



Sycamore Warbler

Volume 40, Issue 3 Fall 2015

Volunteer for Turkey Leg Booth at Feast October 3-4

Sycamore Audubon Society's primary fund raiser for the chapter is coming up soon. Funds from selling a 1,000 or so smoked Turkey Legs at the Feast of the Hunter's Moon pay for most of SAS's annual overhead (liability insurance, newsletter, speaker fees, postage, website, etc.). We always need 20-24 volunteers to cover the two days. There are many returning regulars, but 4-6 new people are usually needed each year. Hours are Saturday October 3 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

What do volunteers do?

They can serve as cashier, cook, or food & beverage dispenser during the Feast. We also set up the booth on Thursday or Friday before the feast (which day depends on the weather predicted). Anyone willing to volunteer for 4 hours gets an official Feast button which gets them into the Feast for free both days. The final schedule of who will work when will be put together closer to the Feast. We try to give everyone their preferred time but that is not always possible. Volunteers do need to be in period style related extra clothing items which



Ready to serve

costume. SAS has accumulated extra clothing items which you can borrow and return.

We also need large clean ice chests to hold the turkey legs before they are cooked. If you have one we can use, please wash it out and put your name on it. Contact Barny Dunning, SAS president, if you wish to volunteer or have an ice chest we can borrow. His contact info is on page 7.



SAS's Smoked Turkey Legs are so popular you can hardly see the booth.

**** National Audubon Action Alert ****

Save the Land & Water Conservation Act

This fund has been a centerpiece of America's habitat conservation efforts for half a century. Unless Congress acts to reauthorize it, the fund will cease to exist on September 30th. Please tell your member of Congress to keep the LWCF alive!

Years of Effort Pay Off in a New NWR

The Friends of the Kankakee are delighted to report that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is finally moving ahead with the creation of the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. A formal announcement has yet to be made. Unfortunately, because of lack of political support in Indiana, the Refuge—at least for now—will be restricted to land in Illinois where there is a lot of political support.

The Friends of the Kankakee have been slowly acquiring small areas of habitat for a number of years and then working to restore their ecology. A number of rare plants have turned up in the process, including Rattlebox Plant, *Crotalaria sagittalis*. **The area where they have buying most of their land is in Illinois around Indiana's Willow Slough Wildlife Area and Illinois Iroquois Preserves** The first land acquisition for the new refuge is likely to come as a donation from the Friends of the Kankakee.

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CHAPTER NEWS

October 4-5 Feast of the Hunter's Moon

Mark your calendars. Even if you can't help (see p.1) stop by if you are out there and say "Hi".

Take a lot of Pictures this Summer?

Pick out 5-10 minutes worth and show them September 10th at Audubon first program of the 2015-16 series: the *Invitational Bring Your Own event*. It's always an interesting evening and is preceded by a tasty **Carry-in Dinner** which starts at 6 p.m. Bring a dish to share. SAS supplies plates, utensils, napkins and beverages as well as the good company.

Women Giving Together

SAS's After-School Audubon Nature Club in Monticello received a \$500 donation from the Women Giving Together in Monticello. Rick and Debbie Read along with Cindy Isom, who teaches the club, attended their annual get together luncheon and were presented with a plaque. This program has also been supported by the Monticello Parks Department which purchased a number of pairs of binoculars the group can use.



Audubon in the news:

- June 16 the *Monticello Journal* carried a full page story on Rick and Debbie Read's bird trip to southeast Arizona. They visited five different areas over five days and saw 115 different species of birds. The article was illustrated with 7 full color pic-

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.

tures taken by Rick on the trip. Part of the time they spent with *Roads Scholars*, a not profit that provides educational tours for older adults. Rick says the secret to finding many birds quickly is to go with leaders that know the birds and can identify them quickly.

- That same month on June 29th the *Lafayette Journal & Courier* carried a story written by Dylan Peers McCoy on Hands of the Future, which started out as **SAS's Junior Nature Club here in Tippecanoe County**. The story was picked up by other papers and has now appeared in at least 12 newspapers all the way out to Seattle Washington. To learn more and to sign up go to www.juniornatureclub.org.

