



A Birder's Guide to Hosting Rarities

By Annie Aguirre • Goshen, IN • anniewaguirre@gmail.com

Disclaimer: if you have Mozart, Bach, or Handel on your computer, please play while reading.

Good evening! Do sit down and join me for a formal look at hosting rarities. Now, you may have heard of me and my birding partner's rare find for the state — the Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) — a bird that many chasers had the chance to list. Between you and me, reporting and hosting was no easy feat, so here are some steps for your next backyard rarity that I hope will help.

Step 1: Give Credit Where Credit is Due

Tanner and I lucked out. We identified and shared the eBird post at virtually the same exact moment. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. If your best birding buddy pointed it out, but you reported the rarity to FB or eBird first, make sure to give them a shout-out. Rarity glory is a dish best served on a split check.

Step 2: Plan to Host as you Post

Ten minutes after posting our rare find on Facebook's "Birding Indiana: Advanced Birding" & "INDIANA RARE BIRD ALERT" (two pages I recommend you share your rarities to), Tanner and I had a birder at our front door. Flash forward ten more minutes and the birders tripled. For those with limited parking, proper procedure should be planned in advance.

Step 3: Lay Down Your House Rules Online

Although I believe any rarity should be available to all, it's okay to lay down some ground rules. If you don't want birders to walk through your garden, include instructions underneath your initial post or email. Lucky for us, we had a dead fox in the veranda, which cleared itself out magically.

Step 4: Suggested Donations are OK

As a three-day spectacle, it wasn't really necessary for Tanner and myself. However, if you are going to sustain



Golden-crowned Sparrow. Courtesy of Jeff Timmons.

the bird at your feeders for an extended period and have to constantly explain to disturbed neighbors why there are 10+ strangers walking on their property, a suggested donation of bird seed seems legit.

Step 5: Wayfinding Guidance

For parking and for visitors when you are not properly dressed to receive them (i.e. no 'nocs adorning your neck), a sign directing them to the bird in question seems like a proper choice.

And there you have it. Hosting a rarity, done properly, is an experience all can enjoy — from birding partners to bros — and even your confused neighbors. Happy birding, my friends!

Photo courtesy of
Whitney Yoerger



ABAS Post-its

What is your favorite spot to bird and a hidden gem in the ABAS area?

"We are fortunate to have a number of great birding areas within the ABAS area. The best birding spot in our area is Eagle Creek Park. This park offers a variety of habitats and provides birders with great birding all year. One of my favorite hidden gems is Sodalis Nature Park in Hendricks County. It's often overlooked because, for many of us, it's a bit far away, but the birding in the woods there is excellent."

—Rob Ripma, President

What's YOUR favorite hotspot or local patch? Share your thoughts or submit a question for Rob at info@amostbutleraudubon.org.

In response to the January/February LifeLines Post-it, Sherry Queener wrote in about her spark bird: "I grew up in Oklahoma, so I often saw Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. The beautiful aerial acrobatics of these gorgeous creatures hooked me on birds at an early age." That's a superb bird to inspire a passion for birding!

Upcoming Audubon Programs, Events, and Workshops

All programs are held at the Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to the public.



(Above) Amy's massive checklist for her Indiana Big Year. (Right) Amy celebrating bird #300, a Red-necked Grebe. All images courtesy of Amy Hodson.



(Left) Black-browed Albatross. (Below) Lynea with a flock of King Penguins. Images courtesy of Lynea Hinchman.



Bubbly Birder Big Year

Tuesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis
Presenter: Amy Hodson, Communications Chair

In 2017, Amy Hodson set out on an Indiana Big Year with the goal of seeing 300 species of birds in the state, and to catalog her adventures along the way via the "Bubbly Birder" Facebook page. By the end of the year, Amy was the first female in Indiana to log 300 species of birds in a single year.

- What bird could be found by wading through waist-high flood water from the Wabash River?
- What FIRST state record was found at a feeder a mere 10 minutes from home?
- What did her first EVER lake watch trip to Lake Michigan provide?
- What birds should she have gotten but didn't? And why?
- What were the 10 lifers she picked up along the way?

Join Amy during this program as she shares stories from a whirlwind of a year that got her to 302 species as well as the highlights, the misses, and the stories in between. This program will be conversational, so bring your questions and we will see you there!

