



Sound Advice: How to be All-ears this Spring

By Annie Aguirre

It's inevitable – at some point this spring, you're going to wake up to an unfamiliar sound and wonder "what's that bird I'm hearing?" As birders, it's natural to be tuned into this sort of thing. You know you've heard a Cardinal's songs before, you know a Chickadee sings the phrase "Hey Sweetie" or "Cheeseburger," so why is it so hard to pick them out? If you've found yourself hearing dozens of bird songs, but stumped to name one, you're not alone.

The Challenges

There's a number of reasons birding by ear is hard — noise pollution, hearing loss, or struggles with similar-sounding or tough-to-remember bird calls all play a part. But the main challenge I hear birders struggle with, pun intended, happens every spring: Overstimulation.

The time we hear birds the most is during spring season when every bird is calling their heart out at top volume. Here in Indiana at peak migration, you can snag over 80 species on a good hike, and that's a LOT of sounds! With so many songs going on at once, it's also a lot for your brain to process. Imagine, if you had 80 people you knew in that same woods all shouting stuff out, could you name everyone? Not to mention some of these birds are probably ones you've never heard before. So don't be so hard on yourself. Your brain is overstimulated and your ears are not used to being relied on.

Where to Start

First step: Train your ears early. Think of it a little like training for a marathon. Just like your muscles need time to get strong and used to a more vigorous workout, so do your ears.

Step One: Start Eavesdropping on your Neighbors

Well, neighbor birds, that is. Start making a habit of listening to the birds around your neighborhood and favorite trails every chance you get. Even if you're just grabbing the mail, taking out the trash, or making that short walk from your car to your front door, REALLY listen. Get to know the song of your backyard Cardinal. Start paying attention to which tree it is you tend to hear that Red-bellied Woodpecker. The more you get familiar with their sounds the better. By spring, you'll be able to filter out these familiar songsters and pick out the less-familiar songs of some of the touring musicians.

Step Two: Get used to Noise Pollution

Sound interruptions while birding by ear is inevitable. Sadly, it's not going away anytime soon, so train your ears to get used to it. Start listening in areas that you plan to bird in spring. Practice honing in on bird calls while noise disruptions are present. Still struggling? Here's a tip. Cup your ears toward the sound you're



Henslow's Sparrow - courtesy Jeff Timmons

honing in on and open your mouth. That increases your hearing by 20% — no joke. It may look weird, but it's super-effective.

Step Three: Put Words to Sound

Unless you have a musical background, you're probably not used to describing sounds, so ease into it with familiar songs you know. Imagine trying to describe some of your favorites to someone who's never heard them before. How would you describe the rhythm of "Flight of the Bumblebee" vs. "Pachelbel's Canon D"? Or how that first note sounds in the Star Wars Fanfare? What about the pattern and melody in the guitar solo from Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird"? How would you put those songs into words without singing the actual tune or tapping out the rhythm? To practice, next time you listen to one of your playlists, list a few of the musical characteristics from each of the songs, like pitch, pattern, and other things that stick out to you. Try to relate parts of the song to other sounds they remind you of, even if non-musical — like a foghorn for a tuba, the splash of a wave for a cymbal, a humpback whale for a cello — whatever works to your brain. Keep in mind, everyone process sounds a little differently. There is no right or wrong way to describe sounds, so just use whatever words make sense to your brain. Later on, the descriptive words you come up with will help you compare and process the spring songs you're hearing.

Step Four: Don't Panic

When spring migration does roll into town and those songbirds belt out their morning chorus, don't panic. Give your ears a second to process everything. In fact, close your eyes. Okay, now, do you remember how I told you to get familiar with that resident Red-bellied and Cardinal? Do you hear them? Good. Now tune them out. What else do you hear? Go ahead, pick one out. What's the least familiar-sounding one? Hone in on that one. If it's interesting to your ears, it'll likely be interesting to your eyes, as well.

