



Sycamore Warbler

Volume 39, Issue 3 Fall 2014

Project Passenger Pigeon From an Article by Barry Yoeman

This September marks 100 years since Martha, the world's last Passenger Pigeon, died at age 29 in the Cincinnati Zoo. Once the most plentiful bird in North America, it seemed inconceivable the bird could be extirpated. A new initiative, **Project Passenger Pigeon**, seeks to wake folks up to the extinction threats facing today's wildlife.

In 1834 a geologist named Featherstonbaugh described a migration of passenger pigeons: "Flocks of them many miles long came across the country, one flight succeeding to another, obscuring the daylight," he wrote. "When such myriads of timid birds as the wild pigeon are on the wing, often wheeling and performing evolutions almost as complicated as pyrotechnic movements, and

commemorations. They hope to educate the public not just about the pigeon but also about the value of wildlife conservation and our role in preventing natural disasters, including extinctions.

Among the highlights of **Project Passenger Pigeon** is the publication of a book, **A Feathered River Across the Sky**, by Joel Greenberg, a research associate with Chicago's Field Museum & the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; and the release of David Mrazek's documentary film **From Billions to None**. There will be conferences and exhibitions, including a downloadable exhibit from the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History that libraries, schools, and others can adapt for their own use. There will also be a passenger-pigeon-themed symphony and, possibly, additional dance and theater performances nationwide. Lastly, National Audubon also hopes to create a flock of **1 million origami passenger pigeons**.

Local Passenger Pigeon Happenings Sept 3 & Jan 20

Local events include Mary Cutler's program on Wednesday, September 3, (p. 6) and SAS's program with **Joel Greenberg**, the author of the book mentioned above on January 20th. Note this program is not on the 2nd Thursday and may not be held at Lilly Nature Center. The site will be finalized before the next **Warbler**. People also have the opportunity to help 'Fold the flock' of origami passenger pigeons at SAS events and meetings this Fall to help National Audubon Society reach its one million goal.

By focusing on this remarkable bird's heyday and its demise, **Project Passenger Pigeon's** organizers hope to call attention to animals currently at risk, (continued p. 5)



Photo of mounted Passenger Pigeons by Amy Evenstand

creating whirlwinds as they move, they present an image of the most fearful power."

Just 70 years later the bird was extinct. The telegraph and railroad helped create an industry of itinerant pigeon hunters who followed the flocks killing and shipping the birds by millions for sale in urban markets. Hunting of

adults and squabs was so severe the birds reproduction couldn't keep up. The pigeons also suffered from the human belief that our own activity could not possibly wipe out such an abundant species. Now, during the centennial of Martha's death, Audubon and others are planning a year of

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Junior Nature Club Grant

The Roy Whistler Foundation gave SAS a grant of \$29,401 to fund one year of expanded Junior Nature Club programming. SAS acted as the fiscal agent for a new not-for-profit Zonda formed called "**Hands of the Future**" aimed at environmental education and getting kids outdoors. Since then **Hands of the Future** received its official 501(c)3 status and the grant was transferred to the new organization. Congratulations, Zonda and best wishes for **Hands of the Future**.

CHAPTER NEWS

Celery Bog & Prophetstown Bird Checklists are now available at SAS meetings.

Note: no barred owl has been reported for Celery Bog. If you know of one, please report it to Barny (p.7)

October 4-5 Feast of the Hunter's Moon

Mark your calendars. SAS will again be selling turkey legs and cider. This is SAS's main fundraiser and **help at the booth is always appreciated**. Four hours volunteering gives you a button which serves as a free pass to the feast for both days. Contact Chuck Tuttle or Barny Dunning to volunteer (see p.7).

September Mini-Programs

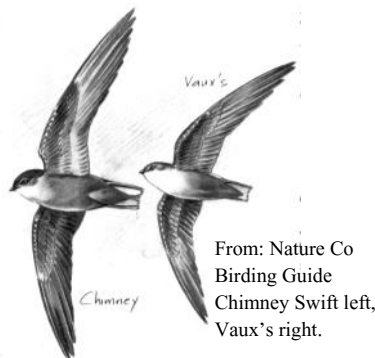
Audubon's September program is the **Invitational Bring Your Own** event where people are invited to bring roughly 5 minutes of pictures to talk about and share. It's always an interesting evening and is preceded by a delicious **Carry-in Dinner** which starts at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share. SAS supplies plates, utensils, napkins and beverages as well as good company.

