



Sycamore Warbler

Volume 40 Issue 2 Summer 2015

Days Fly By Quickly Like the Birds: take pictures now for Sept 10th

Audubon's September 10th meeting is the popular carry-in dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the even more popular "Bring your own Program" event at 7:15 p.m. That's when everyone is invited (encouraged) to share 1 to 10 minutes of photos of birds, plants, nature, vacation pics, etc. with the group.

The meeting will be in Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog Park in West Lafayette. People are asked to bring a dish to share. The Society provides the plates, cups, napkins, and silverware as well as beverages. Invite a friend to come with you. If they have pictures, even better. There's always plenty to eat and interesting conversations and one never knows what may be on the program that you'd otherwise miss.

Prophetstown Bird Ramble

Saturday
June 13th

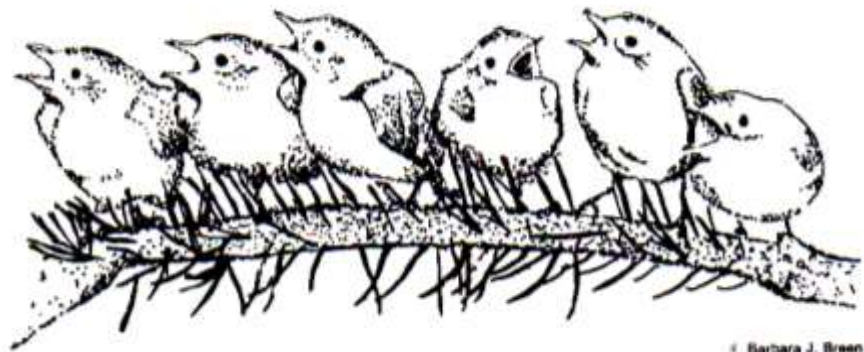
See SAS's calendar
on the back page
for details.

Summer Resident Birds

The May Count is over (results are on page 6), but there's no need to put away your binoculars until Fall migration. The months of June and July give everyone more opportunities to look for and record bird sightings for Indiana's Summer breeding bird report.

The object is to find out what species are in Indiana during the breeding season and report breeding indications such as 'nest with eggs', 'adults feeding fledged young', 'territorial singing by a male', etc. It also includes those birds that give no indication of breeding, such as

area make sure not to double count a bird. For example on trip one you see two male cardinals, on trip two you see one male and one female cardinal. Record three for



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late migrants, accidentals and post-breeding migrants. Each county has its own count. Unlike the May Count you can go out over multiple days to different or to the same areas and even cover more than one county—just keep the data for each county separate. If revisiting an

cardinals on the form as you know there were at least two males and one female.

Forms are at www.indianaaudubon.org

If you go out specifically looking for and recording birds, keep track of your hours and other data, as the form asks. If you simply see something interesting or run across a nest or juvenile birds, or have an adult with a begging young show up at your feeders, etc. please call or email Barny Dunning for Tippecanoe County data, (contact info page 7); or Susan Ulrich for Warren County (page 7).

CHAPTER NEWS

Spring Bake & Plant Sale

A big thank you to the donors and the following people who helped by selling the donations during the sale: Chuck Tuttle, Anne Piechota, Mary Ann McGill, Dorothy Jones, Elsa Janle, Susan Ulrich, and Karen Griggs. Funds will pay for the bird seed for the feeders at Lilly Nature Center and help establish a bird feeding area for NICHES Land Trust at Clegg Memorial Gardens.

Feast of the Hunter's Moon

October 3-4 is the weekend for the Feast this year. SAS is selling turkey legs again. It is not too early to let Barny (p.7) know if you would like to volunteer. Volunteers who'd like to camp need to apply by August 1. Sites are 15' x 30' and cost \$30 for the weekend. Susan Ulrich has the official form needed.

Writing about Volunteers:

If you regularly read this newsletter, you will have seen the same names showing up as volunteers for Audubon activities. It would be nice to have some new names to report. Since SAS has no paid staff (nor an office or a phone!) volunteers are essential for the chapter's functioning. Consider helping out at an event or activity this year. Call/email and volunteer!

Garden Expo

Cold weather and rain kept the crowds down, but SAS still made \$316.61 during the 6 hours of Garden Expo and then made \$25 more on leftover plants sold afterwards. The funds are designed for the honeysuckle work in the Ross Hills Park area. Once again Mary Ann McGill & Susan Ulrich spent the day volunteering at Audubon's booth.

