

Chapter Awarded Robert H. and Esther L. Cooper Conservation Award

by Rob Ripma



Rob Ripma with Matthias Benko, who was awarded the Charles D. Wise Youth Conservation Award at the awards meeting

ABAS President Rob Ripma and ABA Treasurer Ted Meyer had the honor of representing our society in Muncie a few weeks ago at an awards banquet hosted by the Robert Cooper Audubon Society. The two officers were there to accept the prestigious Robert H. and Esther L. Cooper Conservation Award on behalf of ABAS, which Dr. Kamal Islam of Ball State University had nominated for the award. The Cooper Conservation Award is the highest honor that Cooper Audubon bestows. It is awarded for overall contributions to, conservation of, and appreciation for the natural environment. Through ABAS's incredibly successful Birdathon program, we have been funding Dr. Islam and his students as they have been studying Cerulean Warblers in the forests of southern Indiana.

It was an honor for Rob and Ted to attend the awards ceremony and for ABAS to be recognized along with the other impressive award recipients. The annual award has had many fine recipients in the past, including such well known Indiana birders as Charlie and Shirley Keller, Birdathon Chair Donna McCarty, and ABAS Past President Don Gorney. Rob and Ted would like to thank everyone who has supported and participated in the Birdathon program. It's because of you that ABAS was recognized for this award.

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society, Inc., is a regional chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving approximately 500 members in East Central Indiana, in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, and Randolph Counties.

Amos Butler Audubon Society Loses One of Its Most Dedicated Members

by Donna McCarty



Carl E. Weber

Carl Weber was just a wonderful man. He was kind, fiercely loyal, and totally honest. His own son said he had never heard his dad say an unkind word about anyone. His honesty served the chapter well in his capacity as ABAS treasurer for more than 20 years—from 1983 to 2005. In fact, ABAS bylaws were modified to allow his continued service. He guarded the chapter's finances as though they were his own. A more devoted and ethical person could not have been chosen.

But ethics and dedication are not all he contributed to ABAS. He led waterfowl ID classes, volunteered for Fowl Play (a children's education outreach), sold bird seed, spoke at legislative hearings on conservation issues, and was a chapter representative at Hoosier Audubon Council meetings. He was one of the founders (along with his good friend Bud Starling) of the original Men's Birdathon team and became one of the Birdathon's top fundraisers. No one exemplified volunteer service more than Carl. He was awarded the first ABAS Carl Weber chapter service award.

Carl was also a regular participant on the Sunday-morning Eagle Creek bird hikes. When he was no longer able to go on the hikes, he still entertained the group every Sunday at the post-hike social gathering with his jokes, of which he had quite a repertoire.

Other organizations also were beneficiaries of Carl's skills and dedication. He served as a board member and treasurer of the Nature Sanctuary & Center for 20 years and was also a valued member of the Eagle Creek Park advisory board.

Carl was no stranger to commitment in his personal life, either. He was married for 59 years to his late wife, Marybelle, and worked for 60+ years at Stahl Engineering. He was a founding member of St. Monica Catholic Church.

Carl was born on February 25, 1924, in Wildenfels, Germany.

He immigrated with his parents, Ernst Carl and Gretchen Weber, through Ellis Island and settled in Chicago, Illinois. He was proud to be an Eagle Scout and an aquatics master. He attended Illinois Institute of Technology and graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering after serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II. Carl passed away November 2, 2015, at St. Vincent Hospice, Indianapolis.

Carl will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will not be forgotten.

Family members have requested that donations in his honor be made to Amos Butler Audubon, P.O. Box 80024, Indianapolis, IN 46280.



Carl with several members of his fan club at the Eagle Creek Valley Christmas Bird Count.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

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. They are free and open to the public. Information: Email Maggie Jaicomo at Margaret.jaicomo@gmail.com or call (260) 403-3172.



January 12: The History of Goose Pond

Presenter: Dr. Lee Sterrenburg

Come and be entertained and informed by Indiana University professor Lee Sterrenburg, who will talk about his work in the creation, preservation, and progress of one of Indiana's premier birding locations: Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area. Lee is currently an Indiana Department of Natural Resources bird monitoring volunteer at Goose Pond. He is both the founder and compiler of the Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count as well as co-administrator of the Friends of Goose Pond Facebook page. For his years of work on bird monitoring, habitat management advising, and publicizing the stunning avian responses to the restoration of wetlands and grasslands at Goose Pond, Lee has received several awards including Conservationist of the Year, the Hoosier Wildlife Award, and Sagamore of the Wabash.

February 9: Cerulean Warblers and Birdathon Funds



**Presenters:
Kamal Islam and
Claire Nemes**

The very charismatic Cerulean Warbler is at the top of many birders' "must-see" lists, but unfortunately their population has declined precipitously over the past several decades. Dr. Kamal Islam and his students at Ball State University have been studying this species in the state forests in

southern Indiana. Current graduate student Claire Nemes, a 2015 recipient of an ABAS Birdathon grant, will speak about research that Birdathon funds have supported and give an overview of Cerulean Warbler life history, the challenges of studying this species, and thoughts about future research priorities. Claire is an avid birder with a particular love for warblers; before moving to Indiana, she completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland and has held a number of bird-related field jobs throughout the Northeast.

ABAS Field Trips



Bald Eagle photo by John Sumner

West Union Covered Bridge Eagle Trip Saturday, January 23, 5:30 a.m.