Swifts Night Out...

is a continent-wide effort to raise awareness about and encourage interest in Chimney Swifts (in the East) and Vaux's Swifts (in the West). It has become a favorite late summer event for professional and amateur birdwatchers alike.

As summer draws to a close and the swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to fall migration. Some roosts may consist of an

Friends of SAS (p.7) are asked to renew their membership now for the upcoming year. This makes it easier for the Treasurer & membership chairman.



extended family of only a half dozen birds, but larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! SAS has two Swift field trips scheduled this year. Check SAS's calendar page.

RIP Squad schedule for Honeysuckle at Ross Hills

The RIP Squad is meeting every Thursday September 25 to October 23 from 2-4 (or 5) at Ross Hills Park. It's part of SAS & INPAWS joint effort to remove woody invasives in the park. There is also a work day October 25 from 10-1 p.m. We'd love your help at one or more of these events. To get on the "reminder" email list send your email address to patricia.w.rader@gmail.com.

20 Years of Bake & Plant Sales have raised \$28,000

This Fall's Oct 31 to Nov 2 Bake & Plant Sale will push the amount raised by the sales to over \$28,000. This year's fund are going to next year's *Mind BOGgling Event* & other conservation efforts. Items to sell and people to help at the booth are needed. Contact Susan Ulrich (p.7).

The Board voted to use the undesignated funds from SAS's spring sale for a gas-engine power washer the Warren County Park Board wants to clean the restrooms at Cicott Park (\$300), and to SAS's Chimney Swift tower fund (\$232). Since that first sale in 1994, SAS Bake Sale funds have been used to support over 45 projects.

Chimney Swift Towers

SAS is looking for civic groups or Eagle Scouts who'd like to build a chimney swift tower in one of SAS's six counties. The chapter has some seed money and building plans. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Rick Read (p. 7).

What Some SAS Members did this summer—

—Rick Read had six of his bird photos published in the Monticello paper.

—Chuck Tuttle gave a talk and led a bird hike for the Lafayette Parks Department.

—Barny Dunning gave a talk and led a bird hike for his church.

—Wes Homoya apprenticed as a bird guide at an Ecuadorian nature lodge.

Junior Nature Club Schedule

Below are the programs and dates for the fall meetings of the Junior Nature Club. Because attendance is up, there are now two classes for each age group.

Wildlife Chorus (Nature Soundscapes)

3rd and 4th grades – Sept 9th or 11th
5th to 7th grades – Sept 16th or 18th

Just Passing Through (Great Migration)

3rd and 4th grades – Sept 30th, Oct 2nd
5th to 7th grades – Oct 7th or 9th

Beware the Wildmen (Play Wildmen of Alder)

3rd and 4th grades – Oct 21st or 23rd
5th to 7th grades – Oct 28th or 30th

Rulers of the Sky (Raptors)

3rd and 4th grades – Nov 11th or 13th
5th to 7th grades – Nov 18th or 20th

Project Green Planet (Recycling)

3rd and 4th grades – Dec 2nd or 4th
5th to 7th grades – Dec 9th or 11th

Fall Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2014

Programs are held on the 2nd Thursday at 7:15 PM in the Lilly Nature Center in West Lafayette. People are invited to come beforehand for "Dinner & Conversation" starting at 6:00 PM at the MCL Cafeteria (WL). Field trip times vary.