Hands of the Future's free programs covers three different age groups: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grades. The oldest group meets first on Aug. 20th and goes every third Tuesday until Nov. 17. The middle group starts Wednesday, Aug. 20 and goes until Nov. 12, and the youngest starts Tuesday, Aug. 18 and goes to Nov. 10. The goal of the programs is to provide area children with fun, hands-on experiences that help to connect them to nature.

Wild Bird Shoppe donation

Wild Bird Shoppe's 'garage' sale of cleaned and repaired old feeders raised \$319 which they donated to SAS. THANK YOU!

Fall Bake & Plant Sale

SAS's annual fall sale at the West Lafayette Library during their Book Fair is October 23-25. As usual we need donations of food, plants, and other items to sell. If you can bake something, donate produce or herbs from your garden, or have extra house plants or perennials (including bulbs, seeds) please bring them to the library anytime after 10

Early Bird Walks Begin Sept 3 at Celery Bog

Walks go each Thursday during fall migration until the water freezes solid. Meet at 8 am at the gravel parking lot at Lilly Nature Center. Walks last about an hour but never get too far from the parking area in case you need to leave earlier.

a.m. on Friday or Saturday. All the money raised at these sales goes to support local, state, (and occasionally national) conservation efforts. It makes a difference: over the years Audubon Bake & Plant Sales have raised over \$29,000.

We always need people to help out at the booth. If you can help for a few hours (Friday, 6:30-8:30, Saturday, 10-5; or Sunday, 1-5) please contact Susan Ulrich (see p.7). A few volunteers really help.

Honeysuckle Removal: New Brush Cutter will help effort

Sycamore Audubon and the local Native Plant Society continue their partnership at Ross Hills Park. A workday sponsored by SAS is September 12 (note date was incorrect in last newsletter). If you can help **we'd love to have you. Some work was done over the summer, but fall and winter are the best times to remove invasive shrubs and this workday kickoff what we hope will be a very successful season.**

Some of the remaining Tipmont REMC grant money was used to purchase a Stihl Brush Cutter and all the associated safety equipment to help with heavier infestations. Westside Tractor gave SAS a 20% non-profit discount. The RIP Squad which starts its work in several local parks including Ross Hills starts later this fall. You can see the schedule of where and when on page 6.

