Tree, Barn and Northern Rough-winged), foraging at ankle height along the west edge of the open water of the wetlands. He presumed that they were trying to avoid the wind. In many cases, this put the swallows only a few feet from the participants. There were also three Pine Warblers at the bog.

- While out with the running club May 4th Larry Miller saw Cliff Swallows off the Pedestrian Bridge in West Lafayette. On a similar run April 30th he hadn't noticed any.
- Also on May 4 Landon Neumann had a Long-billed Dowitcher at the Highway 17 Marshes.: a new record for Cass County.
- The first week of May Susan Ulrich noted several unusual species feeding on their suet: 3 Baltimore Orioles, a Chipping sparrow, a male Cardinal and

a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak

- Russ Allison had his first Dickcissel at Prophetstown State Park along with his first Black and White Warbler on May 7.
- John Skene visited Celery Bog May 8 and ended up seeing 67 species including 2 Blue headed Vireos, 13 species of Warblers and 5 species of shorebirds.
- May 9 Bud Dodrill and Landon Neumann found 26 species of warblers including Golden-winged, Canada, and Bay-breasted Warblers.
- The most unusual species for the May 10th Big Day Count (see page 6) were 4 Black-necked Stilts found by Becky and Larry Theller at Prophetstown State Park.
- Landon Neumann found another new species for Cass Co. on May 12: a Forster's Tern at Georgetown Bridge.
- 73 species including 17 different warblers were Matt Hale's tally for a couple of hours around Celery Bog on May 18th. Veery and Bay-breasted Warblers seem to be everywhere. The next day Barny and Patrick Ruhl made a quick 30 minute stop and found 33 bird species. They had Blackpoll Warblers all over along with lots of Chestnut-sided and Wilson's Warblers. One unique situation were the swallows on a dead tree. The numbers were modest but included all of the local species except for Purple Martin. Five species of swallows in one small dead tree was a pretty sight.
- Matt Hale and Michael Retter went to Celery Bog May 21st after Matt heard a Connecticut Warbler singing at his apartment complex. They found a second Connecticut Warbler at the Bog.
- When John Skene visited Celery Bog May 24th, he found only 8 species of Warblers still there, four of which were migrants. Overall he saw 58 species
- Joan Mohr Samuels heard an interesting song and "did a little pishing and lo and behold a bird flew up to the top of a walnut tree". It was a male Scarlet Tanager, the first she's seen on her property.

Send your nature notes to the editor at
sueandtedulrich@msn.com

CONSERVATION NEWS

Antiquities Act Used to Protect 1/2 Million Acres But May Someday Need Protection Itself

President Obama's recent designation of nearly 500,000 acres as the Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico shows exactly why the Antiquities Act is so indispensable. Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks is packed with history, from archaeological sites to Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, to training areas for the Apollo space missions. The canyons and jagged peaks of the region's mountain ranges are both beautiful and unique. The new monument has strong local support. It is expected to attract recreation and tourism worth \$7.4 million yearly for local economies.

Organ Mountains - Desert Peaks is the eleventh national monument (and by far the largest) designated by President Obama under the Antiquities Act. In every instance, his administration bent over backward to get input from nearby communities and to select places rich in both cultural and natural heritage—using the Antiquities Act exactly as it was intended.

That fact, however, didn't keep the current U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year from passing a bill that would gut the Antiquities Act. Not a good idea. Many of our beloved National Parks were first protected as national monuments using the Antiquities Act. Congress can also decide to use its authority to protect public lands. In the past five years, though, that's happened exactly once, which puts the tally at Obama 11, Congress 1. During this **50th anniversary year of the Wilderness Act**, wouldn't it be nice to see a closer score?

Tongass National Forest - public comments needed

In the coastal rainforest of Southeast Alaska, Marbled Murrelets return from the sea to lay eggs on the moss-covered branches of giant, centuries-old spruce trees. Goshawks barrel through the ancient forest at 40 miles per hour, while wolves with pure-black fur roam the forest floor. The Tongass National Forest is a truly spectacular place—like nowhere else on earth—yet it has faced a century of industrial-scale old-growth logging. This destructive practice has put birds like the Queen Charlotte Goshawk, a rare subspecies of Northern Goshawk, in serious danger.

In May, the U.S. Forest Service kicked off the process that will determine the future of the Tongass. It has taken a step in the right direction by announcing it intends to eventually transition from old-growth logging, saying it may continue this harmful outdated practice until 2030. But it is also moving forward with the devastating Big Thorne timber sale, that will clear an area the size of 4,600 football fields of old-growth forest. The birds, wolves, and deer that rely on this habitat have been hard-hit for decades and cannot wait another 15 years of business as usual. Nor can the recreation, tourism, and fishing industries, which depend on healthy watersheds and form the backbone of the local economy.