- Sept 4 & each Thursday **Early Bird Hikes Start.** Celery Bog 8 a.m. These will be held every Thursday morning until further notice. Meet at the gravel parking area (ahead and to the right).
- September 11 Thursday **Program: Invitational Bring Your Own.** SAS annual welcome back program. Starts at 6 p.m. with a Carry-in Dinner. Bring a dish to share and join others for lots of good food and conversation at 6 p.m. before the meeting which starts at 7:15 p.m. The program is YOU: people are encouraged to bring a short program (5 min or so)—vacation slides, nature, birds etc. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park. Free parking and refreshment.
- September 12 Friday **Swift Night Out Monticello.** 8:00 P.M. led by Rick Read. Meet at the White County Courthouse lawn, at Main St. and Broadway. There are several swift roost sites in the downtown area. We'll find the largest. If the sky is overcast, come about 15 minutes early.
- September 13 Saturday **Swift Night Out Lafayette.** 8 p.m. led by Barny Dunning. Plan is to meet at the old incinerator at Lafayette Jefferson High School. Check location with Barny as the best roost may be elsewhere.
- September 20 Saturday **Fall Migration Walk along the Heritage Trail.** Migration peaks can be unpredictable, but mid-September is usually a time when many species of warblers, flycatchers, vireos and others are moving through our area. We will meet at 8 am in the parking lot for the Tippecanoe Battlefield Memorial Park in Battle Ground and walk the start of the Heritage Trail. If no migrants are around there, we might visit close by areas such as Prophetstown State Park or the Amphitheater. We will be done by 11 am or so, to avoid the traffic associated with the Purdue football game at noon.
- October 4-5 Sat & Sunday **Feast of the Hunter's Moon.** An historical reenactment drawing thousands of visitors and held at Fort Ouiatenon. SAS needs at least 20 people to help out at their booth over the weekend for 4 hours. This can be on one day or over two days. See p.2.
- October 9 Thursday **Program: Humans & Birds: Can't We All Just Get Along?** Judy Loven. As State Director of the USDA Wildlife Services in Indiana, Judy has the task of bringing disparate stakeholders together to create shared solutions to conflicts involving the interests of humans, birds, and other wildlife. She will discuss past and current highlights impacting our great state's avifauna, and how Wildlife Services works to better the lives of citizens and critters alike. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, WL. Free parking and refreshments.
- October 18 Saturday **Annual Excursion to Lake Michigan Shore Birding Sites.** By doing the day-long trip now (rather than in November), we hope to see a wider diversity of waterfowl, grebes, shorebirds and perhaps a late jaeger. We will also stop at Jasper-Pulaski State Wildlife Management Area to see if any Sandhill Cranes have arrived. Meet at the Celery Bog gravel parking lot at 6 am to carpool to the lakeshore. Wes Homoya (back from his recent escapades in Hawaii and Ecuador) and Ryan Sanderson will co-lead the trip.
- October 25 Saturday **Green Week Honeysuckle Removal.** At Ross Hills Park along the Wabash in Western Tippecanoe County. Held as one of Purdue's Green Week projects, help is needed both to remove honeysuckle and autumn olive as well as overseeing the students. Meet at the park entrance at 10 a.m.
- October 30 to Nov 2. Fri-Sun **Fall Bake & Plant Sale.** West Lafayette Public Library 6:30-9 Friday, 10-5 Saturday, & 1-5 Sunday. Held during the library book sale. We need donated plants, food items and helpers. See p. 2
- November 13 Thursday **Program: to be announced.** Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette. 7:15 p.m. Wes has been in Hawaii & Ecuador so is still juggling various possibilities. All sound good!
- November 16 Sunday **Sandhill Crane Spectacle at Jasper-Pulaski** (with maybe a Whooping Crane thrown in?). Meet at 3 pm at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog to carpool.
- December 13 Saturday **Lafayette Christmas Bird Count.** Mark your calendar & participate. Ed Hopkins will be organizing our local participation in this national birding event, now 114 years old! More in the next **Warbler**.

Nature Notes & News

● SAS recorded 59 species, including 10 warbler species, May 17th at the Mind BOGging Event held at Celery Bog.

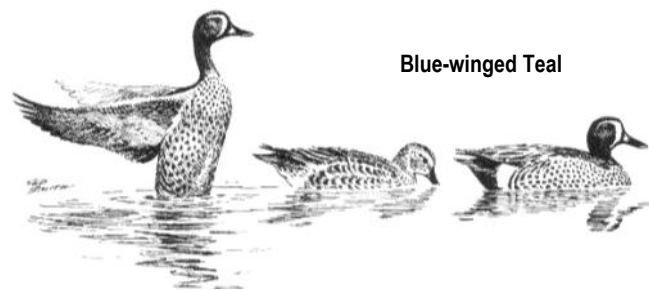
● The highlight for Landon Neumann & Bud Dodrill on June 6th was Bud's lifer Upland Sandpiper at Grissom. On the 17th Landon had a Swamp Sparrow at the Cass Co. Highway 17 Marshes, marking the 3rd year in a row it has tried to breed there. On the 27th Landon found 2 Marsh Wrens at that same site.

● Joanna Billiard lives in Yarmouth, ME now. She was delighted to find a Grey Fox dened under her garden shed and enjoyed watching the 3 kits at play.

● June 26th John Skene located two singing male Prairie Warblers at Purdue Airport's Gravel Pits. It's possible there were females on nests.