Bottom Line: Keep Listening

Even if it doesn't seem like it at first, your ears are doing the work. Be patient. The important thing is to stop, let yourself notice sounds, and keep an open mind and ears. Even if it seems hard, don't stop. It gets easier. Soon enough, you'll be able to pick out all the parts of the bird choir.

Happy Listening!



Upcoming Audubon Programs, Events, and Field Trips

All are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

SOLD OUT:

A Season On The Wind: Spring Migration through the Midwest

Monday, March 9, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Holliday Park Nature Center

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN

Note: Due to the overwhelming response to our March program we sought out and were able to obtain a second night from Kenn. Unfortunately, that second night all available tickets were quickly claimed as well. We have been able to accommodate 220 attendees with free tickets and apologize to those that couldn't get registered.

Every spring, billions of birds go sweeping northward across North America. This vast parade of small migrants was the subject of Kenn Kaufman's book, *A Season on the Wind*, published in April 2019. Although the book focused on the concentrations of migratory birds in the Magee Marsh area of northern Ohio, in this program Kenn will talk about larger patterns of spring bird movements throughout the Midwest, including central Indiana.



Kenn Kaufman, Kenn's latest book "A Season on the Wind," Blackburnian Warbler



Liz Hatton with a rehabilitated Bald Eagle

Bird Rehabilitation with Liz Hatton

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Holliday Park Nature Center

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN

Join Liz Hatton for an informative discussion of bird rehabilitation. Located in Westfield, Liz has been a DNR permitted wildlife rehabilitator since 1995. Her husband, Chris, joined her in 1991 following his retirement from Dow Elanco. Last year they registered over 800 birds for rehabilitation. Starlings, Pigeons, and House Sparrow don't have to be registered so they actually treated about 900 birds last year. She will have a few live birds that aren't candidates to be released and will demonstrate feeding techniques with some young birds if possible.

Beers with Birders

Thursday, March 12, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Field Brewing, 303 East Main Street, Westfield, IN

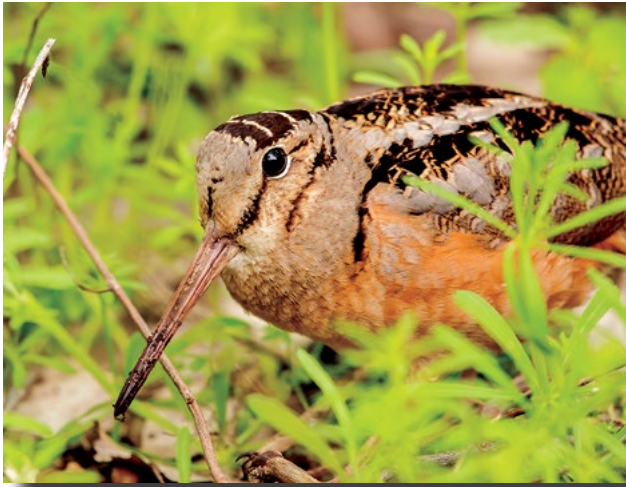
Join the ABAS for an evening at Field Brewing in Westfield. We will meet from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm to collectively



share our birding experiences and adventures at this informal gathering. This event is open to the public. Please email info@amosbutleraudubon.org if you plan to join us so we can be aware of how many will be attending.

Lifetime Memberships

All lifetime memberships go to the Permanent Fund. Lifetime individual membership is only \$500 and it is fitting that it goes to the long-run benefit of ABAS. The Permanent Fund can never be spent. Similar to an endowment, the goal is that investment proceeds can be spent as the Board of Directors determines. Any donation throughout the year can be directed towards the Permanent Fund as well.



American Woodcock - courtesy of Amy Hodson

Woodcock Walk: Daubenspeck Community Nature Park

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Daubenspeck Community Nature Park
8900 Ditch Road, Indianapolis, IN**

Join ABAS Board member Brian Cunningham for an evening walk at Daubenspeck Community Nature Park (DCNP), a great spot to view displaying American Woodcocks.