National Audubon asks you to submit your public comments and tell the Forest Service its time to end this destructive old-growth logging in the Tongass in order to preserve this national treasure and its watershed in all of its breathtaking beauty and exceptional value. Send your comments to [www.http://secure.audubon.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1697&autologin=true](http://secure.audubon.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1697&autologin=true)

Another threat to Monarch Butterflies



Monarch butterflies have habitat where you wouldn't expect it -- for instance, agricultural fields across the Midwest. But this habitat is in danger of being lost to a deadly new herbicide.

The EPA is planning to approve a Dow Company herbicide that contains glyphosate, the active chemical in Roundup, and 2,4-D, a major component of the infamous Agent Orange toxin used in the Vietnam War. Wildlife habitat, plants and crops that haven't been genetically engineered to withstand this dangerous cocktail will be harmed.

The increase in genetically engineered crops and herbicides in the past few years has *already* reduced milkweed populations by 51 percent, and monarch populations have plummeted by 81 percent.

Using 2,4-D will also hurt other threatened species like California Red-legged frogs, Alameda Whipsnakes and several types of salmon by destroying plants these species need.

You can help Monarchs and other butterflies by planting milkweed and avoiding using herbicides that can kill it and other species they use.

2014 Big Day in May Bird Count Results

Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Cass	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Cass	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Cass
Canada Goose	187	119	85	Bell's Vireo	0	1	0	Field Sparrow	50	8	3
Mute Swan	0	0	2	Yellow-throated Vireo	6	5	5	Vesper Sparrow	22	2	3
Wood Duck	30	23	12	Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	0	Lark Sparrow	1	1	0
Mallard	51	12	8	Warbling Vireo	48	13	3	Savannah Sparrow	32	9	1
Blue-winged Teal	14	3	0	Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	Grasshopper Sparrow	25	1	1
Northern Shoveler	0	3	0	Red-eyed Vireo	47	10	2	Henslow's Sparrow	3	0	0
Redhead	2	0	0	Blue Jay	103	22	7	Fox Sparrow	1	0	0
Lesser Scaup	0	2	0	American Crow	79	44	14	Song Sparrow	84	16	7
Hooded Merganser	0	3	0	Horned Lark	9	4	7	Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	11	6	0	Purple Martin	19	12	4	Swamp Sparrow	2	1	0
Wild Turkey	9	14	0	Tree Swallow	33	21	8	White-throated Sparrow	35	0	4
Double-crested Cormorant	1	0	0	No Rough-winged Swallow	26	28	14	White-crowned Sparrow	24	13	4
Pied-billed Grebe	1	5	3	Bank Swallow	19	4	30	Summer Tanager	4	4	0
American Bittern	0	1	0	Cliff Swallow	127	70	20	Scarlet Tanager	24	10	3
Great Blue Heron	39	13	12	Barn Swallow	47	22	15	Northern Cardinal	184	44	34
Great Egret	2	0	1	Carolina Chickadee	58	16	7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	73	35	12
Green Heron	11	7	3	Tufted Titmouse	91	24	8	Indigo Bunting	134	42	18
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	0	0	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	0	0	Dickcissel	49	3	0
Turkey Vulture	124	86	58	White-breasted Nuthatch	41	14	6	Bobolink	14	11	3
Osprey	0	1	0	Carolina Wren	16	4	0	Red-winged Blackbird	777	164	104
Bald Eagle	12	6	2	House Wren	103	16	6	Eastern Meadowlark	48	24	3
Northern Harrier	0	1	0	Marsh Wren	0	0	1	Common Grackle	177	54	36
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	60	28	8	Brown-headed Cowbird	207	36	35
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	0	Eastern Bluebird	29	19	4	Orchard Oriole	12	6	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	1	2	Veery	7	2	0	Baltimore Oriole	90	23	30
Broad-winged Hawk	1	0	0	Gray-cheeked Thrush	8	2	0	House Finch	51	16	1
Red-tailed Hawk	29	15	5	Swainson's Thrush	41	8	3	American Goldfinch	142	36	22
American Kestrel	7	1	2	Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	House Sparrow	254	34	11
Merlin	0	1	0	Wood Thrush	49	8	4	Total individuals	6591	2150	1204
Sora Rail	3	4	7	American Robin	395	138	56	Total Species	151	138	121
American Coot	12	35	5	Gray Catbird	130	28	27				
Sandhill Crane	1	0	0	Northern Mockingbird	0	6	1				
Semipalmated Plover	4	0	0	Brown Thrasher	20	8	5				
Killdeer	55	18	7	European Starling	256	56	39				