A Journey to the Bottom of the World

Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis
Presenter: Lynea Hinchman

Join Lynea Hinchman of La Porte County for a journey to the bottom of the world. Antarctica, the White Continent, is a wealth of wildlife and wonder. Imagine walking among penguins or being within feet of nesting Albatross, on a beach covered with Elephant Seals, or having your dinner interrupted by a pod of Orcas on a feeding frenzy. Join us as we take a brief journey to this vast world of breathtaking beauty and amazing wildlife spectacles.

Lynea Hinchman has been birding for more than 35 years. While she is a local expert in the Indiana Dunes, she is a world birder and has birded on all seven continents. Her travels permit her to photograph birds as well as other fauna and flora. Over the years, she has enjoyed sharing her photos and stories with birding groups throughout Indiana and surrounding states.



Dawn to Dusk: Two Young Birders' Take on a Big Day

Tuesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis
Presenters: Matthias Benko and Ceth Williams

Black-bellied Whistling Duck photo-courtesy of Greg Majewski

Last spring, five young birders took on a grueling 24-hour competition known as a Big Day. Hyped up on Red Bull and various forms of carbohydrates, the group logged 151 species despite an early migration date of April 30. Although it poured most of the day, these young birders were still able to find birds such as Chuck-will's-widow, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Wilson's Phalarope, and Barn Owl. Join Matthias and Ceth for an account of their day, from midnight to midnight.

Goose Pond Field Day with Indiana Wildlife Federation

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Goose Pond FWA Visitor's Center, Linton

Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF) is partnering with Amos Butler Audubon Society for a day of birding at one of Indiana's hottest migratory waterfowl viewing locations. Spend the day with expert birders. Hear about the work of the International Crane Foundation in Indiana. Learn how IWF helped in the creation of Goose Pond. Full details about the trip will be emailed to participants closer to the date. Bring your own sack lunch.

This event is free, but registration is required. Register online at indianawildlife.org/news-events/events-calendar/ or call IWF at 800-347-3445 or 317-875-9453.

Woodcock Walk

Friday, March 9, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

West Park, 2700 W. 116th Street, Carmel

Join Scott Enochs on a walk through West Park in search of American Woodcock. Woodcocks have a very acrobatic mating display that they perform at dusk and West Park offers an up-close view of this display. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the northwest corner of the West Park parking lot. Contact Scott at 317-850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net if you have any questions. Registration is not required and the event is free and open to the public.

ABAS Goose Pond FWA Field Trip

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Meet at Target, 10209 E. US 36, Avon

Join Mark Welter for a trip to Goose Pond FWA in search of waterfowl. Located in Greene County just south of the town of Linton, Goose Pond's 8000+ acres represent Indiana's largest and most successful habitat restoration project. Since its completion in 2008, Goose Pond has been a magnet for migrating waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, and songbirds. Mid-March can be expected to produce an interesting mix of lingering winter birds and early Spring arrivals. Our primary focus will be on dabbling and diving ducks. Additionally, geese, cranes, American White Pelicans, and shorebird species may be possible.

We will primarily bird from the roads and parking areas and may take brief hikes along the levees if the situation warrants. Good water-resistant boots are advisable for this trip. Due to the distances that can be involved in surveying this property, bring a spotting scope if you have one on hand. However, scopes will be available to share.

If time allows and there is interest, we may also visit the Beehunter Marsh units adjacent to Goose Pond as well as the Dugger Unit of the Greene-Sullivan State Forest, located a few miles to the northwest. We will meet at 7 a.m. in the Target parking lot at 10209 E. US 36 (Rockville Road) in Avon, just west of the Ronald Reagan Parkway. Participants should bring snacks and drinks if desired, as we will not be going into town for lunch. We can expect to be back around 3 p.m. Contact Mark at mwelter521@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Waterfowl ID Workshop

Saturday, March 17, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, Indianapolis

Join ABAS education chair and waterfowl enthusiast Jessica Helmbold for a crash course on Indiana's waterfowl. After the course, we will have lunch in the park and explore Eagle Creek Reservoir looking for waterfowl. Then in the following weekends, weather dependent, we will make excursions to Muscatatuck NWR and Goose Pond FWA for further study. Details about the two additional field trip opportunities will be emailed to workshop participants, posted on our Facebook page, and posted on the ABAS website. You may join us for just the lecture, any of the field trips, or all events. For details, contact jessica.helmbold@indy.gov. RSVPs are appreciated, though not required.