Woodcocks have a very acrobatic mating display that they perform at dusk known as the sky dance. While waiting for woodcocks, we will check the prairie and nearby woods for birds that may be going to roost in the park for the evening.

Meet at 7:30 pm in the DCNP parking lot. The main trail of Daubenspeck is mowed, but the ground can be somewhat uneven.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Woodcock Walk: Carmel West Park

Saturday, March 14, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

2700 West 116th Street, Carmel, IN

Join Chuck Anderson, ABAS Field Trip Chair, for a trip to West Park in Carmel. Listen for the “peenting” sounds of a male woodcock as it attempts to court a female during the mating season. Watch the male perform an aerial display and listen to the sound of its twittering wings as it tries to attract a female.

We’ll be stationary with little walking required. Dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at 7:30 pm in the West Park parking lot, 2700 West 116th Street in Carmel, just west of Towne Road.

Registration is not required. Text Chuck at (317) 767-5438 if you have any questions.

Woodcock Walk: Strawtown Koteewi Park

Saturday, March 28, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

**Strawtown Koteewi Park
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville, IN**

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this rite of spring for yourself as male woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! An indoor presentation will take place inside the Taylor Center at 7:30 pm for those interested in knowing more about the life history of this bird. Those interested in seeing the aerial display should meet the group inside the Taylor Center and will be led by a Naturalist from Hamilton County Park starting at about 8:00 pm.

Smith’s Longspur Field Trip

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

1524 West South Street, Lebanon, IN

Join Shari McCollough, Indiana Audubon Society Membership Chair, and host Clint Murray on a field 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 9:00 am at Denny’s restaurant located just off I65 exit #140 at 1524 West South Street, Lebanon 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 Lebanon at around 1:00 pm. This field trip is free and open to anyone but limited to 20 participants.

Registration is required

Please register with Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text Chuck at (317) 767-5438. Contact Chuck if you have any questions.



Smith’s Longspur at The Burn - courtesy of Amy Hodson

Local Bird Hikes

Eagle Creek Park

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN
Every Sunday, 9:00 am to 11:00 am
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
April 5, 12, 19, 26

Meet in front of the Ornithology Center.

Holliday Park

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN
Third Tuesday of each month
Start times vary during the year
March 17, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
April 21, 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Meet in front of the Nature Center.

Spring Migrants at Starkey Park

667 Sugarbush Drive, Zionsville, IN
Saturday, March 28, 8:00 am to 9:30 am
Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am to 9:30 am
Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Join Whitney and Jonathan Yoerger for a spring bird hike. Meet in the parking lot at Starkey Park.

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab

3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN
Most Wednesdays in March and April
8:00 am to 10:00 am
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Meet at the St. Francis colonnade just west of Allison Mansion on the Marian campus.

Newfields Bird Hike

1550 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN
Saturday, March 21, 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Join ABAS and Newfields for bird hikes on this property along the White River and Central Canal. Meet at Lake Terrace in the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres. Registration is requested by emailing us at info@amosbutleraudubon.org.

Fort Harrison State Park

6000 North Post Road, Indianapolis, IN
Sundays in April and May, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
April 5, 12, 19, 26

Meet Don Gorney at the northeast corner of the Delaware Lake parking lot.

Thornwood Nature Preserve Bird Hike

1597 South Morrystown Pike, Greenfield, IN
Saturday, April 11, 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Join the Greenfield Birders for a bird hike. Beginners are welcome. All walks are weather pending. Stay up to date with any changes by searching "Greenfield Birders" on Facebook.

Beckenholdt Family Park

2770 North Franklin Street, Greenfield, IN
Saturday, April 25, 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Join the Greenfield Birders for a bird hike. Beginners are welcome. All walks are weather pending. Stay up to date with any changes by searching "Greenfield Birders" on Facebook.