Black-necked Stilt	2	0	0	American Pipit	1	0	3				
Spotted Sandpiper	15	1	4	Cedar Waxwing	35	0	7				
Solitary Sandpiper	9	4	3	Blue-winged Warbler	4	2	0				
Greater Yellowlegs	6	1	5	Golden-winged Warbler	8	1	1				
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	9	9	Tennessee Warbler	89	22	6				
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9	0	0	Orange-crowned Warbler	4	0	0				
Least Sandpiper	16	4	50	Nashville Warbler	23	5	4				
Pectoral Sandpiper	2	6	0	Northern Parula	23	8	4				
Dunlin	2	0	0	Yellow Warbler	40	18	19				
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	1	0	Chestnut-sided Warbler	21	9	6				
American Woodcock	0	2	0	Magnolia Warbler	23	4	4				
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	1	Cape May Warbler	5	6	2				
Rock Pigeon	76	9	3	Black-throated Blue Warbler	0	0	1				
Mourning Dove	144	41	37	Yellow-rumped Warbler	29	26	10				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	1	0	Black-throat Green Warbler	6	4	1				
Eastern Screech Owl	0	1	0	Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	1				
Great Horned Owl	6	1	0	Yellow-throated Warbler	12	2	3				
Barred Owl	7	2	2	Pine Warbler	5	0	0				
Common Nighthawk	2	1	1	Palm Warbler	36	13	4				
Whippoorwill	1	0	0	Bay-breasted Warbler	1	2	1				
Chimney Swift	49	9	33	Blackpoll Warbler	6	3	2				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21	11	6	Cerulean Warbler	2	1	2				
Belted Kingfisher	6	1	0	Black-and-White Warbler	12	2	1				
Red-headed Woodpecker	24	13	8	American Redstart	45	10	3				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	94	32	4	Prothonotary Warbler	1	0	2				
Downy Woodpecker	40	20	1	Ovenbird	26	5	2				
Hairy Woodpecker	11	5	1	Northern Waterthrush	10	7	5				
Northern Flicker	20	10	5	Louisiana Waterthrush	17	3	1				
Pileated Woodpecker	18	7	6	Kentucky Warbler	9	2	1				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	33	7	4	Mourning Warbler	1	0	0				
Acadian Flycatcher	21	4	2	Common Yellowthroat	156	36	13				
Willow Flycatcher	0	3	0	Hooded Warbler	0	0	1				
Least Flycatcher	10	3	1	Wilson's Warbler	5	1	1				
Eastern Phoebe	30	13	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	6	2	2				
Great Crested Flycatcher	54	22	5	Eastern Towhee	34	12	3				
Eastern Kingbird	44	52	16	American Tree Sparrow	0	0	2				
White-eyed Vireo	12	2	4	Chipping Sparrow	102	34	15				

Participants Tippecanoe (18): Delano, Kevin, Kyle, Mark & Marjory Arvin; Mike Brattain; Travis Harris; Barny Dunning, (compiler); Noble Kizer; Elsa Janle & Harry Potter; Kimberlee Kline; Temple Pearson; Melissa Mills; John Skene; Becky & Larry Theller.

Participants Warren (7): Joanna Billiard; Bill & Barbara Crane; Louise Decker; Shelly Foran; Ellen Tobias, Susan Ulrich (compiler).

Participants Cass (4): Landon Neumann (compiler), Bud Doddrill, Joe & Lee Scheidler.

Taking the results together, 170 species of birds were located in the three counties and of those 170, 105 were found in all three of the counties. Each county had a number of species not found in the other two:

Cass County: Mute Swan, Wilson's Phalarope, Marsh Wren, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Tree Sparrow,

Warren County: Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, American Bittern, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Merlin, American Woodcock, Eastern Screech Owl, Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo.

Tippecanoe County: Redhead, Double-crested Cormorant, Black-crowned Night-heron, Sharp shinned Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Whippoorwill, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Pine Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow.

Join Sycamore Audubon Society!

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

You can support national conservation efforts by joining the National Audubon Society (NAS). 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 all national members to ALSO become Friends of SAS. As a Friend, you contribute directly to our local chapter and its projects.

Membership Application

Date: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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

SAS's treasurer would appreciate payments in Aug-Sept to make it easier to keep track, however renewing Friends memberships will be credited to whatever month a Friend originally joined.