● Chris Collins started the month of July seeing a Cattle Egret at Celery Bog Park. The egret was located on the golf course-side of the bog about 80 yards from the bridge but then flew and landed in the reeds about 150 yards out.

● July 10 a visiting student from Columbia, Javier, went to Celery Bog with Barny Dunning. Nothing too exciting but the birds were new for him. Probably the best sighting was a female Blue-winged Teal with young - the first report of teal this summer for the county.



Blue-winged Teal

● Rick Read birded a few White County spots July 11th and heard the rare call of a Black-billed Cuckoo. It was barely discernible between the noise on US-421 and nearby construction in Reynolds.

● July 12th Landon Neumann & Bud Dodrill confirmed the Western meadowlark along 1300S in Cass County was breeding since they saw it carrying food. Later that month Kirk Roth reported the bird was singing an Eastern Meadowlark song, and on July 28th Landon heard it call like an Eastern. Kirk pointed out that the malar on the bird was wrong for both species—not enough yellow for the

Western species and too much for the Eastern. Landon hadn't "noted this before and a big thanks goes to Kirk for pointing it out! Because of the malar problem and call development I think this [will] make this bird a hybrid."

● Michael Retter pointed out that Sedge Wrens have an odd breeding strategy, whereby they pass through our area in mid-May, continue up to Minnesota etc., raise a brood there, then come back south to raise a second brood in Indiana starting in late July. Some of them don't even arrive until the beginning of August.

● On the 21st, Barny took Javier to Prophetstown State Park to show him some grassland birds. The main targets were Henslows' Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak, both of which were easy to find. They also had Purple Martins at the pond at the eastern end of the drive, which were the first martins for the Tippecanoe County summer count.

● Lisa Kelsey reported male Bobolinks near Rainsville in Warren Co July 18th.

● Landon Neumann wandered around Cass Co on the 22nd and discovered a Bell's Vireo along 600W just a mile north of the Carroll/Cass Line. This is his 2nd county record. That same day Michael Retter reported a male Bell's Vireo back on territory near his apartment just west of the Cook Med Center in W. Lafayette.

● Continuing a survey of Cass County, Landon Neumann and Bud Dodrill found 7 species of shorebirds along the Wabash River on July 26th. The best find was a Semipalmated Plover.

● John Skene reported that Blue Grosbeaks were still at Prophetstown on July 29th. Russ Allison summarized sightings for the park writing "We seem to have a plethora of Blue Grosbeaks at the Park [this year]. First sighting was near the Picnic area. then a possible nest area East of there. Two birds were seen at that area and John Sken found (2) north of the pond. I saw one near the Overpass that runs through the park. Today I found, and got a photo of, one in the partly live tree on the South side of the road."

● Rick Read spotted an Osprey catching a fish on Lake Freeman at lunch time

August 5. It was just south of the US-421 bridge. He noted it is unusual to see one between migration seasons.

● Ed Hopkins commented that "For some reason, the water was never at normal level this year" at Pine Creek in Benton County. "The N lake has been a marsh. It is drying out, and, up to now, the vegetation had been keeping up with the dropping water level. Today, Aug 6, there was a little more exposed mud. The peep count was up, but most of shorebirds were Pectoral Sandpipers and Killdeer. There have been Blue Grosbeaks. It appears that there is one on the west boundary fence line, and one on the tree line going north of the farmhouse."

● Barny Dunning finally visited Pine Creek Aug 9th. The highlight of his trip was a Caspian Tern, the first he's seen there in several years, along with 3 Sedge Wrens.

● On the 11th of August Landon Neumann checked the Wabash at Logansport 18th Street bridge. He had a Semipalmated Plover along with 5 other shorebird species. Later at the Highway 17 Marshes he found Stilt Sandpipers.

● On a trip to Celery Bog on the 13th Karl Wood saw a Black-crowned Night-heron.

● Two days later on the 15th, Nelson Moore saw a pair of Ospreys in the northern part of Celery Bog. They are likely to have been migrants.

● By August 15th more sandpipers were moving through at Pine Creek. Landon Neumann located 11 different species including a Willet and a Short-billed Dowitcher. Both those species were still there on the 16th when Ed Hopkins visited. He also noted Northern Pintails.