Owl, Woodcock, and Beaver Bonanza

Wednesday, April 4, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab, Marian University, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis

Join the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab for an evening hike to learn about woodcocks, owls, and other native Indiana wildlife that are active in the spring. Listen for the elaborate aerial displays and calls of the woodcocks. Learn about owl adaptations and the role of owls in the ecosystem. Look for other signs of early spring wildlife activity.

This event is free and family friendly. Bring a flashlight and binoculars and dress appropriately for the weather. Parking is available near the Allison Mansion and in the Marian Hall lot across from Allison Mansion. We will meet at the St. Francis statue on the west side of the mansion, then head down to the EcoLab shortly after.

Registration is not required, but appreciated. Register online at https://events.marian.edu/#!view/event/date/20180404/event_id/4837. For questions, email Stephanie Schuck at sschuck@marian.edu.



North American Beaver. Photo courtesy of Rob Stokes.

Beers with Birders

Thursday, March 22, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Blind Owl Brewing, 5014 E. 62nd St., Indianapolis

ABAS is kicking off 2018 with our next Beers with Birders event, scheduled for Thursday, March 22 at Blind Owl Brewery. Our Beers with Birders events offer an informal and fun opportunity to gather together at various breweries across the city to share in birding experiences and adventures. The events are open to the public with RSVPs through our website and Facebook page. We hope you consider joining us for our next event!



*Beers with Birders at Metazoa Brewing Co. in December 2017.
Courtesy of Joanna Woodruff.*

2018 Smith's Longspur Trip

Sunday, April 8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Marsh parking lot, 6965 W. 38th Street, Indianapolis

Join Amy Hodson on a trip to the Lye Creek Prairie Burn (aka "The Burn") in search of migrating Smith's Longspurs. The Burn is located in Montgomery County and is the most reliable place for viewing Smith's Longspurs in Indiana, as the property is managed specifically for them.

We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Marsh parking lot, located at 6965 W. 38th Street in Indianapolis, and carpool to The Burn. While in the area, we will also seek out any raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds that may be present. Participants can expect to return to Indianapolis around 1 p.m.

Please contact Amy at aehodson@gmail.com if you have any questions. Registration is not required and the event is open to everyone.



Smith's Longspur. Courtesy of Amy Hodson.

Local Bird Hikes

Eagle Creek Park

6519 Delong Road, Indianapolis

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

March 4, 11, 18, and 25; April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Meet at the Ornithology Center. For more information, call 317-327-2473

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab

3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis

Wednesdays at 8 a.m., starting on March 14.

March 14, 21, and 28; April 4, 11, 18, and 25

Meet at the St. Francis statue next to Allison Mansion on the north end of campus. For more information, contact David Benson at dbenson@marian.edu.

Greenfield Bird Hikes

Second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m., starting in April.

April 14 at Thornwood Nature Preserve

(1670 Morristown Pike, Greenfield) and April 28

at Brandywine Park (900 E. Davis Road, Greenfield).

Stay up to date with any changes, rescheduling, or local bird happenings at facebook.com/groups/GreenfieldBirders. For more information, contact Adam Wilson at NikonBirdHunter@gmail.com.

Holliday Park

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis

The third Tuesday of the month, 8 a.m.

March 20 and April 17

Meet in front of the nature center. For more information, call 317-327-7180.

Southeastway Park

5624 South Carroll Road, New Palestine

Mondays in April, 9:10 a.m.

April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Meet at the Nature Center at Southeastway Park. For more information, call 317-327-2473.

Come explore Southeastway Park during spring migration. Join Theresa Wilson every Monday, beginning April 2. This is a family friendly, beginner to intermediate nature walk, weather permitting. Don't forget bug spray and sunblock!

A Note from the President

Amos Butler Audubon Society is doing great work for birds and conservation in Central Indiana, but we need your help to do more. Are you looking for ways to get involved? Join us in advancing our mission through the investment of your time and talent as a volunteer membership chair, web content coordinator, or webmaster. If you're interested in one of these opportunities, email me at robert.ripma@gmail.com. We would love to have you on our team!

Event Recaps: Goose Pond FWA Area Raptor Field Trip Recap

By Scott Enochs • Indianapolis • msenochs@comcast.net

On January 6, I was joined by three birders that braved the cold weather and travelled to Greene and Sullivan counties in search of migrating and wintering raptors. Although temperatures did not make it out of the teens, sunshine was abundant, wind was non-existent, and the birds were active. We made stops in several Beehunter and Goose Pond units, as



well as covering ground in the northern portions of Bear Run Mine. To our delight, we managed to hit almost every target and were treated to great views. Highlights of the trip were American Kestrel, Merlin, Red-tailed Hawk (Western and Eastern), Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk (both morphs), Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl (began emerging 4:30 p.m.), Sandhill Crane, and Whooping Crane.