Fall Sycamore Audubon Calendar 2015

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 3 & each Thursday Early Bird Hikes Start. Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette, 8 a.m. These will be held every Thursday morning until freeze-up. Meet at the gravel parking area (first turn to the right).
- September 10 Thursday Program: Invitational Bring Your Own. SAS annual welcome back program. Starts at 6 p.m. with a Carry-in Dinner. Program at 7:15. Bring a dish to share and join others for lots of good food and conversation. The program is YOU: people are encouraged to bring a short program (5 min or so) of vacation slides, nature, birds, etc. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park. Free parking and refreshment. A great night to bring a friend along.
- September 12 Saturday Honeysuckle Control Work Day. Ross Hills County Park 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Equipment, gloves, water & refreshments provided, all you need to do is show up in older clothes and help out. See p.2.
- September 19 Saturday Celery Bog Bird Ramble. Meet at the gravel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. This should be near the peak for many fall migrant land birds in addition to lots of waterbirds moving through. 1/2 day trip.
- September 26 Saturday Audubon at the Overlook. Sycamore Audubon members will be at the overlook at Prophetstown State park from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. to see what birds and other wildlife is in the area. Stop by and spend a few minutes or a few hours as your time permits. Learn a bit about the tools of birdwatching and techniques to improve your skills. The overlook is at the east end of the main park road, just a short walk from the parking lot.
- October 3-4 Sat & Sunday **Feast of the Hunter's Moon.** An historical reenactment drawing thousands of visitors and held at Fort Ouiatenon. SAS needs volunteers to help out at their booth over the weekend. See p.1.
- October 8 Thursday Program: *Southern African Adventure*. Rick & Debbie Read went on a two week guided tour to four counties in southern Africa earlier this year. The trip included safari vehicles, boat trips, elephant rides, helicopter tours and zip lines. Comes to hear about the trip and see Rick's bird, mammal, and Victoria Falls pictures plus more. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, W.L. Free parking plus refreshments. Invite a friend.
- October 17 Saturday Eagle Creek Park Bird Hike. **One of the best birding areas in the Indianapolis area. SAS hasn't** visited for several years. Good time of year for loons, grebes, ducks, and gulls. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Celery Bog gravel parking lot to carpool. Probably a full day trip depending on the birds.
- October 23-5 Saturday 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
- October 24 Saturday Annual Excursion to Lake Michigan Shore. **SAS's annual fall trip to the lakeshore looking for the** unusual birds of the season such as scoters, gulls, mergansers and maybe a late jaeger or an early Snow Bunting. Meet at 6:30 am at the Celery Bog gravel parking lot for car pooling. Full day trip.
- November 12 Thursday Program: *All Over Ecuador + Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest = Birding Heaven*. Wes Homoya, fresh from 4 months in South America. Wes will share his incredible experiences which covered months in various Ecuador habitats and a long stint at Reserva Ecológica da Guapiaçu (REGUA) in Brazil 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog Park, W.L. Free parking and refreshments.
- November 22 Sunday Jasper-Pulaski Sandhill Crane Viewing. An afternoon trip to see the fall concentration of thousands of Sandhill Cranes (+ a Whooper??) at the Jasper Pulaski State Fish & Wildlife Area. A carpool leaves at 3:00 p.m. from the Celery Bog gravel parking lot. Return will be around 6:30 p.m.
- December 5 Saturday Brush up on your Winter Birds. A practice/review to help get ready for the upcoming Christmas Bird Count on December 19th. Meet at 8:30 at the gravel parking lot at Celery Bog Park, W.L. Morning trip.
- December 10 Saturday Program: *A Summer Bird Banding in Southern Indiana*. Patrick Ruhl, Barny Dunning's Ph.D. student, banded birds at six different sites in the Morgan-Monroe and Yellowwood State Forests. Great up close bird photos. 7:15 p.m. Lilly Nature Center, W.L. Free parking and refreshments. Also CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT sign up and get a territory for the December 19th Lafayette CBC.
- December 19 Saturday Lafayette Christmas Bird Count. Ed Hopkins, compiler. An all-day bird count—the original citizen science project. Call Ed (765-463-5927) to get a territory or come to the December 10th meeting and sign up there. Lots of fun and the birds can be quite surprising.

Nature Notes & News

- Joan Samuels had a Red-headed Woodpecker coming to her suet this summer, Later she saw it feeding a juvenile Not sure how many young fledged, but Joan saw at least two.
- On May 25 Landon had the first county record for a Worm-eating Warbler in Cass County.
- Some interesting ducks were seen by Chuck Tuttle on June 11. usually Gadwall, American Wigeon and Northern Shovelers have moved north weeks earlier. The three species made nice check-offs on for the Tippecanoe Summer Bird Count!
- SAS field trip on June 13th found 44 species at Prophetstown SP, including nearly all the prairie birds the hike was looking for. It was also a bit soggy as the group bushwhacked through the 'jungle' in places thanks to high water.
- Russ Allison reports that the east end of Prophetstown SP was flooded on June 28 and 30. Six River Otters were enjoying the fish and crawdads. One snake didn't seem to like the water and had climbed a tree. Russ found his first Bobolink for the year,
- It wasn't local, but the rarest bird of the summer had to be the Fork-tailed Flycatcher Amy Kearns found north of West Boggs Lake in Daviess County on Jun 30, 2015,
- Barny Dunning spent an hour at Prophetstown on July 16 looking for Sedge Wrens for the Tippecanoe County summer count. No luck, but he did have a flock of 11 Bobolinks, and his first Bank Swallow for the summer. When he got home an American Redstart was singing in the yard. All three were county birds for the June-July summer count. On July 24 Barny went to Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area in eastern Benton County to check out conditions for migrating shorebirds. He noted the water was receding so conditions looked good for shorebirds in August. The best bird for the morning was 1 or 2 Black Terns.
- John Skene went to Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area the next day and saw 2 Virginia Rails and several

Bobwhite.

