



## Amos W. Butler Funds CILTI Restoration Projects

by Ray Shortridge

Floodplains play a vital role in filtering runoff, reducing flooding, and providing a home to birds and other wildlife. The Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) is preserving and restoring a corridor of White River floodplains northeast of Indianapolis at 206th Street. The three parcels at 206th Street in combination with the adjacent CILTI-owned Burr Oak Bend create a "Burr Oak Bend Macro Site Complex" of 120 acres, protecting approximately 1.25 miles of river frontage and floodplain.

The Stokes Bequest to AWBAS is to be used for habitat preservation projects that benefit birds. AWBAS awarded CILTI \$24,400 from the bequest to fund two preservation projects at Burr Oak Bend.

**Wetland.** There is a shallow pond/wetland of 8.45 acres on the southeast parcel currently used by nesting and migratory waterfowl and other wildlife including Great Blue Heron, Killdeer and shorebirds. The 3,250 feet of shoreline will be planted with a 10' band of 3,630 wetland plants, which will improve the habitat for a variety of species. Some expected species include Great Egrets, Least Bitterns and several dabblers including Northern Shoveler, Blue and Green-winged Teal and Common Pintail. Also attracted to this environment are Sedge Wren, Red-winged Blackbird, Coots, Belted Kingfisher and Red-shouldered Hawk. During migration, a variety of shorebirds could refuel here including Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Yellowlegs and many more. Once the plantings are in, this wetland will attract insects, reptiles and invertebrates and will take on a life of its own as the habitat matures.

**Prairie.** On a visit in early September, the southeast field featured Goldenrod, Thistle, Boneset, Black-eyed Susan and a few other forbs. American Goldfinch were prevalent and a pair of Indigo Buntings appeared. The planned prairie will feature Switchgrass which is good for the depleted soils and provides excellent wildlife seed and cover. With improved food selection, several other bird species could be expected including Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel, Northern Bobwhite, Field Sparrow, Northern Harrier, Eastern Meadowlark and other possibilities.

Cole, Liz Day, Don Gorney, and I presented our views and suggested possible modifications, addressing issues such as restrictions on access and clarifying periods of peak migration.

The position taken by the Indiana Audubon Society and the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society was that we wanted the area to be open to the public, fenced on at least three sides, with a path or paths surfaced with wood chips or some other non-asphalt-based substance to discourage wheeled traffic. We wanted the paths retained at their current widths, the ground cover altered minimally, and a turnstile-type of gate at one or possibly both ends of the property. We opposed the idea of instituting key-locked gates during migration, considering such a restriction to be overkill, only marginally advantageous to migrants, and contrary to the birding community's desires.

The compromise satisfactorily answered all of these concerns. A split-rail fence will be built on the east and west sides and possibly on the south (parking lot) side, although a chain-link fence already exists there. No fence is planned along the lakefront because of prohibitive costs relating to the highly uneven terrain and its dynamic nature due to beach erosion. Those present commented that the lakeshore provides the least convenient access to the property anyway.

Regarding the issue of the marina's annual August fireworks display, pre-meeting discussions covered all options

*Continued on page 2.*



*Ivory-billed Woodpeckers,  
Chester A. Reed*

## September Program: The Ivory-billed Woodpecker Re-discovered!

Long believed to be extinct, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been re-discovered in the Big Woods area of eastern Arkansas. Join Wild Birds Unlimited Chief Naturalist John Schaust as he shares the life story of this magnificent bird and gives the details of the search for the "Elvis" bird that had eluded researchers for more than six decades.

John will also share information gained during his visits to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and with Bobby Harrison, one of the Ivory-billed's initial spotters. The program will include a look at what the future may hold for this "ghost" bird of the southern bayous.

John will present his program Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Holliday Park Nature Center. The program is free and open to the public.

## Hammond Bird Sanctuary: Compromise Reached

by Bill Murphy

At the August 9 meeting of the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF), the board accepted a compromise plan for development of the Hammond Bird Sanctuary that satisfied all parties present.

INRF Executive Director Cassandra Sponsel read a compromise document describing the proposed development of the parcel, known in the literature as "The Migrant Trap." James

## November Program: Birds of Hawaii

Miriam Langsam is a retired professor of social and intellectual history and former dean of students for the School of Liberal Arts (IUPUI). Jean Oswalt is lawyer who worked for the state in various aspects of social services. Both are retired, able to travel, bird and take pictures.

Their program features slides from Hawaii of numerous well-known birding areas such as Volcano Park, Parker Ranch and the infamous Saddle Road. Hawaii is losing many indigenous birds to introduced species. The presentation will provide information on when birds were introduced and will raise the question of when should established birds be included as part of the "native" populations.

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## Outstanding Board Members Stepping Down

by Donna McCarty

### Carl Weber, Treasurer

Carl's service to Amos W. Butler Audubon may never be matched. He has been the chapter's trustworthy treasurer since 1983. His wise counsel and fiscal conservatism have been invaluable to the chapter over the years. Carl has also been a member of the Men's Birdathon team since 1987 and is one of the top fundraisers for the event. No stranger to commitment, he has worked for Stahl Engineering for 58 years and has been married to his wife, Marybelle, for 55.