Short-eared Owl captured by Scott Enochs.

Owl Prowl Recap

By David Benson • Zionsville IN • dbenson@marian.edu

About 35 prowlers joined us for an evening trek through the EcoLab on January 31. No owls attended, but the beavers were out in force. Beaver-signs were everywhere: freshly chewed sticks, cut trees, beaver-dredged canals through their willow-buffets. There was even a beaver waterpark with three slides and a food cache under the ice. As we walked back by the winter beaver lodge on the Jens Jensen pond on our way out of the EcoLab, the patrolling beavers began slapping their tails on the water in agitation. Several were then clearly seen cruising about in the water. Busy. Busy as beavers. Join us for our next night hike on April 4.

Donations

Karen Bower in memory of her husband,

Steve Housefield

Louise Haskett in memory of her father

Willian Steinmetz

Metazoa Brewing Co. in support of

Beers with Birders

Winter Lakefront Trip Recap

By Scott Enochs • Indianapolis • msenochs@comcast.net

On February 3, I was joined by 10 birders on a journey to the Indiana Lake Michigan lakeshore in search of waterfowl, gulls, and winter vagrants. Temperatures were pleasant in the upper 30s with a brisk southwesterly wind. Our first stop of the day was Hammond Marina and we were immediately greeted by four Common Redpolls. While there, we received a tip from Michael Topp that the adult male Black Scoter in breeding plumage had returned to the BP Warm Water Outlet in Whiting. This became our second stop and we immediately located the bird – a rare treat in Indiana. Another highlight of this stop was Great Black-backed Gull.

We then proceeded to neighboring Whiting Park where we had great views of two female Long-tailed Ducks. After a brief lunch break, we visited the Portage Lakefront Park and Riverwalk and the Port of Indiana. Portage had a few Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup. The Port had few birds, but a flyby Red-throated Loon created a buzz as we were departing. Afterwards, we traveled to Michigan City Harbor on a tip from Matt Beatty to view the White-winged Scoters he had seen earlier that morning. The scoters were easily picked out among the numerous Goldeneye and scaups, and we also enjoyed another female Long-tailed Duck and a pair of Peregrine Falcons.

Our last stop of the day was the Lake Street Beach, courtesy of a phone call from Brad Bumgardner about a Snowy Owl hanging out on the shelf ice. After some searching, we located the bird on the breakwall and walked down the beach to enjoy a closer view. Other highlights of the day were Redhead, Red-breasted Merganser, Herring Gull, American Kestrel, and Black-capped Chickadee. Thank you to all who participated and a special thank you Michael, Matt, and Brad for the phone calls and escorts to some of these highlights.

Common Redpoll and Snowy Owl. Courtesy of Mark Welter.



Meet the Board: Ted Meyer

Ted Meyer joined the ABAS Board of Directors in 2010 and has served as treasurer since that time. He also currently serves as membership chair, and takes care of the content and technical aspects of our new website. He was the president before Rob Ripma and received the Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award in 2017. Ted has also served on the Board of Directors of the Indiana Audubon Society.

Ted grew up in Wisconsin and lived in both the Chicago area and the Philadelphia area before settling in Indianapolis in 1995. Ted and his wife, Cindy, met at the Sunday morning bird walk at Eagle Creek. The park will always be a special spot for them.

Ted and Cindy are both retired and spend winters in Raleigh, NC near their two grandchildren and part of the summer at Ted's family lake cottage in Pelican Lake, WI. They love birding from the pontoon boat on the lake and, in August, happy hours on the front porch can be invaded by a flock of mixed warblers.

Growing up in Wisconsin, Ted gained a strong love of the outdoors through hunting, fishing, camping, and wilderness canoeing with his father. He identified the backyard birds and started his first, long lost list with his father. Years later, when Ted was 38, his father's twin brother created the "spark moment" for Ted. A lifelong birder and lister, Uncle Bob handed Ted a National Geographic field guide while both were visiting Ted's parents who retired in the Tucson area. They proceeded to identify dozens of new species for Ted in the backyard where his father kept an array of feeders. Ted was hooked and since then has added to his list on five continents.