Tomatoes

Speaking of plants, if you were not at the April meeting you not only

missed a great program, but also the wonderful tomato plants that Chuck Tuttle brought in. He had several hundred very healthy plants of a half dozen varieties.

Wednesdays in the Wild

The committee has met and is working on the new schedule. To get the list of programs for July and August, email joanmohrsamuels@comcast.net. If you are already on her list, there's no need to contact her. You will get it via email when it is finalized.

Huge Number of 5th Graders at Camp

The number of students on the bird hikes SAS does for the West Lafayette's school corporation's 5th Grade Camp set a record this year with over 100 at each session. Four SAS members—Chuck Tuttle, Mary Sue Waser, Rick Read, and Susan Ulrich —helped the teachers find a wide variety of birds for the students and then enjoyed a nice breakfast.

Honeysuckle Control Update

SAS and INPAWS spent a lot of their honeysuckle funds over the winter. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the person hired to help had to stop working because of a ruptured disk, so we ended up hiring NICHES two field stewards to take out the larger plants in a heavily infested area around Ross Reserve.

There's plenty of work for volunteers to do in the park: smaller plants need to be removed, re-sprouts taken care of, already cut plants stacked, and there are still scattered areas with larger plants. It's very rewarding to see the native plants and wildlife respond to the removal of the honeysuckle. Watch for the RIP Squad's Fall work schedule and SAS's work days (1st is Sept. 15th).



RIP Squad's Spring Activity

The Remove Invasive Plants squad, which started the move to control Honeysuckle at Ross Hills Park, had over 20 volunteers who spent over 200 hours working in local parks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5 this spring, primarily removing garlic mustard. Above is a picture of an impressive truckload of garlic mustard plants removed from Ross Hills Park on May 21st. (Patty Rader, RIP Squad coordinator, was the photographer).

Hike makes Newspaper

Rick Read led a bird hike April 26th in Monticello. He provided participants a list of this year's bird nesting structures erected at each of the local parks. Mitch Billue (Parks Supt) and he consulted to make some changes to improve chances of getting target species to nest. .

The group found winter resident Dark-eyed Juncos and American Tree Sparrows still present and a flock of Cedar Waxwings land in ... what do you know ... **a cedar tree**. A Cooper's Hawk was seen high over town scattering other birds into the air. The Bird Hike got front page coverage in *Herald Journal* the local Monticello newspaper.

Monticello Parks Centennial

April 25th began Monticello Parks Department's celebration of

100 years of Parks. Altherr Park was the scene of a soggy but daylong event. Two birding walks were planned but Rick Read was only able to complete one during a break in the rain. However his display of binocular types was viewed by many who came by the tent for hot coffee, hot chocolate or information on future plans for Altherr Park.

The tree reforestation effort had to be cancelled by Superintendent Mitch Billue, but Monticello Public Library and the Parks Department's annual Earth Day Celebration went ahead. A large crowd visited the displays and in spite of the rain had a great time.

Monticello Audubon Club

For one of its four programs this Spring, the Monticello's Audubon Nature Club walked to an active Bald Eagle's nest a couple of blocks away. There were 13 children (3rd & 4th graders), 3 teachers and Debbie & Rick Read. The children and the teachers used the Park Department's binoculars and Rick also had his telescope.

Two nestlings peaked over the nest edge from time to time. Then, just when it was time to walk back to school, an adult flew in with a fish. Then the other adult flew in with a squirrel! Everyone was thrilled though some of the waiting parents may have become a little impatient.



Chuck, Diane and Rick in Wisconsin

Stopover in Wisconsin

For the past few years Chuck Tuttle and Rick Read have helped Barny Dunning teach Purdue Wildlife

students bird identification at Purdue's Wildlife Student's Summer Camp in Iron River, Michigan. This year Chuck and Rick returned via a detour to Oregon, Wisconsin to drop in on Diane Packett, long-time active SAS board member, who now lives there with her husband Allen. Go Diane!

Mind BOGgling Event

Attendance at this year's Mind BOGgling Event was up noticeably and everyone appeared to have a great time. As usual the invited programs were fun and informative and the "Ask an Expert" tent was popular. SAS board member Susan Ulrich served as the bird "expert". The craft tent which last year gave people a chance to try loom weaving this year focused on wood carving. Potential new carvers could try out their skill on bars of ivory soap.