### Dixie Brackman, Program Chair

Dixie accepted the position as program chair last year and did an outstanding job of providing the chapter with a diverse variety of entertaining and topical programs. She is leaving the board because she has accepted an offer from the Peace Corps to serve in Ghana beginning in September and will be working with the ecotourism/wildlife sector as a business advisor. She says that Ghana has 725 bird species in a country the size of Oregon, and she hopes to see them all.

### Ray Shortridge, Past President

Ray stepped up to the plate to take on the role of president at a time when the chapter was suffering from lack of board members and direction. He led us well for four years and was instrumental in revitalizing Amos W. Butler Audubon. He will continue to advise the board in his new position of past-president. Ray is the Director of Technology for Girls, Inc.

### Bill Murphy, Newsletter Editor

Bill also came on board during the reorganization effort. He volunteered his substantial skills to become the *LifeLines* editor. He also took on the task of developing our chapter's excellent web page and the highly-acclaimed "Birding Indiana." Although we are losing Bill as the newsletter editor, thankfully he has agreed to maintain the chapter's web page.

## Marian College EcoLab Activities

The Marian College EcoLab is beginning a series of activities in cooperation with the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society's Important Bird Area program that are free and open to all. The EcoLab is on the north end of the Marian College campus at 3200 Cold Spring Road in Indianapolis. Enter at the northern-most entrance (at a large, blue "Civic Theatre" sign). The colonnade will be on your right, next to Allison Mansion, and Marian Hall is the large hall on your left with "Marian College" written across the front.

**Bird Hikes at the EcoLab every Saturday at 8 a.m.** Explore the Marian College EcoLab while identifying and learning about the birds we encounter in this historic and natural landscape. As we search for birds, we'll also be recording our sightings as census data to monitor avian populations. This is a great way to enjoy bird-watching while contributing as a "citizen scientist." Meet James Cole at the colonnade. Note: There will be no hike on Saturday, September 3.

**Dragonfly and Butterfly Hike. Saturday, September 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m.** As the summer season winds down and autumnal temperatures approach, the beginning of September is one of our last chances to enjoy the diversity of dragonflies and butterflies in central Indiana. Join us as we search for interesting invertebrates that call the restored wetland habitat of the EcoLab "home." Be sure to bring a pair of binoculars, and meet us at the colonnade.

**"Migration Mania" Hikes at the EcoLab, every other Thursday, 7:00 a.m.** More birds can be found in central Indiana in September than any other time of the year — vireos, thrushes, and warblers will be migrating through the area in great numbers. In October, challenging sparrows and some of our "winter birds" will begin to arrive. With that in mind, make sure to set your alarm clocks a little earlier during these two months in order to enjoy this avian spectacle. Meet at the colonnade — hikes will be held on 9/8, 9/22, 10/6, and 10/20.

**Prairie Promenade:** Saturday, September 10, 10 to 11.30 a.m.

**Fall Foliage Foray:** Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. to noon.

**Nocturnal Trails:** Thursday, October 27, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**Stewardship Days:** Saturdays, 9/17, 10/15, 11/12, 12/17, 9 a.m. to noon. Call Jen Smidebush (997-8087) for information.

Contact [dbenson@marian.edu](mailto:dbenson@marian.edu) for more information.

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## Hammond Bird Sanctuary (continued from page 1)

available short of canceling the event. It was agreed that the pyrotechnics would be launched from a small stretch of beach outside the refuge acreage, adjacent to the marina, and next to the only fire hydrant in the area.

As at last autumn's INRF meeting, a quorum wasn't present, so the foundation technically couldn't take a vote. No matter — the Chair determined that the compromise simply supported existing covenants, so no vote was needed. The board gave executive permission to the Hammond Port Authority to begin work.

I think the City of Hammond and the INRF showed good faith in their decision. Carolyn Marsh was mentioned as the person who spearheaded this mission. Audubon sees each of us as citizens of Planet Earth. What we do in our own backyards affects everyone else. Through its willingness to compromise on its initial position, the City of Hammond has shown itself to be a good neighbor to all of the Midwest.

Note: For additional information on the Hammond Bird Sanctuary, see the May/June 2005 issue of *LifeLines*.

# Birdathon 2005

## Sponsors donate big bucks for the birds!

by Donna McCarty, Birdathon Chair

In the 18 years that the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society has been conducting Birdathons, this year's event brought in the second highest level of donations: a grand total of \$24,625! This resounding success derives from our generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers and energetic team members.

Our donors range in age from senior citizens to third-grade students at Indian Creek Elementary School. Volunteers from our chapter assisted students in a bird-identification outing; the students then raised funds from their sponsors. Another group of students, seventh graders at Carmel Middle School, raise contributions to our cause as well.

Birdathon dollars are helping to support a new initiative — the Indiana Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program. We now have a full-time Audubon staff person, James Cole, whose job is to identify the areas in our state that are most critical to birds that reside, migrate through, or nest here. James is very serious about his mandate, and to prove it, he participated in two Birdathon teams!