Ted in Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo courtesy of Cindy Meyer.

Ted holds a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in Civil and Environmental Engineering. He went on to receive an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Ted's knowledge of accounting, typography, graphic arts, publishing, and computer systems from his professional career fit well with the behind-the-scenes tasks he performs at ABAS.

Indiana Young Birder Q&A with Matthias Benko

By Matthias Benko • Indianapolis • benko.redwall.matthias@gmail.com



Age: 16
Hometown: Indianapolis
Year began birding: 2011

Matthias at the Endovalley in Rocky Mountain National Park. Photo by Rachel Valentine.

ABAS: What inspired you to pick up binoculars?

MATTHIAS: When I was 10, my family took our first major road trip out west to Rocky Mountain National Park. While we were visiting, I was captivated by the tremendous number of hummingbirds in our campsite. There was also a bird I didn't recognize (I would later discover it was a White-crowned Sparrow), and that really fueled my interest in wanting to identify all the birds I was seeing. When we got home, I was still interested in birds. In fact, there was another mystery bird in my own backyard. I was only able to find it once, but constantly heard its strange call. After weeks of research, I finally discovered that it was a Gray Catbird. Since that catbird, I haven't looked back.

What is your earliest or most memorable bird-related experience and why?

This summer, I participated in the American Birding Association's Camp Colorado. The whole camp was memorable, but one of the field trips we took really captivated me. I have never been as shocked by a landscape as I was when I saw Pawnee National Grassland. Although just two hours away from Rocky Mountain National Park, it feels like a completely different world. It's overwhelmingly never-ending; the vast expanse stretches on for miles in all directions. The area was full of incredible birds like Mountain Plovers, Burrowing Owls, Lark Buntings, Swainson's Hawks, and even an Upland Sandpiper. It was a surreal day.

What's your favorite local patch and why?

My favorite local patch is actually my yard. The creek in my backyard flows year-round, and there is also a small wooded area right next to my house. This habitat equates to productivity; in fact, the best bird I've seen in my yard is a Whip-poor-will. My dad had heard the bird calling while he was sitting on the porch, and he got me to come outside. Sure enough, I heard the unmistakable whip-poor-will! sound and saw a small nightjar fly up into the tree overlooking my porch. The light was poor, so I didn't get any photos, but it's still one of the most memorable experiences I've had in my yard. Besides that, I have also had some great birds like Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager show up as well.

What's the first bird you "chased?"

The first bird I "chased" was a Snowy Owl in January 2015. This particular Snowy was at the Shelbyville Municipal Airport, and I spotted it on an airplane hangar immediately when my mom and I arrived. We observed it for about an hour and even saw it actively hunt! We had tried unsuccessfully to find an owl when we were in Northern Indiana, so it was wonderful to finally see one.

At the 5th Annual IYBC, you spoke about protecting habitat with the Nature Conservancy as a Youth Presenter. Tell us more about your activities on this topic!

I've spoken about conservation on many occasions, but I've also done a few projects of my own. One smaller project I did was to gather window strike prevention stickers, staple them to information sheets, and then distribute them to three local parks. The second project I devised was much lengthier: for my Eagle Scout Project, I built 40 birdhouses and placed 25 of them around Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. Additionally, I created an informative pamphlet about the avian life at Mary Gray. I continue to monitor the houses by collecting nest data every fall. So far, my success rate has been about 70%, with species like wrens, chickadees, titmice, and bluebirds utilizing the houses.

Do you aspire to turn your affinity for birds into a career? If yes, what do you have in mind? If not, what else interests you or is it too early to decide?

I do expect birds to find a way into my career. My current career plan is to be an environmental lawyer, so I am planning on majoring in environmental and political science in college and then moving on to law school. If I end up not wanting to do law, I will do environmental field research.

In the last year, what are some of the highlight experiences and/or milestone birds?

The highlight of my year was definitely my trip out West last summer. In addition to Camp Colorado, my parents and I also went to the Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota. I saw 40 new species throughout the trip. Currently, my life list is at 385 birds, so I plan to hit 400 this year.

What is one bird you are currently obsessing over right now?

Northern Saw-whet Owls. I've only seen them once, and I'd love to see one again soon.