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 otherwise \$35/year)

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

Total enclosed \$

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

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Audubon Convention 2015

Audubon Convention 2015 will take place July 10-13, 2015 at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia. Join fellow leaders from across the Audubon network for fellowship, learning and sharing. Email convention@audubon.org for more information and details about registration, which will open in early 2015 (*Note: All Convention 2013 attendees have already been added to this list.*)

A 'Thank You' From National Audubon's President, David Yarnold

Encouraging news from the state of Minnesota. Last month we called on Audubon members to raise concerns about a particularly destructive proposed mine in the middle of critical Minnesota bird habitat.

More than 26,000 of you sent messages of concern to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) — and they listened. Because of you and the thousands of others who took action, the EPA has put the brakes on the permitting process for the mine!

This fight is far from over. But there is no question that, thanks to you, the EPA is holding the mining company accountable to laws designed to protect our environment. The proposed sulfide ore mine would destroy or damage more than ten square miles of wetlands at the headwaters of one of Lake Superior's largest tributaries. And it would continue to ooze toxins into nearby streams for decades, if not centuries.

Birds count on all of us to protect the disappearing habitat that they, and we, depend upon. Thank you for all you have done, and for your continued commitment.

Tidbits

◆ Nearly one-quarter of all Whooping Crane deaths are caused by illegal shooting.

◆ At least 40 percent of all bird species are migratory. In North America over 300 species migrate. Here are just a few facts:

- High flyers — **Bar-headed geese** routinely traverse the Indian Himalayas, reaching altitudes of nearly 30,000 feet.
- Far flyers — **Arctic Terns** are the globetrotting champs. Their yearly-trip transit amounts to nearly 50,000 miles.
- Fast flyers — **Great Snipes** routinely maintain speeds of 60 mph or more on their 4,200-mile migrations. And that's without tailwinds.
- Tireless flyers — the **Bar-tailed Godwit** is able to cover 7,000 miles across the central Pacific without food or rest.
- Fat flyers—migration takes a lot of calories. Bird often gorge themselves in preparation. **Blackpoll Warblers** nearly double their body weight before their non-stop 2,300 mile trip.



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



Summer Audubon Calendar

Save the Dates! Start times vary, see below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| June 14
Saturday | Grassland birds & More at Prophetstown: Field Trip with the Indiana Audubon Society. See p. 1. Meet at the park's Bergamot Pavilion at 7:30 or carpool from Celery Bog gravel lot promptly at 7 p.m. |
| June 22
Saturday | Picnic Fundraiser. Americus Community Coalition. \$5 donation which goes to help stop the proposed nearby quarry. Hamburgers, hotdogs and lots more food and beverages. Wolfe Leisure Time Campground, by Americus. 2-5 p.m, the Deno family who own the nearby property with the natural spring and wonderful diverse fen will open their area for people to visit. |
| July 12
Saturday | River Fest celebrating Indiana's greatest natural resource, the Wabash River. Tapawingo Park, WL from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. SAS will have a booth along with numerous other groups. Free and family friendly, with pony rides, balloon art, 5K Run/Walk, a Kid's Parade, voyager canoe races and more! If you can help at the booth we can use the company, or just stop by to say "hi". Go to: www.wabashriverfest.com . |
| July 31 | Last Day for Summer Bird Sightings. Tally up and send your results in. see p. 1. |
| August 30
Saturday | Celery Bog early migrants search. We will look for the start of fall migration at Celery Bog (and elsewhere if shore-birds are being reported). Meet at the overflow gravel parking lot on the drive to Lilly Nature Center at 7:30 am. |
| Sept 4 + +
Thursdays | Early Bird Hikes start September 4th and are held weekly. Meet at Celery Bog's gravel parking lot at 8 a.m. These will go every Thursday morning until the migration season ends (or people stop showing up!). For more information call or email Barney Dunning, see p.7. |
| Sept 12
Thursday | SAS Invitational Program: Bring your own 1-10 minute 'program' to share. Vacation pictures, back yard shots, etc. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center. Free parking. Our yearly carry-in dinner is at 6 p.m. before the meeting. Bring a dish to share. SAS supplies beverages, cups, plates, utensils, & napkins. If you forget to make or buy something, come for dinner anyway. There's always plenty of good food. |
| Sept 20
Saturday | Workday at Ross Hills Park. Meet at Ross Hills Park at 9:30, goes to noon. Tools and gloves available or bring your own (note: people with chainsaws will be very useful!). Rain date Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m. |