- Black-necked Stilts & a probably Red-necked Phalarope were found by Ed Hopkins in flooded fields off SR 14 near Willow Slough July 28th.
- July 31 Russ Allison saw a Prophetstown Blue Grosbeak again. He finally had the right camera with him.
- In a half hour on July 31 at the wet spot located at 750W & 900N in Tippecanoe Co , John Skene saw 27 species of birds including 9 shorebirds: Black-necked Stilt, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs. Lesser Yellowlegs, Upland Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper & Pectoral Sandpiper. A number were new for Tippecanoe County's summer count.
- Brian & Amanda Beheler saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks in northern Fountain County in mid-August.
- Again, not local but a rather unique birding experience. Brendan Grube reports a California Quail died as a result of a window strike in Valparaiso. The evidence of its presence is top notch: his wife put the bird in the freezer. Origin is unknown.
- Landon Neumann visited Celery Bog on August 16th, 18th, and 21st. He had 2 male Blue Grosbeaks, an Osprey and a Sora on the 16th, and 2 Black Terns on the 18th. He noted songbirds were finally starting to show up on the 21st. He had American Redstarts and Tennessee Warblers plus another Black Tern.
- Celery Bog goldfish beware! Aug 21 Russ Allison noted an Osprey for an hour and saw him dive and catch a goldfish. He saw it do the same thing catch another a few weeks later. A Pileated Woodpecker landed 10 feet from him & a Green Heron set down just a few feet away posing for his camera.
- Barny Dunning & Patrick Ruhl visited Pine Creek in Benton County Aug 22. Highlights were the first fall songbird migrants including Rose-breasted Grosbeaks & Magnolia Warbler. One vireo might have been a Philadelphia Vireo, but wasn't seen well enough.



Black Tern
Record sightings for
this state endangered
species this fall.

- Two Sandhill cranes which were either early migrants or late residents were seen by Chuck Tuttle at the eastern part of Prophetstown State Park the morning on Aug 23.
- That same day Landon Neumann checked areas in Tippecanoe and Benton County for shorebirds. Highlights were his re-finding the Hudsonian Godwit he'd located two days earlier at Pine Creek in Benton Co., and the continuing Baird's Sandpiper at 750 W 900N in Tippecanoe Co. It was a stupendous day for Black Terns. He saw 34 split over two locations. The next day he visited Celery Bog briefly and saw a male Golden-winged Warbler along with Least Flycatchers, Tennessee Warblers & Black & White Warblers.
- On Aug 25 Russ spent an hour at Celery Bog and saw more migrants passing through: American Redstart, Chestnut sided Warblers, Nashville Warblers, & Blue -gray Gnatcatchers among others. On the 26th Landon dropped by for a quick walk and spotted Yellow-bellied & Alder Flycatchers, along with 6 species of warblers including a Canada.
- A Neotropical Cormorant surprised Barny Dunning at Celery Bog Aug 27. It was with a group of Double-crested Cormorants. Several others got to see it as well, although the bird disappeared later in the day. It is hoped it will return.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS

Neonicotinoids

"Neonics" are systemic insecticides used to treat crop seeds and ornamental landscaping plants. They are strongly implicated in the devastating collapse of pollinator populations. About 70% of plants require a pollinator, including 35% of crop species. In the U.S. pollinated crops add up to \$18 to \$27 billion. One in three mouthfuls what consume are due to pollinators.

Recent studies show dramatic decline in pollinator populations. On March 31, the Indiana Pesticide Review Committee brought together beekeepers, farmers, pesticide applicators, agencies, and citizens to recommend best management practices to protect pollinators. Speakers outlined the problem and possible reasons for the crash. A key theme was that neonics appear to be the smoking gun.

Neonics are used as a seed coating on virtually all corn and 75% of soybeans planted in the Midwest. A small amount is taken up by the corn or soybean plant and protects the plant from insect damage; but over 90% is not taken up and eventually blows away and is deposited on



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Purple Coneflower

soil and water where it is taken up by other plants. Neonics also **treat many commercial garden plants, so there's a good chance your garden has toxic plants that will kill the very pollinators you are hoping to help** – literally, a death trap for bees and butterflies as well as the numerous insects birds feed on. Birds are also at risk. The American Bird Conservatory (ABC) reviewed 200 studies including 2,800 pages of industry data. Their conclusion is that neonics are lethal to birds, noting that a single treated seed is enough to kill a songbird.