Although our grants might be considered modest by some standards, research projects focusing on migratory birds in Indiana receive a much-needed boost from the Birdathon. This year data on Cerulean Warblers, Phoebes, and migrant land birds' use of isolated forest woodlots will be shared with the IBA coordinator.

Habitat restoration projects at the Marian College EcoLab involved the planting of more than 3,000 native plants, much of it through volunteer labor. Similar plantings from last season are thriving and creating more living quarters for birds

and other wildlife. The EcoLab provides an easily accessible natural habitat for Indianapolis families and students to gain an appreciation for birds and other wildlife.

The American Bird Conservancy was thrilled to receive the largest check we ever sent towards the purchase of acreage in the El Chorogo forest of Panama. Our six years of support for this Conservation Counterparts project have turned a dream for a preserve into a reality.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our efforts to ensure that healthy populations of birds flourish into the future.

### Volunteers who raised donations of \$100 or more:

Dave Benson, Linda Bishop, Mike Bishop, Dixie Brackman, Lee Casebere, Kevin Carlsen, Gordon Chastain, Cliff Chapman,\* Dave Clarke, Mary Ellen Gadski,\* Cloyce Hedge,\* Roger Hedge,\* Donna McCarty,\* Fritz Nerding, Karen Rasmussen, Margaret Schwarz, Bud Starling, April Sterling, Roger Sweets, Nancy Tikijian, Carl Weber\* and Betsy Wilson.

\*Raised over \$1,000

### Special contributions by volunteers:

Pete Drum — Database Services; Sue Arnold, Alicia Craig, Don Gorney, Art Jeffries and Carl Weber: assisted with the Indian Creek Elementary Birdathon; Barbara Jablonski — Birdathon prize coordinator, Mary Ellen Gadski — International projects coordinator.

### Corporate sponsors:

EcoLogic, Rockport Industrial Electronics, Inc. and a special thanks to Wild Birds Unlimited, Inc.

## Seven teams compete — a record number!



DNR Birdathon Team (left to right): Lee Casebere, Cliff Chapman, Roger Hedge and Cloyce Hedge. Species count on May 16: 165.



Indy Parks Team (left to right): Fritz Nerding, Karen LaMere, Kevin Carlsen and Betsy Wilson. Species count on May 8: 127.



Team IBA members (left to right): Angie Cole, Dave Clarke, Diana Denton and James Cole. Species count on May 16: 152.



Team Bishop: Mike and Linda Bishop. Species count on May 16: 117.



Men's Team members (left to right): Keith Starling, Bud Starling, Carl Weber and Bill Hummel. Species count on May 16: 95.



Marian College EcoLab Team (left to right): Dave Benson, Gordon Chastain and Nicole Tuttle. (Not pictured, James Cole). Species count on May 9: 128.

U of I Team (University of Indianapolis)

(No photo available) Jim and Susan Hengeveld, Steve Nawrocki, Roger Sweets and Dave Wantz. Species count on May 16: 136.



## Audubon LifeLines

SEPT/OCT 05 EDITION

Amos W. Butler Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 80024

Indianapolis, IN 46280

*Our mission: To promote public understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of the environment, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to preserve and restore natural habitats in Central Indiana*

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**Audubon Information Line:  
317-767-4690**

**Visit our web site:  
www.amosbutleraudubon.org**

## Calendar of Events

Programs are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Holliday Park Nature Center. All programs are free and open to the public.

**September 13: The Ivory-billed Woodpecker Re-discovered!** Join Wild Birds Unlimited Chief Naturalist John Schaust as he shares the life story of this magnificent bird and gives the details of the search for the "Elvis" bird that had eluded researchers for more than six decades.

**October 11: (tentative) Paul Thomas — Africa.** (Check www.amosbutleraudubon.org for final details)

**November 8: Birds of Hawaii.** Miriam Langsam and Jean Oswalt, both amateur photographers and birders, will share their photographs of a recent trip with Field Guides to three Hawaiian Islands.

### Field Trips

**Sunday, September 18: Ritchey Woods.** Meet at 8 a.m. in the main parking lot. Ritchey Woods is located just south of 106th Street on Hague Road in Hamilton County (the address is 10410 Hague Road, Fishers, IN). Trip leader is James Cole, Indiana Important Bird Areas Coordinator. The focus will be on finding and identifying fall warblers.

**Sunday, October 23: (tentative) Burr Oak Bend.** Meet at 8 a.m. For final confirmation and additional information, contact James at jcole@audubon.org

### Marian College EcoLab Activities

See article on page 2 for details on programs and activities.

## Amos W. Butler Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

### Membership includes:

- Quarterly issues of *Audubon* magazine
- *Audubon LifeLines*, the bi-monthly chapter newsletter
- Workshops and entertaining monthly program meetings
- An opportunity to unite with other individuals to advocate protection of the natural world

### Special Introductory Offer \$20

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Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon Society

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