Southeastway Park

5624 South Carroll Road, New Palestine, IN
Tuesday, April 28, 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Meet at the Nature Center at Southeastway Park. For more information email Theresa at tconwilson@gmail.com.

Behind the Lens: Shari McCollough

Note from the Editor: Shari is known as one of the top bird photographers in the state of Indiana, and beyond. I was thrilled to have the chance to ask Shari some questions about the ever-growing hobby that she is so well known for. Enjoy!

Editor: When did you know that you were going to pursue capturing photographs of birds?

Shari: It was really a progression of time and skill level. I started out photographing birds as part of a quest to find beauty in nature. Birds are of course a part of that. The funny thing is, I realized there were so many different birds I could not identify. I started researching, which in turn opened up an entire new world for me. The passion and intrigue for photographing birds started then, back in 2012, which has led to an incredible journey along the way.

Editor: Was there a specific species that "sparked" your interest in photography?

Shari: I really didn't have a "spark" bird. It was the combination of the overwhelming amount of birds I hadn't seen or photographed that kept that spark alive. There is something about birds that I connect with. I used to dream I could fly when I was a kid, soaring high in the sky above my parents' house then flap my wings and safely land every time. The connection is definitely heartfelt and deep in my soul. I don't just want to photograph

birds, I want to help them, and that's why I donate a lot of time to efforts that help birds. I do marsh surveys, and donate my time to the Breeding Bird Survey and Indiana Audubon Society. I love every second of it. It's not work. It's love and appreciation for birds.

Editor: What do you find to be the most challenging aspect of bird photography?

Shari: Definitely flight photography. Birds moving through the sky with busy backgrounds are tough. Being able to keep that center focus point on the bird and follow without letting it become out of focus can be hard to do. That's what I love about photographing birds in flight, it's a challenge. When you achieve the goal, it's extremely rewarding. It's time, patience and skill that gets the job done.

Editor: The spring photography season is almost here! What is your favorite aspect of taking photographs during spring migration? What tips do you have?

Shari: Most definitely it's the number of birds moving through the state at one time. You never know what will show up. Spring is my favorite time of year. The tiny plants begin to emerge, the leaves are budding on the trees, spring flowers are popping up, shorebirds are showing up in flooded fields and these amazing colorful little birds called warblers are moving through our state. It's a very exciting time to be a photographer of birds.

Continued on page 5.

Help Birds at Home: Certified Wildlife Habitat Program

By Brian Cunningham, ABAS Board Member

The North American bird population has decreased by 2.9 billion breeding adults, a net loss of 29% over the last half-century. Scientists have identified habitat loss as the biggest reason for the decline. Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shops encourage everyone to stop in and learn how they can create a bird and wildlife-friendly habitat in their own backyard, on their porch or patio or even a grand estate. It's fun and easier than you might think.

Wild Birds Unlimited is proud to partner with the National Wildlife Federation and to Champion the Certified Wildlife Habitat® program. Together we can create change. It only takes five simple steps in your own space to create beneficial habitat for birds, wildlife, butterflies and other insects.

Provide one or more of the following elements to create a bird and wildlife-friendly habitat. Once you are done, you can reward yourself with various forms of recognition from the National Wildlife Federation. Go online, to learn more: www.wbu.com/certify-your-yard

Food

Include native plants in your yard to provide songbirds with natural food sources. You can attract a greater number and variety of birds by offering a consistent, reliable supplemental food source in the form of a bird feeder filled with a quality seed blend. Creating a bird feeding station with a variety of foods and various bird feeders will bring you many hours of bird-watching enjoyment.



Tufted Titmouse photo courtesy of Amy Hodson.

Water

Birds need clean, reliable water sources for drinking and bathing throughout the year. Water can attract as many birds to your yard or patio as a food source does. Often, you will attract birds that do not normally visit your bird feeders.