Neonics are neurotoxins that are highly toxic to invertebrates. A typical application rate is 1.25 mg per corn kernel which could kill over 150,000 honey bees if it were somehow applied evenly, or a single song bird. Because of their long half-life – measured in years – levels in soils near agricultural areas climb yearly. Treated ornamental plants will have toxic insecticide in their tissues for years (one neonics has a *10-year half life!*).

A 2014 study showed that 51% of the garden plants purchased at **Lowe's, Home Depot and Walmart in 18 cities in the US and Canada** contained neonics at levels that could harm or kill bees. **Gardeners should know that Home Depot and Lowe's have both agreed to phase out neonics in their garden plants – but not until 2019.** Before you buy any seed or plants for your garden, ask whether they have been treated with neonics. If the answer is **'yes' or they don't know, let them know you won't buy neonics-treated seeds or plants and walk away.**

Eugene Oregon is the first community in the nation to ban neonics use on public property. More towns may follow. The ABC has called on the EPA to pull many of neonics off the market until more comprehensive safety tests can be conducted.

#1 Bird Threat?

The National Audubon Society says it's **Climate Change**. Go to audubon.org/climate to learn more.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Survives

SAS was among the 205 organizations nation wide taking part in the successful letter campaign against a legislative attack to gut the Migratory bird Treaty Act and Eagle Protection Act, etc. Many individuals also called or wrote letters which resulted in the withdrawal of the amendment.

Conservation Matters

Our legislators need to hear from us regularly and this is the message: *Conservation Matters*. Nationally Audubon needs us to help minimize the numerous attacks on Capital Hill. Statewide more funding is desperately needed. The funds allocated to conservation in Indiana are miniscule compared to other budget items, and the only way they will increase is if we make our voices heard loud and clear.

Cats in the News

- A study tracking gray catbird fledglings in three Washington D.C. suburbs found that outdoor cats were the leading source of known predation on the young birds. The study was conducted by the Smithsonian Institution and Towson University and published in the *Journal of Ornithology*. Small transmitters were attached to 69 young catbirds. Forty-two of the birds died during the study, thirty-three of the deaths were due to predation and half of the known predators were free-roaming cats.

- The Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Florida announced it will fine cat owners for repeated violations of rules banning free-roaming house cats. After a warning, owners whose cats are found on refuge lands for a second time can be fined up to \$175. Two small endangered mammals exist on the refuge and were the reason for the ban but birds will benefit as well.

Wild Bird Shoppe Early Bird Seminars

Seminars are held at The Wild Bird Shoppe at 1511 West 350 N, West Lafayette, IN. For more information or to register call (765) 463-2098.

- Sept. 15 Fairy Gardening**
- Sept. 22 Finches**
- Oct. 6 Squirrels**
- Oct. 13 Wildcat Wildlife Center**
- Oct. 20 Fairy Gardening**
- Oct. 27 Bats**

Seminars are on Tuesdays and begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and a snack. Shopping with a 10% discount follows. Fairy Garden attendees receive a free container and dirt. Please register ahead.

Bird Watcher's Digest Improves Website

Bird Watcher's Digest has just launched anew and improved website. Check it out at birdwatchersdigest.com.

The *BWD* website was first launched in 1999 but this latest and greatest version is a big leap forward and very user friendly.

Worm-eating Warbler one of our many nesting birds that feed on caterpillars and other insects.



Local Programs of Interest

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

September 28 ***Indiana's Treasures***. Ed Zschiedrich, local nature photographer. Highlights of some of Ed's favorite plants and places in Indiana, both rare and not so rare. Hundreds of Ed's pictures will be on Butler University's web site picturing & describing all Indiana plants.

October 28 *A Wildflower Tour of Southern England*. Greg Shaner, Professor emeritus, Purdue Botany Department. 1 2013 tour led by a friend that explores the native plants of southern England, including visits to several famous botanical gardens.

November 23 *Restoring Meadows & Prairies* plus *INCA*. Two programs, the first by David Savage, based on an article he wrote for the state INPAWs magazine. The latter is by Jane Savage, who is INPAWs co-conservation Chairman. "INCA" stands for *Indiana Conservation Alliance* and is made up of representative from various Indiana conservation organizations. She will give an overview of the upcoming Indiana Legislative Session.

