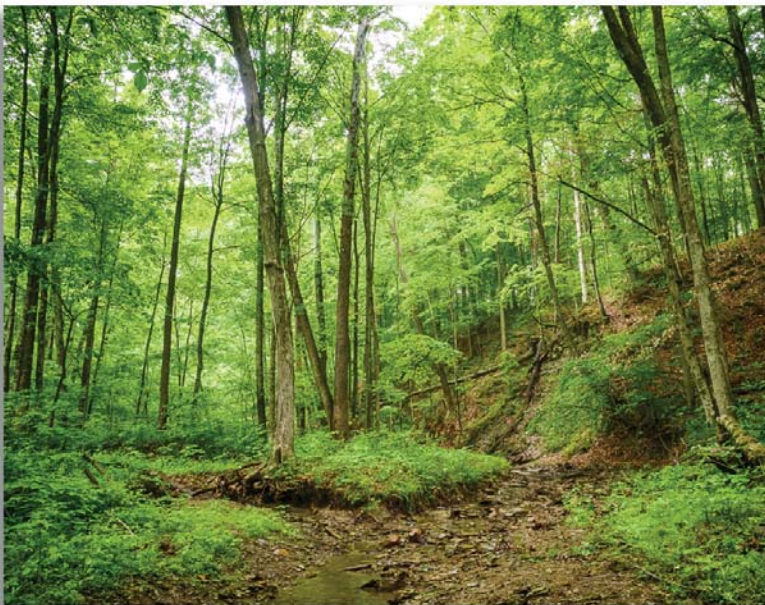


Amos Butler Audubon Society Makes a Big 75th Anniversary Donation

Glacier's End Nature Preserve: A Treasure Trove of Breeding Birds

by Cliff Chapman



Last year the Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) closed on the acquisition of the 203-acre Glacier's End Nature Preserve, located four miles south of Trafalgar in Johnson County. The preserve is going to grow soon to 300 acres when an addition is completed, hopefully by the end of 2016. The preserve will be part of nearly 700 contiguous acres protected in Central Indiana by CILTI since 2009. To date, acquisition of every property protected by CILTI in Central Indiana has been financially supported by Amos Butler Audubon. A few years ago, during its 75th Anniversary year, Amos Butler Audubon contributed \$75,000 towards the protection of Glacier's End.

Breeding Bird Counts Yield Impressive Results

Why is this area a treasure trove for breeding birds? The answer can be found in the results of breeding bird counts that have been conducted in the area for several years. CILTI's goal for the area is to protect habitat for forest-interior species such as Red-eyed Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, and Ovenbird as well as some rare ones like Worm-eating, Hooded, and Cerulean Warblers. Additionally, CILTI was looking for a site that could sustain a breeding population of Eastern Box Turtles. Research has shown that all of these species need an unbroken block of forest of about 700 acres to sustain breeding populations.

What we've found in breeding bird counts at Glacier's End is astounding. Last year there were 25 Acadian Flycatchers, 26 Red-eyed Vireos, 24 Wood Thrushes, five Worm-eating Warblers, five Kentucky Warblers, and three Hooded Warblers found during the count, compared with two Northern Cardinals, one Brown-headed Cowbird, zero European Starlings, and zero House Sparrows. And this is in Johnson County, close to Indianapolis!

A Wide Diversity of Plants and Insects is Good for the Birds

Glacier's End is not what you would expect so close to a major urban area. It is located right where the last glaciers ended their march southward in this part of the state. When all that ice melted, it left behind millions of tons of soil and rock that covered the bedrock hills, which are made of shale. What you find today are areas where all that material has eroded away, with acidic soil supporting plants like blueberries, with areas with glacial till with chunks of granite, and with some hilltops covered with wind-blown loess from earlier glacial times. The plant diversity is excellent because of the wide variety of soil types scattered around hills and valleys, slopes and ridges.

With good plant diversity, there can be good insect diversity. And more bugs means more food for birds. Research has shown that areas with robust and healthy systems (like a large block of forest with high biodiversity) can support more individuals of species in a smaller area than can less robust and less healthy systems. The theory goes that with more resources available, a bird will defend a smaller territory. This is evidenced at Glacier's End, where you can stand on a ridgetop and from one spot hear three Worm-eating Warblers singing. Their territories are that close together.

Glacier's End Nature Preserve should be open to the public, with parking and trails, in 2017.

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.

March 8: 100 Years of State Parks in Indiana

Speaker: Will Schaust



Will Schaust is a recent graduate of Indiana University with a degree in Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Human Ecology. He is currently a seasonal naturalist at McCormick's Creek State Park.

This program will feature a look at the state parks system in their centennial year with emphasis on McCormick's Creek. The story of Indiana's first state park will be told, and some of the park's highlights will be featured.

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.