Cover

Birds need protective cover for times of rest, social interaction and as a retreat from foul weather and predators. Landscaping for the ideal wildlife habitat should use native plants ranging in size and density.

A Place to Raise Young

The same native plants that provide food and cover can provide safe areas for many species of wildlife to mate, build nests and raise their families. But, with the increased loss of natural habitat, many cavity-nesting birds are having trouble finding homes. By providing birdhouses, you will encourage birds to raise their young in your yard.

Sustainability Practices

The idea of a flawless lawn may be a thing of the past. A few weeds and insects are a small price to pay and better for the environment and the birds. Maintaining your landscape in a sustainable, environmentally-friendly way ensures that the soil, air, and water that native wildlife (and people) rely upon stay clean and healthy.

Whether you garden in a suburban yard, an urban area or a rural plot of land, you can make a difference for local wildlife. Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat garden is fun, easy and makes a real difference for neighborhood wildlife. It's the perfect grassroots way to think globally and act locally and help birds, wildlife, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. Learn more online at www.wbu.com/certify-your-yard.

Behind the Lens: *continued from page 4.*

As Far as Tips Go

- Understanding bird behavior is huge. They will let you know when you are too close. Many times, they will also let you know where they are with their chip notes or scold calls even when you cannot see them. This tells a story, understand what they are telling you, it's crucial to not only the bird's world but to you achieving your goals as a photographer in an ethical manner.
- Get familiar with the species you want to photograph. Understand their habitat. This will tell you where to find them.
- Learn bird songs by ear. This is an extremely useful tool in the field when you cannot see them but hear them. Use resources like eBird and birding Facebook pages to see where birds are being seen.
- Be kind and courteous to the birds and their habitat. Don't approach nesting sights, or where birds are feeding young. Stay away from photographing live nests with eggs or chicks. Listen to the birds. If they are scolding you, there may be a reason. It's best to back out and give them space.
- As far as gear goes, it's helpful to have a zoom lens. This allows you to get closer to the birds without disrupting them. I started out with an entry-level camera, Canon 60D and a kit lens. Eight years later, I have a Canon 7D2 and my two favorite lenses for



Shari McCollough and Eastern Screech Owl. Photo courtesy of Shari McCollough



bird photography are the Canon 100-400 f/4.5-5.6 IS 2 and Canon 500L f/4 IS. Both take incredible images and my disruption to the birds is limited, which is always my goal. Bottom line is that everyone starts somewhere, but it's the love and deep appreciation for birds that keep me going every day.

Dr. Karen M. Rasmussen Bequest: The Power of Giving

By Ted Meyer, ABAS Treasurer

In the fall 2016 ABAS was notified that we were the beneficiaries of a trust that was being dissolved. Dr. Karen M. Rasmussen, who died in 2007, set up a trust to take care of her heirs. When they passed away the ABAS was one of the charities named in the trust for the final disposition of the trust funds. In January of 2017 ABAS received a check in the amount of \$165,326.20.

Dr. Karen M. Rasmussen was born in Moorehead, Minnesota in 1939. She graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, and earned a Ph.D. in History in 1973 from UC, Berkley. She served on the faculty and staff of IU South Bend from 1973 to 1985, when she became a senior staff member of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, advising the Governor and Legislature on state universities' policy and budget matters, until her retirement in 2004. She also served Encouragement Services, Inc., a private, non-profit agency promoting greater enrollment of minority students in college. At retirement, she was awarded a "Sagamore of the Wabash" by Indiana's Democratic Governor Joseph E. Kernan and an education "Bellringer Award" by Dr. Suellen Reed, the Republican State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We are very grateful that Karen entrusted ABAS to make good use of the money. The only instruction was that the funds not be used for general operating expenses. Below is a list of how the money was spent in accordance with our mission to promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the birds of Central Indiana.