There were a number of new and old groups providing information and fun activities this year from learning about Monarch Butterflies and their habitat needs to the water cycle. Volunteers stationed along the numerous trails shared information about the wetlands, plants, and other natural features of the area with the visitors who were exploring the park.

Addition to Black Rock Barrens

The 100-acre Black Rock Barrens Nature Preserve was the 8th property acquired by NICHES Land Trust back in 2001. It was purchased by the Nature Conservancy (TNC) for NICHES since NICHES was in the middle of fundraising for the adjacent 179A Weiler-Leopold property and TNC was interested in protecting the barrens. TNC donated the property after getting it dedicated as a State Nature Preserve. NICHES actually held a workday to remove honeysuckle before it changed hands.

Now, 14 years later, it has grown by an additional 30+ acres. The new section has some excellent barren habitat and a nice assortment of plant species such as Birdfoot Violets and Yellowstar Grass. The new section is to the north of the eastern half of the existing property and is not yet open to the public.



Letter from Our Regional NAS Director:

"I'm William (Bill) Heck, the newest member of the National Audubon Board. In 2014, I was elected to the board as Regional Director for the Mississippi Flyway North by the chapters in our eight-state region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In this position, I represent you and your chapters on the board. During the past few months, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of you in person at Audubon functions in several states. But that process has just started: I hope to meet many more of you at state and chapter functions in the near future. I'll be in touch over the coming weeks and months, but in the meantime please feel free to write or call any time: wheck@audubon.org or 614 859 2473."