● Many people commented on hummingbirds this summer—a few arrived early, then disappeared. Numbers remained unusually low until late May. After that some people had more than usual, while others had less. By early September, adult males have started to migrate south, and most females and young follow within the next 5 weeks. People are encouraged to leave a feeder up to feed any late migrants which need to put on fat to complete a successful migration, as well as feed those odd western species that may move east rather than south. Most records for Rufous Hummingbirds in the state occur in late October and November.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

Odds & Ends

♦ The Senate Sportsmen's Bill died July 10th - it had included an NRA-backed provision to block the Environmental Protection Agency from protecting people and wildlife from lead poisoning. Thank you to everyone who helped fight what could have been a disastrous measure.

♦ For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency is considering requiring the disclosure of the chemicals used in fracking operations, as well as the risks they pose. With more than 15 million Americans now living within a mile of a fracking site (and yes, there are a number in Indiana), this 1st step is crucial towards protecting communities and drinking water from the potential dangers of fracking. The Natural Resources Defense Council is asking people to tell the EPA to put people before polluters and require manufacturers and oil and gas companies tell us exactly what's in their fracking fluids.

♦ Audubon is trying to derail the Army Corps of Engineers' plan to kill 16,000 Double-crested Cormorants—more than 25 percent of the entire western North American population—in a misdirected effort to reduce avian predation on endangered salmon. The cormorants live and nest on East Seal Island, a globally-significant Important Bird Area (IBA) in Oregon's lower Columbia River estuary. While cormorants do prey on salmon, the fish are endangered because of dams, pollution, habitat loss, and an array of other factors—not because of the cormorants. The public comment period ended August 19th.

Heavy Midwest Wolf Kills Continue

When gray wolves lost federal protection 2012, wolf hunting not only took off in the Rockies but it also took off in the western Great Lakes where wolves are being slaughtered by the hundreds. From a Midwest population that numbered barely 4,500, **1,046 wolves have been destroyed by hunting alone in the past two years -- nearly as many wolves as have been killed in the Mountain West.**

This year Minnesota will grant 3,300 hunters permission to wipe out over 10 percent of that state's wolf population. In Wisconsin, where it's legal to hunt wolves with dog packs, an appeals court just ruled that hounders can "train" their dogs by setting them on wolves all year round -- opening the door to constant wolf-dog confrontations. Wolves and dogs are both going to die.

And in Michigan anti-wolf lobbyists just qualified a petition for the November ballot that would greatly loosen the restrictions on shooting that state's 650 wolves. Throughout the Midwest, native tribes opposed to the wolf hunts are being disrespectfully shunted aside. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Idaho have already announced their kill quotas for the coming season. Together they want to destroy 591 gray wolves. Three more states are preparing their own hunting quotas right now -- but judging by past years the total should top 900 this year.

It's even worse than the numbers suggest. In Minnesota, the kill quotas have been exceeded in the past two seasons. They may love their Timberwolves NBA team in the North Star State, but real wolves are in the crosshairs.

Climate Action

A People's Climate March will be held Sunday, September 21 in New York City. It will be the biggest climate march ever to urge President Obama to lead the US and the world in the climate fight. State organizers hope to have buses leave from Indy.

A similar but more local activity is coming up. A "march for climate action" is underway from LA to DC. The march should pass through northern Indiana September 7 to 20 and Hoosiers are invited to join at least part of the journey.



Double-crested
Cormorant

Passenger Pigeon from p. 1

currently at risk, such as 11 species of endangered crane, the whale shark, and the Little Brown Bat, (the latter could disappear from the eastern US within 15 years). "I believe in teachable moments," said David Blockstein, senior scientist at the National Council for Science and the Environment. He points out that one of the real dangers we have in the conservation area is the ratcheting down of each generation's knowledge and expectations.

"You go out in a migration and say, 'Boy, this is great. I saw so many warblers today.' But if you had been there 50 years ago, [you'd realize that] what you see today is just a small percentage of that. The centenary [of the Passenger Pigeon] is a way to try to ratchet back up expectations of what wild America can be."

Wednesdays In the Wild

Weekly programs on various natural history topics for adults and interested young people. Usually from 1-3 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. Sites Vary. For a complete description of these programs email Joan Mohr Samuels at mohrsamuels@comcast.net or pick up a schedule at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park.