Plant a Few Trees or Shrubs this Fall & Go Native

Why? Insects to feed the birds.

A study of moth and butterfly larva feeding on native trees by Doug Tallamy in the mid-Atlantic region showed that oaks supported 534 species of caterpillars, second place went to cherries and plums with 456, and third to willows with 455. Those larva serve as bird food, so simply by adding a native tree to your yard, you are planting a bird food factory.

Other tree species mentioned in *Butterflies of Indiana* as nectar and host species are Eastern Red Cedar, Virginia Pine, tulip Poplar, Sassafras, pawpaw, Quaking Aspen, American elm, Northern Hackberry, Black Walnut, Shagbark Hickory, Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, and Black Locust, along with the shrubs Prickly Ash, Shining Sumac, Bearberry, Black Currant, Shrubby Cinguefoil, New Jersey Tea and especially Buttonbush.

If you buy plants to increase caterpillar food for birds, ask to make sure the ones you buy are neonics free.

See story on page 5.

A second study on native plants & birds & insects.

Another stud, this one done by Karin Burghardt in southeast Pennsylvania, compared two landscapes, looking at six pairs of properties. In each pair one property had a higher proportion of native plants while the other was more typically suburban with native trees over lawns fringed with alien shrubbery.

The results showed a much greater diversity and abundance of birds and caterpillars in the areas where the most native plants occurred. She also found (surprise) that birds of conservation concern in the area of the study were eight times more abundant and significantly more diverse on the native plant parcels.

Fall RIP Squad Schedule

The *Remove Invasive Plant Squad* is concentrating its efforts this fall to remove Burning Bush at Prophets Rock Woods on Tuesday and Bush Honeysuckle at Ross Hills Park on Thursday. All you need to do is show up. Equipment, water, etc. provided. Workdays goes from 3-5 p.m. weather permitting. Here are the dates:

Prophets Rock Woods:
Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27;
Nov. 3, 10

Ross Hills Park:
Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29;
Nov. 5, 12

If you have questions or would like email reminders of the dates as they occur, email patricia.w.rader@gmail.com

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 \$ _____

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

Sycamore Audubon Society 2015-16 Board of Directors

Barny Dunning, President, Field Trips
7509 N 75 E, W Lafayette, 47906
(H) 497-3082 (W) 494-3565
jdunning@purdue.edu

Wes Homoya, Vice president/programs
317-452-5355 whomoya@yahoo.com

Susan Ulrich, Secretary, Publications
11907 E 500 N, Otterbein, 47970
765-583-2275 sueandtedulrich@msn.com

Rick Read, Treasurer, Field Trips
402 E Terrace Bay, Monticello 47960
574-583-3431 rickread.in@gmail.com

Paul Brooks, Webmaster
219-221-0254
paulbrooks@gmail.com

Zonda Bryant, Nature Club
765-366-9126; birgez@purdue.edu

Judy Gasvoda, At-Large
1511 W 350 N, W Lafayette, 47906
463-2098 wildbirdshoppe@comcast.net

Karen Griggs, At Large
100 Thornbush Drive, w Lafayette 47906

Patrick Ruhl, At Large
765-418-8202
pruhl@purdue.edu

Chuck Tuttle, Education
1708 Maywood, W Lafayette, 47906
463-0531 chuck1708@gmail.com

Coastal Habitat Study

A Stanford-based team published a paper mapping coastal hazards (extreme weather, sea level rise, and degraded coasts) to residential properties, and at-risk human populations along the U.S. coasts. Their estimate is that by 2100 "high hazard" areas will contain about 1.7 to 2.1 million people and \$400 to \$500 billion worth of residential property. Natural defenses do exist in the form of critical marshes, dunes, kelp forests, sea grass, mangroves and reefs. Building up these habitats could greatly reduce the people and properties vulnerable to flooding and other storm damage, at least in the near future.

Some Local Bobwhite Whistle Count Results

Each year the IDNR holds Bobwhite Whistle Counts across Indiana to see how the population is doing. The DNR spent out an email request for help and several SAS members responded.