Audubon Convention 2015 July 10-13 Leesburg VA

Nature Notes & News

- March 5 Russ Allison had 7 Common Goldeneye on the Wabash by the Williamsburg Apartments.
- Larry Miller went to get the paper March 12th and was accompanied by a woodcock peenting. On the 11th he heard a pair of Barred Owls.
- March 13 Barny Dunning & Chuck Tuttle visited Celery Bog & had lots of first-of-the-season records. Red-winged Blackbird males were on territory & Killdeer were calling from the golf course. The first Wood Ducks, Northern Pintails, Bufflehead, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, and Hooded Mergansers were present. The 52 Redheads were one of the largest totals Barny had for this species in years.
- Russ Allison visited Prophetstown Park on the 17th. He saw a Pileated Woodpecker possibly building a nest cavity. The hole was deep enough for the bird to get almost all the way inside. Returning March 30 one Pileated Woodpecker was in the cavity and another flew from the area. He also saw a pair of White breasted Nuthatches cleaning a cavity of trash in preparation for nesting.
- Mike Yough spent a nice evening at Celery Bog March 19. Highlights were an Eared Grebe, Rusty Blackbird, and displaying American Woodcocks.
- Barny Dunning repeatedly heard a calling Eastern Screech-Owl on his property in mid-March. March 20 he checked the Great-blue Heron colony near Romney. There were 16 nests with pairs standing at many of them. The next day he spent a few minutes at Eagle Creek Airport in Indianapolis to listen for the Fish Crow which had been reported. He found one which was his 301st state bird for Indiana.
- Russ Allison noted a Horned Grebe was present all day at Celery Bog on March 21st.
- Landon Neumann explored a spot south of Georgetown Bridge for American Woodcock March 22 and was pleased to have 13 woodcocks displaying out in the field. An Eastern Screech Owl calling in the distance added to his evening. Four days later he saw a Bonaparte's Gull and Common Loon. It was **Cass County's 2nd record for Bonaparte's Gull.**
- **SAS's 1st Early Bird Walk at Celery Bog March 26 didn't locate the Surf Scoter** John Skene had two days earlier, but did find a Red-throated Loon and the first spring Tree Swallows.
- Landon Neumann went back March 29th to where he and Bud Dodrill had Lapland Longspurs and counted 1200 birds. There were also 50 American Pipits and a Vesper Sparrow in the field.
- There were a lot of waterfowl still around for the Early Bird Hike on April 2 but the bird of the day was the first Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of spring.
- The next day John Skene had 63 species at Celery Bog including the first Yellow-rumped Warblers of the season. That same day Landon had his first Purple Martins return to his yard in Logansport.
- April 6 Rick Read reported 8 or more White Pelicans on the Tippecanoe River, just upstream from Lake Freeman.
- Larry Miller had his first Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrow on the 7th of April while Russ Allison had 16 Double-crested Cormorants fly over Celery Bog going north.
- In Newton County Ed Hopkins reported a female Black Scoter west of Morocco on April 10th.
- Bud Dodrill and Landon Neumann spent the day in Cass County, finding the **season's first Yellow-throated Warbler**, two Soras, two Common Loons and an Osprey. The next day Landon had his first House Wren along with a Winter Wren. A few days later on the 16th, the two found a Solitary Sandpiper, 2 Northern Parula and a Louisiana Waterthrush.
- The April 16 Early Bird Walk at Celery Bog, produced spring warblers: Yellow-rumped, Pine and Palm. The Pines were singing. The group also had a Northern Rough-winged Swallow.
- April 18 Susan Ulrich had her 1st Ruby-throated Hummingbird show up.
- April 19 Russ Allison went to Martel Forest and found a White eyed Vireo and two Pine Warblers.
- Chimney Swifts returned April 21. Landon Neumann had them in Cass County and Russ Allison at Celery Bog that same day in West Lafayette.
- By April 24 Barny Dunning noted that waterbirds were moving out while spring migrants were filtering in. There were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and increasing numbers of swallows plus several Rusty Blackbirds moving along the water's edge. He also found a male Purple Finch at his feeders at home.
- There was an exciting sighting April 30 at Celery Bog. The Early Bird group had a possible Neotropic Cormorant. It sat in a dead tree with two Double-crested Cormorants so direct comparison was possible. This would be roughly the **6th record for the state if confirmed**.
- Landon Neumann found the Upland Sandpipers at Grissom AFB had returned May 1. They are in the same general area as last year.
- After not seeing any all winter, Barny Dunning had a Pine Siskin show up at his feeders May 2. The birds built up over the next week to 15 and were there for the May Count. His visit to the Purdue Wildlife Area off SR 26 yielded a Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush and Warbling Vireos along with Blue-winged and Nashville Warblers.
- Mike Yough visited Prophetstown May 2 and found Clay-colored Sparrow and **Henslow's Sparrows along with a Bonaparte's Gull.** 64 species in all.
- May 2 Landon Neumann found his 2nd Whip-poor-will for Cass County, along with Lark Sparrows and Western Meadowlarks in Newton County. On the 5th he had 16 species of warblers along the River Bluff Trail and on the 6th after a front went through located 17 species in 45 minutes including the first Worm-eating Warbler for the County. The great birding continued on the morning of the 7th with an amazing 26 species of warblers and 4 Black-billed Cuckoos.
- Susan Ulrich found a Worm-eating Warbler in their woods on May 3 along with her first Great-crested Flycatcher.
- May 8 Barny Dunning & Patrick Ruhl banded birds at the Purdue Wildlife Area. They saw or heard 43 species and caught 18 birds in the nets including a **Wilson's Warbler and Northern Waterthrush.**
- John Skene was at Celery Bog May 13 and found **65 species plus a Bell's Vireo.**
- Barny and Jean & Doug Herr went to Celery Bog May 21. Best bird was a Philadelphia Vireo. They also had a wide variety of swallows all flying very low over the water. The final spring Early Bird Walk that same day turned up 41 species including Chestnut-sided Warbler, Osprey, Gadwall and a Cliff Swallow.
- Landon noted migrants were getting scarce by May 24 but he managed to find a Yellow-bellied flycatcher and the **third Bell's Vireo for Cass County.**

CONSERVATION NEWS

Grand Canyon Threatened

A new proposal would pave the way for a massive commercial and residential resort on the Grand Canyon's doorstep...putting the park, wildlife and habitat at risk.

The Forest Service is currently weighing a permit application from the tiny Town of Tusayan, Arizona, to improve roads and build utilities in the Kaibab National Forest to enable development of a sprawling housing and commercial resort complex on the doorstep of Grand Canyon National Park.

The purpose of the proposed roads, sewers, water and other utilities is to literally pave the way for construction of a huge development benefiting Italian developer, Gruppo Stilo USA, at the expense of Grand Canyon National Park. Because the development may tap and mine groundwater that feeds creeks, springs and seeps in the Grand Canyon, **the National Park Service has labeled the project one of the two biggest threats to the park in its nearly 100-year history.**

The giant development would also increase car and plane traffic and light and noise pollution in Grand Canyon National Park, and destroy habitat that supports wildlife. Earthjustice, which has won previous battles to protect the Grand Canyon, is asking citizens to speak out now to protect the Grand Canyon once again.