Going Green: A Rewarding Way to Go Birding

By Greg Majewski • Fort Wayne IN • gamajewski@gmail.com

"Green birding" is the philosophy that birding should be non-consumptive, or more simply, birding while limiting the use of fossil fuel. This can mean taking the bus or driving an electric car, but it can be done most simply by birding your yard, walking around the neighborhood, or riding a bicycle to go find birds. The environmental benefits of green birding are rather straightforward; but as a lister, I have found that birding this way is also very appealing since it can put an interesting new spin on your annual or county lists.

When I started green birding, I found that there were a few hurdles to overcome. The first obvious one was a bigger emphasis on the physical aspect of birding. As someone with a desk job and a strong desire to binge-watch Netflix, I was in mediocre physical shape at the beginning. So, I started by birding almost exclusively in Allen County at my local park.

I also had to overcome the fear of missing out. Before, when I knew I only had a few hours per weekend to go birding, I could maximize that time by driving to a hotspot to see the most species or the most unusual birds. Instead, making the intentional choice to walk to the park or bike around town brought birds at a much slower pace. I found that I would often spend just as much time getting to my destination as I did birding while there and I felt like I was missing birds because of it. But as I birded like this more and more, that mental hurdle became easier to overcome because of what happened next.

I started finding more and more birds. My park wasn't a well-established birding location, but over the course of several months, I realized it was just as good of a destination as some of the more popular spots. I also began finding more birds while on my way there. When you're not in a car, it is much easier to listen for birds along the side of the road and to stop and observe them. I found my lifer Grasshopper Sparrow this way and I have been able to find many more great birds, such as Merlin and Bell's Vireo, that I would have missed if I was in a car.

As with anything, the more I birded green, the easier it became. By doing it regularly, the mental and physical



Barred Owl, Sept. 2016 at Foster Park in Allen County. Winter Wren, March 2017 at Foster Park in Allen County. Images courtesy of Greg Majewski.

challenges were easier to manage, and I found myself traveling farther and farther to reach birds. When I started in 2015, I stayed within five miles of home and saw 137 species. Last year, I expanded my radius to 15 miles and found 158 species. In three years of green birding, I have seen close to 200 different species without using a single gallon of gasoline. (Now is a good time to mention that green birding saves money, too!)

For those who are interested in starting a green list, I offer these pieces of advice:

1. Try it at least once! Pick a day and find a place close to home that you can walk or bike to, knowing that it will have at least a few birds.

2. Don't worry about missing out on what others are seeing elsewhere. Know that you will see fewer birds than if you drove to the Indiana Dunes or Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area; but you are saving gas money, so it's okay.

3. Enjoy the journey. You are getting exercise and chances are high that you will see something that you would have missed from a vehicle.

4. Get hooked. Challenge yourself to see just how many birds you can find in your yard or by using only your own two feet.

Amos Butler Audubon Society Chapter Supporter Membership

Membership benefits:

- 100% of your dues support local Audubon educational programs and urban conservation projects
- *Audubon LifeLines*, the chapter newsletter
- Workshops and entertaining monthly program meetings

One-year individual membership \$25

Two-year individual membership \$45

One-year household membership \$40

Two-year household membership \$75

Lifetime individual membership \$500

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (please include) _____

Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon Society

Mail to: ABAS Membership Chair

P.O. Box 80024

Indianapolis, IN 46280

e-mail questions to: info@amosbutleraudubon.org

Amos Butler Audubon Society

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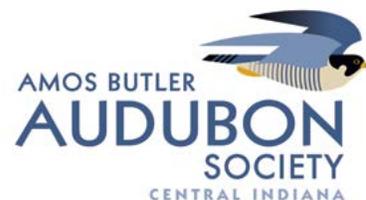
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You can use your existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile! Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings remain the same.

Go to smile.amazon.com, enter Amos W Butler Audubon Society in the search bar, and let your shopping be not just for your family and friends but also for birds like the Cerulean Warbler.

ABAS Logo Gear

Have you noticed the snazzy ABAS logo shirts that many of the board members have been wearing lately? We recently set up an account with local apparel company, Concept Prints, to provide embroidered logo gear for our members and events. Whether it's one shirt to help you show your Audubon pride or an order of 20 for a team representing ABAS at an event, ordering is easy. Simply visit www.conceptprints.com and click the "Featured Catalogues" link to browse the wide variety of apparel offered. For pricing details, questions, or to place an order, email our account manager, Shiron Miller, at shiron@conceptprints.com. Orders usually arrive within two weeks and can be paid for when received. A terrific new way to support ABAS!



*Our mission: To promote the enjoyment and
stewardship of the birds of Central Indiana*

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