A set 15 mile survey route in each county is done twice during the count period. Counts must start at dawn and could only be done when wind speed and cloud cover meet certain criteria so results can be compared year to year. Participants spend 3 minutes at each of the 15 stops and listen for calls. Amanda Beheler volunteered to do Benton County. She found 2 birds along her route. Susan Ulrich did Warren and only had one bird (but at different stops) on each of her two surveys. Both noted that the habitat was 95% + row crops. Bobwhite numbers have declined steadily for years mostly due to habitat loss as pastures have been converted to row crops.



Tidbits

- ◆ The International Space station is viewable locally. To know when and where to look go to spotthestation.nasa.gov/. You can also Receive email sighting Alerts for the Station when it is in your area.
- ◆ Hermit Crabs' blood is blue in color. Instead of hemoglobin, they hemocyanin, a copper based molecule. 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.
- ◆ 70,000 pounds of pesticides are used on America's lawns each year. That is 10 times more than farmers use nationally.
- ◆ Four species that breed in North America are called 'tanagers' but are now recognized as members of the cardinal family. The only true breeding tanager here is the White-collared Seedeater.



Sycamore Audubon Society
P. O. Box 2716
West Lafayette, IN 47996

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<http://www.sycamoreAudubon.org>

Email: sycamoreaudubon@gmail.com

The Sycamore Warbler is published four times a year by the Sycamore Audubon Society, a chapter of National Audubon Society serving Audubon members in Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Tippecanoe, Warren, and White counties in central northwest Indiana.

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

Wednesdays In the Wild

Weekly programs on various natural history topics for adults and interested young people. email Joan Mohr Samuels at mohrsamuels@comcast.net for schedule.

- September 9: *Monarch and Tagging Demonstration*. Reni Winter, Winterhaven Monarch Station. Lilly Nature Center (LNC) indoor /outdoor program. 1-2 p.m..
- September 16: *Foods from Field & Stream* by Angie Manuel, Interpretive Naturalist, Prophetstown SP. 1-3 p.m. Prophetstown Farm. Stroll over to the Prophetstown Village where we will prepare foods including duck, mussels, corn & beans. There is a \$2 per person program fee. Bring a lawn chair if you have one.
- September 23: *Meet Our Moon*. Wabash Valley Astronomical Society 7:30-9:30 p.m. LNC. Indoor/outdoor. All about the moon and information on apps for astronomy. Weather permitted we will view the night sky with telescopes.
- September 30: *Bird Watching Tips & Photo Poems*. Barb Lucas, birder and photographer. Indoors/outdoors 1-3 p.m. Lilly Nature Center. A birding 101 indoor presentation followed by binocular practice outside.
- October 7: *Fen Walk* led by Tom Swinford, Division of Nature Preserves. Outdoors. 1-3 p.m. Prophetstown State Park. Dress for the weather. Boots may be needed. \$2/person fee (gate fee waived).
- October 14: *Fall Color Hike* led by Bob Easter, NICHES Land Trust Steward. Outdoors. 1-3 p.m. at NICHES Indian Creek Bottoms property on south side of South River/Division road just past 750 W. Carpool from LNC at 12:30 p.m.
- October 21: *Migration: a twice a year birding extravaganza*. Susan Ulrich, Sycamore Audubon. Indoors & outdoors, 1-3 p.m. Lilly Nature Center. Review bird species inside then visit the bog to see what's around.
- October 28: *The Savage Garden: Growing Carnivorous Plants*. Doug Osman, Purdue School of Communication. indoors Lilly Nature Center. 7-9 p.m. Learn how to grow these unusual species.
- November 4: *Sandhill Cranes*. Carpool from Battle Ground Museum at 4:10 p.m. to go visit Jasper Pulaski. F& W area, or meet Gus Nyberg, NICHES Executive Director, at J=P at 5:10 p.m.
- November 11: *Great Smokey Mountains National Park*. John Macdonald. Indoor Lilly Nature Center. 1-3 p.m. LNC.
- November 18: *All about Gourds*. Ida Kennedy, president, Indiana Gourd society. The name says it all. Indoors 1-3 p.m. LNC.
- December 9: *The Pollinators*. Dean Shephardson's Purdue Environmental Ecology students. Lilly Nature Center. 7-9 p.m. Pollinator gardens and how to help address the growing decline of native pollinators. Programs resume in mid-January of 2016