This giant development bigger than the Mall of America—with all the traffic, noise and pollution it would bring—would have significant, damaging impacts on the national forest, the park, the visitor experience and wildlife. **It just doesn't belong next to the Grand Canyon.**

Endangered Species Act May Itself be Endangered

America's strongest and most important law for protecting wildlife, the Endangered Species Act, is under a coordinated assault. Since January, over 30 bills and amendments have been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate that would dismantle the Act, including eight extreme bills in the Senate that received a hearing last week.

The bills range from a virtual repeal of the ESA, to a mix of attacks representing a back-door repeal. One is S. 855, sponsored by Senator Rand Paul, which would remove at least half of all species by eliminating protections for any that exist in only one state (e.g. the Golden-cheeked Warbler & Hawaiian birds), and would automatically delist all species after five years on the list.

The bills also include attacks on the fundamental provisions related to sound science and critical habitat. Science-based decision making is the heart of the ESA. Legislation such as S. 736 could require using potentially inferior science, while S. 112 would inject more burdensome and unnecessary economic analyses into the process. Under current law, economic impacts are already taken into account, and there is ample flexibility currently to accommodate working lands. Tell your legislators you want to keep the Endangered Species Act the way it is.



Neotropic
Cormorant.

USDA Wildlife Service Kills 2.7 Million Animals in 2014

The Center for Biological Diversity is condemning the U.S. Department of Agriculture's misnamed "Wildlife Services" program which apparently has no interest in changing its deadly ways. New data reveals this secretive program killed more than *2.7 million animals* during fiscal year 2014. Despite more and more calls for reform, the program last year wiped out 322 gray wolves; 61,702 coyotes; 580 black bears; 305 mountain lions; 796 bobcats; 22,496 beavers and nearly 3,000 foxes.

The campaign is carried out every week of the year with aerial snipers, exploding poison caps, and cruel traps. The Center for Biological Diversity is pushing for a sweeping reform of this rogue program, which is also under investigation by the inspector general of the Agriculture Department.

Lowe's Says "No" to Neonicotinoids.

Lowe's Commits to Actions to Protect Pollinators

Friends of the Earth, Domini Social Investments, and Trillium Asset Management praised the Lowe's chain for making a commitment to eliminate neonicotinoid pesticides from its home improvement stores.

After input from suppliers, NGOs, investors, and other key stakeholders, the company announced it will phase out **neonicotinoids ("neonics")** as suitable alternatives become available, redouble existing integrated pest management practices for suppliers and provide additional material educating customers about pollinator health.