- **International Crane Foundation: August 2017–\$25,000.** Whooping Crane Awareness in Indiana (see the associated article page 7)
- **Friends of Holliday Park: February 2018–\$2,575.** Avian Strike Project to make the Nature Center at Holliday Park safer for birds
- **Troop 202: April 2019–\$250.** Eagle Scout Project to build a Chimney Swift Tower in Daubenspeck Community Nature Park
- **Friends of Holliday Park: December 2019–\$100,000.** Outdoor Learning Center - an expansion of the Nature Center
- **International Crane Foundation: December 2019–\$12,521.20.** Whooping Crane Awareness in Indiana (see the associated article page 7)
- **Central Indiana Land Trust: January 2020–\$25,000.** White River Bluffs Nature Preserve

White River Bluffs Nature Preserve: A Rasmussen Fund Project

By Cliff Chapman

Executive Director of the Central Indiana Land Trust

With support from ABAS and nearly 100 other donors and partners, the Central Indiana Land Trust closed on 12.2 acres of wooded bluffs along the White River on January 31st, 2020. The purchase price of \$2,700,000 seemed like an impossible goal in 2015 when negotiations started but a creative purchase agreement spanning nearly four years and commitments from some crucial partners made it a reality.

The preserve contains 85-foot bluffs along the river, deposits from glacial outwash when the river was a torrent of meltwater about 12,000 years ago. An urban woods located across from Rocky Ripple with incredible views of Butler University and the downtown skyline in winter, it can be quite birdy in migration. An abundance of migratory thrushes are found in the area each spring, along with the other species one would expect, such as Tennessee Warblers up and down the bluffs. Bald eagles nest nearby and are often seen soaring along the river.

Part of the property needs restoration and the land trust plans to saturate open spots with butterfly host plants and nectar sources. There are several eroded spots on the bluff itself that are gravelly and appear similar to "barrens" areas in Southern Indiana. These areas will see biodegradable coconut core logs placed strategically to slow water down and will be planted heavily with species like milkweeds, purple coneflower, blazing star, rattlesnake master, little bluestem, and some Southern Indiana "barrens" specialties like prickly pear cactus and stiff aster.

Outdoor Learning Lab at Holliday Park: A Rasmussen Fund Project

By Adam Barnes, Executive Director of Friends of Holliday Park

Holliday Park is grateful to ABAS for its generous support of our Outdoor Learning Lab project. As we work to complete fund-raising for the project and break ground this fall, ABAS's leadership gift of \$100,000 is truly helping to turn our vision into reality.

The Holliday Park Nature Center serves at the heart of our vision of being a leading provider of environmental education in central Indiana. Each year, park staff teach over 27,000 school children, scouts, families, and adults during educational programs while another 55,000 visitors enjoy the self-guided learning opportunities offered in the Nature Center. The Outdoor Learning Lab will transform the underutilized space behind the Nature Center into an asset that will expand our educational mission to thousands of additional visitors.

The Outdoor Learning Lab will be a space where visitors can enjoy a unique, immersive experience. A cohesive design transforms the space into a gateway connecting the scientific discovery happening in the Nature Center to the trail system and park grounds. The thoughtful layout of an outdoor classroom, a water feature, native gardens, bird feeding stations, and the inclusion of interpretive elements will create an Outdoor Learning Lab that enhances passive visitor experiences and active environmental education. At the same time, it will improve habitat for a wide variety of birds and wildlife.

Special Donations

*In memory of William F. Steinmetz
by his daughter, Louise Haskett*

*In memory of Steve Housefield
by his wife, Karen Bower*

Wood Warbler Coffee

International Crane Foundation Whooping Crane Awareness in Indiana: A Rasmussen Fund Project

Courtesy of the International Crane Foundation

Every year, endangered Whooping Cranes start their fall migration south in late October, and do not return north until the spring. The Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes breed in Wisconsin, and make their way towards the southeastern states, passing through and wintering in Indiana. In fact, over fifty percent of Whooping Cranes in the eastern flyway use Indiana as stopover habitat or wintering grounds each year. This makes Indiana a very special state in the eastern flyway and the reason why the International Crane Foundation has ongoing efforts to inform the public about this incredible species. The 2019-2020 migration season has been an eventful one for the Whooping Cranes in Indiana. It has also been a busy one for outreach staff, with the important support of donors like ABAS.