Meet: Meijer, 10841 E. US 36, Avon

Want to see 30-60 Bald Eagles in one morning? Join Scott Enochs as he leads you to the West Union Covered Bridge to view Bald Eagles leaving their roost on Sugar Creek at day-break. With any luck, a Golden Eagle will join them. From there, we will visit various sites around Newport and Cayuga in search of waterfowl, swans, and other raptors besides eagles. For those interested, we will eat lunch in the Cayuga area around noon and then travel south to Universal Mines to seek out other raptors, waterfowl, swans, and Northern Shrike. We will meet at the Meijer at 10841 E. US 36 in Avon at 5:30 a.m. and carpool to the West Union Covered Bridge. Participants should dress for cold and possibly windy conditions. The event is free, and registration is not required. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net.

Winter Lakefront Trip Saturday, February, 13, 7 a.m.

**Meet: Dick's Sporting Goods
6030 W. 86th St., Indianapolis**

Join Scott Enochs as he leads you to the Indiana Lake Michigan lakeshore in search of wintering gulls and waterfowl, along with any vagrants that may be in the area. We will meet at Dick's Sporting Goods at 6030 W. 86th St. at 7 a.m. and carpool to Lake Michigan, where we will spend the morning and early afternoon visiting various sites around the Indiana lakeshore. Participants should dress for cold and possibly windy conditions. The event is free, and registration is not required. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net.

Great Backyard Bird Count

Eagle Creek Ornithology Center

Saturday, February 13, 9–11 a.m.

Join the Indiana Young Birders Club and the Amos Butler Audubon Society at the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center and help us count birds as part of the largest citizen science project in the nation. We will be giving away a limited number of posters, field guides, and more. The event is free, and families are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact iybc@indianaaudubon.org or visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>.



*Tree Sparrow photo
by Kevin Carlsen*

Sparrow ID Workshop

April 2 (class) and 9 (field trip)

Saturday, April 2, Eagle Creek Ornithology Center, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Saturday, April 9, Field Trip (location TBD)

Many of us refer to sparrows as “little brown birds” because they are so hard to tell apart at a quick glance. If you are interested in getting a more in-depth look at sparrow ID, then this workshop would be perfect for you. We will spend the first meeting learning group characteristics and differences and then go on a field trip to test our ID skills. \$10 per person; pay in cash or check made out to Amos Butler Audubon at the beginning of the class or send payment along with your name, phone number, and email address to Jessica Helmbold at 4929 Sunscape Circle, Apt 1916, Indianapolis, IN 46237. Questions? Contact Jessica at jh_beagle@hotmail.com or (443) 449-8512.

Feeder Friends at Garfield Park Conservatory

Saturday, January 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m., \$5 per person

Not all birds fly south for the winter! Chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers hang around. They need our help during the winter to find food. Join us for a fun and crafty program where you will learn all about helping our local winter birds. Families welcome! Questions? Contact Jessica Helmbold at jhelmbol@indy.gov or (317) 327-7580.

Regularly Scheduled Bird Hikes

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis

Every Sunday year-round, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Ornithology Center.

Information: (317) 327-2473

Marian University EcoLab

3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

Leader: David Benson (dbenson@Marion.edu)

Meet at the St. Francis Colonnade.

Beginning Bird Hikes

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Wednesday and every other Sunday, 9-10 a.m.

January 3, 13, 17, 20, 27, 31;

February 10, 14, 17, 24, 28

Meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park, past the Nature Center.

Information: (317) 774-2500 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History

12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville

First Wednesday of the month, 8:30-10 a.m.

January 6, February 3

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Information: (317) 774-2574 or www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Donations to Amos Butler Audubon Society

In Memory of

Ken Radliff

by Ron & Virginia Isele

William F. Steinmetz

by Louise Haskett

through a GE matching gift

Carl Weber

by Gordon Chastain, Bernie and Elizabeth Bach, Michele DeVilbiss, Edward Drum, Steve and Jan Fink, Mary Ellen and Robert Gadski, Sharon Gremel, Barbara and Paul Jablonski, Don and Donna McCarty, Polly Nicely, Martyn Roberts, Kathryn Rutledge, Margaret Schwarz, Nancy Thomas, Laurie and Gene Voss, and Jan and Al Webber

2015-16 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

Officers:

Rob Ripma, *President, Communications Chair*
Ted Meyer, *Treasurer, Past President*
Jeanette Frazier, *Recording Secretary*

Directors:

Terry Ballenger
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Bill Murphy, *Newsletter Editor*

Executive Committee:

Rob Ripma
Jeanette Frazier
Ted Meyer

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: Susan Leo, ABAS Membership Chair

P.O. Box 80024

Indianapolis, IN 46280

email: info@amosbutleraudubon.org

or join online at www.amosbutleraudubon.org

E-Mail Address, Anyone?

Join with hundreds of other members who have gone green by signing up for the electronic *LifeLines* newsletter and meeting reminders. Send your request, including your name, to Martyn Roberts at info@amosbutleraudubon.org. This shift towards electronic communication continues to save Amos Butler Audubon hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing costs annually.

Are You a Chapter Supporter?

The expiration date of your Chapter Supporter membership is printed on the mailing label on the paper copy of your *LifeLines*, to the right of your name; "N/A" denotes that you have not paid Chapter Supporter dues. To determine the expiration date of your National Audubon Society membership, refer to the address label on your *Audubon* magazine.

If you receive *LifeLines* electronically or if you have any other membership questions, please contact Martyn Roberts at info@amosbutleraudubon.org or call (317) 251-2908.



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

Visit our web site:
www.amosbutleraudubon.org
e-mail: info@amosbutleraudubon.org

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