2015 Big Day in May Bird Count Results

Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren	Species	Tippecanoe	Warren
Canada Goose	146	101	Cliff Swallow	95	71	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	59	23
Mute Swan	1	0	Barn Swallow	80	25	Indigo Bunting	151	54
Wood Duck	19	21	Carolina Chickadee	58	16	Dickcissel	52	17
Mallard	66	20	Tufted Titmouse	87	48	Bobolink	6	4
Blue-winged Teal	6	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	31	23	Red-winged Blackbird	688	243
Northern Shoveler	0	3	Carolina Wren	19	13	Eastern Meadowlark	39	14
Bufflehead	0	3	House Wren	93	24	Common Grackle	172	65
Gadwall	4	0	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	0	Brown-headed Cowbird	176	59
Hooded Merganser	0	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	78	45	Orchard Oriole	8	3
Northern Bobwhite	0	5	Eastern Bluebird	23	24	Baltimore Oriole	127	37
Ring-necked Pheasant	10	6	Veery	15	2	Purple Finch	1	0
Wild Turkey	9	6	Gray-cheeked Thrush	11	3	House Finch	46	12
Common Loon	3	0	Swainson's Thrush	19	11	Pine Siskin	11	2
Pied-billed Grebe	2	4	Hermit Thrush	1	0	American Goldfinch	118	44
Double-crested Cormorant	19	1	Wood Thrush	53	12	House Sparrow	268	50
Great Blue Heron	25	15	American Robin	383	108	Total individuals	6815	2508
Green Heron	11	4	Gray Catbird	154	43	Total Species	147	135
Turkey Vulture	130	86	Northern Mockingbird	0	3			
Osprey	3	0	Brown Thrasher	38	13			
Bald Eagle	6	5	European Starling	411	99			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	Cedar Waxwing	1	0			
Cooper's Hawk	4	1	Blue-winged Warbler	2	0			
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	7	Golden-winged Warbler	3	1			
Red-tailed Hawk	20	11	Tennessee Warbler	113	63			
Rough-legged Hawk	1	0	Orange-crowned Warbler	0	2			
American Kestrel	8	4	Nashville Warbler	16	5			
Sora Rail	2	0	Northern Parula	15	12			
American Coot	40	23	Yellow Warbler	71	13			
Semipalmated Plover	0	4	Chestnut-sided Warbler	11	3			
Killdeer	35	21	Magnolia Warbler	17	3			
Solitary Sandpiper	6	2	Cape May Warbler	8	3			
Spotted Sandpiper	8	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	37	4			
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	2	Black-throat Green Warbler	2	7			
Least Sandpiper	3	4	Blackburnian Warbler	3	2			
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	2	Yellow-throated Warbler	13	1			
American Woodcock	0	3	Prairie Warbler	2	0			
Rock Pigeon	50	5	Palm Warbler	10	7			
Mourning Dove	140	52	Bay-breasted Warbler	2	5			
Black-billed Cuckoo	8	1	Blackpoll Warbler	5	3			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	14	5	Cerulean Warbler	1	1			
Eastern Screech Owl	0	1	Black-and-White Warbler	7	11			
Barred Owl	4	5	American Redstart	33	9			
Common Nighthawk	4	1	Prothonotary Warbler	4	0			
Chimney Swift	110	20	Ovenbird	3	3			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14	17	Northern Waterthrush	8	4			
Belted Kingfisher	6	1	Louisiana Waterthrush	8	4			
Red-headed Woodpecker	28	19	Kentucky Warbler	9	8			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	103	34	Mourning Warbler	1	0			
Downy Woodpecker	42	14	Common Yellowthroat	163	35			
Hairy Woodpecker	14	6	Wilson's Warbler	2	0			
Northern Flicker	20	10	Yellow-breasted Chat	22	4			
Pileated Woodpecker	16	10	Eastern Towhee	27	21			
Eastern Wood-Pewee	29	16	American Tree Sparrow	3	0			
Acadian Flycatcher	15	6	Chipping Sparrow	124	33			
Willow Flycatcher	2	1	Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0			
Least Flycatcher	8	2	Field Sparrow	73	29			
Eastern Phoebe	21	18	Vesper Sparrow	16	10			
Great Crested Flycatcher	43	27	Lark Sparrow	2	5			
Eastern Kingbird	39	19	Savannah Sparrow	30	21			
White-eyed Vireo	14	4	Grasshopper Sparrow	18	1			
Yellow-throated Vireo	9	6	Henslow's Sparrow	1	0			
Warbling Vireo	74	14	Fox Sparrow	1	0			
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	Song Sparrow	120	20			
Red-eyed Vireo	53	21	Lincoln's Sparrow	2	1			
Blue Jay	90	40	Swamp Sparrow	3	6			
American Crow	193	38	White-throated Sparrow	29	6			
Horned Lark	12	7	White-crowned Sparrow	36	14			
Purple Martin	26	12	Dark-eyed Junco	0	3			
Tree Swallow	48	22	Summer Tanager	4	5			
No Rough-winged Swallow	27	31	Scarlet Tanager	27	22			
Bank Swallow	22	2	Northern Cardinal	228	49			

Last year Tippecanoe County ended up with 151 species, Warren with 138 and Cass with 121. Taken together the three counts turned up 170 different bird species.

This year there were just two counts. Landon was away and **couldn't act as compiler for Cass County. Birds were "away" too.** A big wave of migrants had arrived and left and a new wave was still further south, so the day of the count was between major bird movements. Nevertheless, Tippecanoe had only 5 species less than last year and Warren 3 species. The total number bird species seen in the two counties was 157.

Interestingly enough, although species were down the actual numbers of birds found and counted was higher than last year. **Last year's total for Tippecanoe was 6,591, while Warren tallied 2,150.**

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 (12): Brian & Amanda Beheler and family, Joanna Billiard; Bill & Barbara Crane; Louise Decker; Shelly Foran; Ellen Tobias, & Susan Ulrich

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.