- Sept 3rd 1-3pm** **A Living Wind: The Passage of the Passenger Pigeon.** Indoor pgm. Lilly Nature Center. Mary Cutler, Tippecanoe County Naturalist, See story page 1 & 5.
- Sept 10th 1-3pm** **Wings & Wildflowers at Prophetstown.** Outdoor pgm. Prophetstown State Park. **Park Naturalist Angie Manuel**, IDNR. Ask gate attendant for meeting site. **\$2/person program fee or annual entrance permit.**
- Sept 17th 7-9pm** **Status and Conservation of Bats in Indiana.** Indoor/outdoor pgm. Prophetstown State Park. **Scott Johnson** (IDNR Nongame Mammologist. Park Visitors Center. **\$2/person program fee or annual entrance permit.**
- Sept 24th 1-3pm** **The True "Buzz" About Yellowjackets & Hornets!** indoor pgm, Lilly Nature Center. **John MacDonald** (Purdue Entomologist) The biology, behavior, medical risk, and control of these stinging insects!
- Oct 1st 1-3pm** **Eco-printing: a step beyond dyeing with native plants!** Outdoor pgm*. Brier Environmental Educational Center. Local artist **Andrea Wellnitz**, with **Sally Weeks** and **Lynn Layden** **NOTE:** indoors if bad weather.
- Oct 8th 1-3pm** **Kankakee Sands Restoration Efforts & Walk** ----Bring binoculars . Indoor/outdoor pgm. Kankakee Sands. Join **Alyssa Nyberg**, The Nature Conservancy A **CARPOOL** will leave Lilly Nature Center at noon.
- Oct 15th 1-3pm** **Clegg Gardens Fall Color Hike.** Outdoor pgm. CLEGG Gardens. Walk with **Gus Nyberg (NICHES Executive Director)** Clegg Memorial Garden is now the home for the NICHES Land Trust office.
- Oct 22nd 7-9pm** **Our Threatened Heritage: The Mounds Reservoir Proposal.** Indoor pgm. Lilly Nature Center. Presented by **Kevin Tunesvick (Heart of the River Coalition).**
- Oct 29th 1-3pm** **Fall Waterfowl & More at Celery Bog** --- Bring binoculars! Indoor/outdoor pgm. Lilly Nature Center. **Susan Ulrich** (avid birder and naturalist, Sycamore Audubon Society) .
- Nov 5th 7-9pm** **Yellowstone: The Land of Fire, Ice, Water and Wildlife.** Indoor pgm. Lilly Nature Center. Join **Dan Shepardson** (Purdue Professor of Earth, Atmospheric & Planetary Sciences) on a photographic tour .
- Nov 12th 1-3pm** **Fall Foods: enjoy them now & learn how to preserve their bounty for use in winter.** Indoor pgm. Brier Environmental Educational Center. **Lynn Layden, Master Gardener & enthusiastic cook.**
- Nov 19th 1-3pm** **Back from the Brink: Bird Restoration Success Stories.** Indoor pgm. Lilly Nature Center. **Dean Zimmerman**, IDNR Wildlife Biologist.

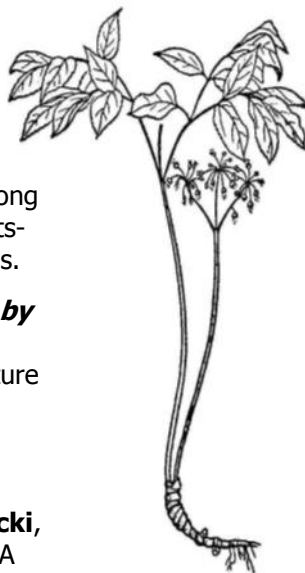
Programs of Interest

Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society: programs begin at 7 p.m. in Lilly Nature Center.

September 22 The Prophetstown Fen. Ed Zschiedrich, local nature photographer. A year-long photographic tour of this uncommon fen in Prophetstown State Park with its many unusual plant species.

October 27 Are Spring Ephemerals Threatened by Spring Creep? Nancy Emery. **Purdue Biology Department** Insights into the effects of temperature variation on plant-pollinator interactions based on research done at Purdue's Ross Biological Reserve.

November 24 A Lake Michigan Coastal Dunal Forest: Its Scenery and Ecology. Doug Paprocki, local naturalist-conservationist and photographer. A photo essay from the recent book, "Beside the Inland Sea," by the late Gretchen Paprocki. Books will be available for sale at this meeting.