Starting in October 2019 through February 2020, we have been able to send outreach representatives to all corners of Indiana. The outreach season will end with Marsh Madness on February 28th and 29th at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area. Run by the Friends of Goose Pond, this event in Linton, IN will provide the opportunity to join guided bus tours of the property, see the Whooping Crane, Hope, and participate in other events like live raptor talks. Goose Pond and the surrounding areas are a major focal area for the International Crane Foundation's outreach program. This property, reclaimed from farmland, has eight thousand acres of mixed wetlands. This habitat has become an essential place for many wetland-dependent species, especially Whooping Cranes. There have been more sightings of Whooping Cranes at Goose Pond than any other location in Indiana.

We know that passion for protecting these special birds can start at any age, and the International Crane Foundation has made a huge effort to focus on K-12 outreach across the state. Through these efforts we have reached over four thousand students in the 2019-2020 winter season. We have visited elementary schoolers at Linton Elementary, Evansville Day School, and Shakamak Elementary. Middle and high schoolers from Linton, Sullivan, Clinton, and Indianapolis have also learned about the importance of wetlands and the Whooping Crane conservation story. We have also been able to engage with young Tiger Scout and Daisy Troops in Brookville, Indiana to teach them about Whooping Cranes with interactive activities. We have spoken to undergraduate audiences at Purdue University and Ball State University. Several students expressed interest in internship and volunteering opportunities for the International Crane Foundation.

We have had huge success in reaching mixed age groups by working with the Indianapolis and Mesker Park Zoos, museums, nature centers across the state, and gun shows. We have had enthusiastic interactions between traditional birders, naturalists, kids, and outdoorsmen. Although activities such as crane origami always draw in kids, we also tried teaching crane natural history through storytimes and crane dancing workshops. Crane identification talks and the history of the International Crane Foundation are always hits as well with adult groups. Both Purdue University and the Friends of Goose Pond also worked with International

Crane Foundation in developing interactive placemats and other outreach materials to teach the public about Whooping Cranes and viewing ethics. Our largest success this season was the crane viewing weekends at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area during fall migration. Being able to answer thoughtful questions from visitors about the behavior and ecology of the Sandhill Cranes while watching them socialize in real-time was a rewarding experience for our staff and ambassadors.

The International Crane Foundation wishes to sincerely thank ABAS for your generous support of our Whooping Crane outreach program in Indiana. We could not do this without you. If you want to learn more about the International Crane Foundation's work in Indiana, please visit www.savingcranes.org/Indiana. Please remember to respect viewing ethics and always report suspicious activity towards the cranes or their habitat to IDNR at 1-800-TIP-IDNR.



Outreach events sponsored by the International Crane Foundation



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Bookmark smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Let your shopping be not just for your family and friends, but also for the birds of Central Indiana, like the Cerulean Warbler.

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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

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Two-year household membership \$75

Lifetime individual membership \$500

Lifetime membership goes to Permanent Fund

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Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon Society

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Indianapolis, IN 46280

e-mail questions to: info@amosbutleraudubon.org

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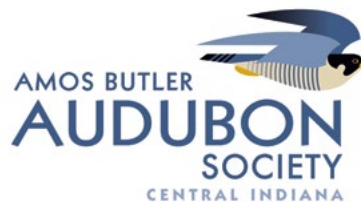
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*Our mission: To promote the enjoyment and
stewardship of the birds of Central Indiana*

Amos Butler Audubon Society

P.O. Box 80024

Indianapolis, IN 46280

Visit our website:

www.amosbutleraudubon.org

Sign up for the online LifeLines at
info@amosbutleraudubon.org