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 otherwise \$35/year)

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail to Sycamore Audubon Society, PO Box 2716, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2716

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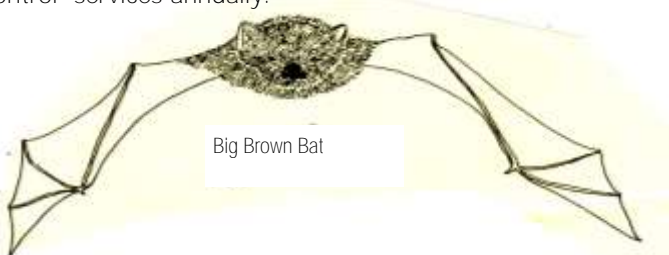
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Indiana Cave Closures Continue

Hoosier National forests Caves are off limits for recreational use again this year in an effort to protect bats from white-nose syndrome. Caves were originally closed in 2011. White-nose syndrome is caused by a fungus and affects most bat species including the Indiana Bat, Gray Bat, Little Brown Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Tricolored bat. Closing the caves helps slow down the potential spread. Unfortunately most caves are already infected and bat surveys show decreasing numbers of hibernating bats for the past few years.

More than 5-million bats across the northeast and mid-Atlantic states and Canada have died from white-nose syndrome. Researchers and scientists need permits in order to enter any caves and follow proper decontamination procedures before and after entry. Bats play a key ecological role by helping with pollination and seed dispersal, but their primary impact is insect control. One bat can eat up to 6,000 insects a night. According to the Department of Agriculture, bats provide \$ 3-billion worth of pest-control services annually.



Big Brown Bat

Tidbits

- It takes about 6 gallons of water to make a pound of paper (American Forest & Paper Ass.). Most returns to various watersheds.
- Close to a third of the water drawn in the United States goes to cool power plants and most of that is lost to evaporation.
- Denmark supplies 3 out of 4 offshore wind turbines around the world and is on track to be free of fossil fuels by 2050.
- **Hermit Crabs' blood is blue in color? Instead of hemoglobin, they use a copper-based molecule, hemocyanin. Their blood clots very quickly making it a valuable commodity to the pharmaceutical industry. Hermit Crabs (more closely related to spiders), have been around for 440 million years**
- True bees have flattened hind legs with a wide area to accumulate the pollen they feed their young. Wasps & hornets have narrow hind legs. Their young eat meat, usually insects but are also fed meat from dead animals and fish.
- Minnesota has lost 75 to 80% of its Purple Martin population in the last 40 years.



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Summer Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2015

- June 1 to
July 31 **Summer Breeding Bird Count Starts.** Done by county boundaries, this covers all 92 of Indiana's Counties. Locally we are collecting data of bird sightings and nesting indications for Tippecanoe County (send to Barny Dunning, p.7) and Warren County (send to Susan Ulrich, p.7). For other counties sent it directly to the Indiana Audubon Society (go to www.indianaaudubon.org for details).
- June 13
Saturday **Bird Ramble at Prophetstown.** Grassland nesting species such as the Henslow's Sparrow should be back on territory while some migrants may still be lingering. Meet at the eastern parking area with the basketball standards at 6:30 a.m. Birds seen will be included in the Tippecanoe Summer Bird Count.
- July 11
Saturday **River Fest** a celebration of Indiana's and Tippecanoe County'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 SAS's booth we can use the company, or just stop by to say "hi". Go to: www.wabashriverfest.com.
- July 18
Saturday **Tippecanoe Butterfly Count.** A project of the Purdue Entomology Department for beginners and experts at Evonics wildlife habitat area in Lafayette. There is a training session first, then groups go out in the field and report back to tally up the various species they've seen. For more information call the Purdue Entomology Department.
- July 31
Friday **Last Day to add Summer Bird Sightings.** Tally up and send your results in to the local compilers. see p. 1 or June 1st entry above. Send date from other counties to the Indiana Audubon Society.
- Sept. 3
Thursday **Early Bird Hikes** start September 4th and are held weekly. Meet at Celery Bog's gravel parking lot at 8 a.m. These are held every Thursday morning until the migration season ends (or people stop showing up!). For more information call or email Barny Dunning, see p.7.
- Sept 10
Thursday **SAS Invitational Program:** Bring your own 1-10 minute mini-program to share. Vacation pictures, back yard shots, birds, plants, whatever. 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. See p.1.
- September 15
Saturday **Honeysuckle Workday at Ross Hills Park.** Meet at Ross Hills Park at 9:30 a.m. Ends at noon. Tools and gloves available or bring your own (note: people with chainsaws are very useful!). Rain date Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m.