Wild
Sarsaparilla

CBC Results online

Results of the 114th Christmas Bird Count are almost completely online. To see the count summary, regional summaries, articles from participants, and more delivered to your inbox, sign up for *American Birds* online at

www.audubon.org/citizenscience

Audubon has moved the CBC results to a digital platform by producing a FREE quarterly citizen science e-newsletter, ***American Birds***. The newsletter contains news from all of Audubon citizen science programs. It also includes the types of CBC information and summaries previously distributed in the print edition of *American Birds*.

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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Deadly Walnut Cankers Disease now in Indiana

Geosmithia morbida, the fungus that causes Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) in walnut trees has been detected for the first time in Indiana. It was discovered on *Stenomimus pallidus*, a small weevil, that emerged from an ailing black walnut tree in Yellowwood State Forest. This was the first time the fungus was detected on an insect other than the walnut twig beetle.

The fungus was discovered as a result of a U.S. Forest Service-led cooperative effort of the University of Missouri and Purdue. The survey did not detect the fungus, walnut twig beetle or the weevil in Missouri. Neither this survey nor any other previous surveys have detected the walnut twig beetle in Indiana.

TCD affects many types of walnut trees but is lethal to black walnuts, which often are grown in plantations in Indiana and are also common in the state's urban and rural forests. Indiana joins Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and eight western states confirmed to have the disease.

New Citizen Science Blog Takes Flight

The citizen science program at the Cornell Lab invites you to be among the first to preview a new kind of blog. The new *Citizen Science Blog* is inspired by the contributions and passions of citizen scientists—like you and your neighbors. The *Citizen Science Blog* starts with a look at everyone's favorite winged jewels, hummingbirds. Can you match the speed of a hummingbird's wings with your fingers? Find out in the interactive game, 'Beat the Beats'. Plus, see how much liquid you'd have to consume to eat like a hummingbird. Check in often as new posts are added weekly.

Tidbits

◆ Decaying tree trunks in a moist temperate forest account for only 10% of the total nutrients that are released each year. Leaves turn out to be the big contributor.

A single leaf fluttering to the ground may weigh only hundredths of an ounce. However the weight of all the fallen leaves may exceed one & a half tons per acre. In the southern Appalachians fully three & a half tons of leaf / branch litter per acre are returned to the soil yearly.

This windfall of organic matter is broken down by soil fungi, nematodes, worms, etc. and can release nutrients to supply 80% of the forests annual needs. The remaining nutrients come from mineral weathering in the soil and precipitation. Evergreens also drop a good portion of their leaves and, since they often carry more foliage, their contribution may be as significant as that from deciduous trees.



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Indiana Audubon Fall Meeting in Evansville: Oct 3rd to 5th

For expanded information including registration costs, meal options, and a special room rate at the Carion Inn & Conference Center in Evansville, Indiana. go to indianaaudubon.org/Activities/FallFestival2014/tabid/512/Default.aspx

Friday October 3rd:

Registration 5pm – 8pm (CST) Times listed are local time which is Central Time. To convert to eastern add one hour.

7:30pm – 8:30pm (CST) - *Population decline of the American Kestrel* IAS Vice-President Jeff Canada. There will be a live American Kestrel at the presentation

Saturday October 4th:

7:00AM - 11:00 AM (CST) - **Field Trips** Wesselman Woods/Eagle Slough/Howell Wetlands or Somerville Mine & Columbia Mine areas. Meet for field trips in the lobby of the Clarion hotel at 6:30am (CST)

12:00pm (CST) - **IAS Board Meeting** Open to all members.

12:00pm-1:30pm (CST) - Lunch on your own Participants are encouraged to enjoy lunch with other birders!

1:30pm - 2:15pm (CST) - **Landon Neumann's Big Year** *Terrace Room next to indoor pool

2:30pm - 3:15pm (CST) - **Birdscaping** with Sharon Sorensen* *Terrace Room next to indoor pool

3:30pm - 4:15pm (CST) - **Birding by time of year** with Dan Collins *Terrace Room next to indoor pool

6:00 PM (CST) - Keynote Dinner and Speaker, Awards, & Membership Meeting. **Wind Energy Development and Birds: Are They Compatible?** Michael Hutchins, Coordinator, Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign, American Bird Conservancy

Sunday, October 5, 2014

7:00AM - 11:00 AM (CST) - Field Trips Wesselman Woods/Eagle Slough/Howell Wetlands or John James Audubon State Park (KY). Includes tour of the museum as well as the park. Meet for field trips in the lobby of the Clarion hotel at 6:30am (CST)