April 12: This Was Indiana: The Natural Landscape of the Hoosier State in 1816

Speaker: Michael Homoya

During this year of Indiana's bicentennial it is appropriate to remember that prior to statehood Indiana was a land of vast forests, wetlands, and prairie as far as the eye could see. Herds of bison traveled ancient paths, passenger pigeons darkened the skies, and wolves, bears and panthers roamed the land.

All this we know from eyewitness accounts provided by early explorers, pioneers, and government surveyors. Join Michael Homoya, botanist and plant ecologist with the Indiana DNR Division of Nature Preserves, as he answers your questions about a time when Indiana possessed a grandeur we can only imagine.



May 10: The History of Goose Pond

Presenter:
Dr. Lee Sterrenburg

Come and be entertained and informed by Indiana University professor Lee Sterrenburg, 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.

ABAS Field Trips

Waterfowl Field Trip—Bloomington

Saturday, March 5, 7:30 a.m.

Join Scott Enochs and Mike Timmons as they lead a trip to Bloomington in search of migrating waterfowl. Bloomington has many waterfowl hotspots including Lake Monroe, Lake Lemon, and Stillwater Marsh. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Walmart parking lot, located at 8191 Upland Bend in Camby (near Mooresville) and carpool to Bloomington, where we will visit as many of the locations listed above as possible in search of migrating waterfowl. Participants can expect to leave the Bloomington area at around 1 p.m. Registration is not required, and the event is open to everyone. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net

Woodcock Walk #1

Friday, March 11
6 p.m.

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 p.m. at the northwest corner of the West Park parking lot, 2700 West 116th Street, Carmel. Registration is not required, and the event is open to everyone. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net

Woodcock Walk #2

Friday, March 25, 7 p.m.

Join Scott Enochs and Mike Timmons on a walk through Ritchey Woods in search of American Woodcock. Woodcocks have a very acrobatic mating display that they perform at dusk, and Ritchey Woods offers an up-close view of this display. While waiting for sunset, we will explore the area in search of Rusty Blackbirds and the occasional Brewer's Blackbirds that are known to roost in the area. We will meet at 7 p.m. in the Ritchey Woods parking lot, located at 10410 Hague Road, Fishers. Registration is not required, and the event is open to everyone. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net

Smith's Longspur Trip—Lye Creek Prairie Burn

Saturday, April 9, 8 a.m.

Join Scott Enochs and Amy Hodson as they lead a trip to the Lye Creek Prairie Burn ("The Burn") near Linden in search of migrating Smith's Longspurs. The Burn is the most reliable place in Indiana for viewing migrating Smith's Longspurs as it is managed specifically for them. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Marsh parking lot, located at 6965 West 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 in the area. Participants can expect to return to Indianapolis at around 1 p.m. Registration is not required, and the event is open to everyone. Questions? Contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net

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, 8:30 a.m.
March 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30;
April 3, 13, 17, 20, 27;
May 1, 11, 15, 18, 25, 29;
June 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29

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. March 2; April 6; May 4; June 1

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

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

In Memory of

Liz Day
by Miles Zevin

William F. Steinmetz
by Louise Haskett

Bill Brink
by Chris Carlson

Carl Weber
by Miles Zevin
John & Becky Sumner
Robert Baker

Fascinating Findings from 2015 ABAS Birdathon Grantees

by Donna McCarty

Each year we require Birdathon grant recipients to submit a progress report informing us of how they have used their grant. This provides us with essential feedback on how Birdathon donations are benefitting our Central Indiana birds. The reports often include some very unusual findings. Following are some of the more intriguing highlights from the 2015 grant reports.

American Bird Conservancy Cerulean Warbler Corridor

The goal of this project is to protect high-priority wintering habitat for Cerulean Warblers in Colombia and Ecuador by assisting local partners with the proper management of reserves. Working with farmers and landowners, ABC promotes shade-grown, bird-friendly coffee and chocolate, reforests degraded land, and builds capacity to monitor birds in and around protected areas.



Cacao instead of coffee

Some shade-grown coffee plantations are now switching to shade-grown cacao since it is currently more profitable. A national trade organization in Colombia donated 1,200 cacao plants to farms in the corridor. We are hoping to receive some chocolate samples!

Up and coming citizen scientists

We were delighted to learn that 15 high school students enrolled in workshops that will train them to become citizen scientists. The efforts of these young people will be important in monitoring the success of measures to improve habitat.

Ball State University Post-fledging Habitat Use by Cerulean Warblers

Graduate student Claire Nemes' objectives for this project were to determine habitat use by juvenile Cerulean Warblers during the post-fledging period – that is, the weeks after they leave the nest but remain under parental care prior to their southbound fall migration. Birdathon funds enabled the purchase of radio transmitters attached to the birds.



Who knew Cerulean Warblers split parenting duties?

From her report, we learned that when more than one chick fledges from a nest, the Cerulean Warbler pair generally splits the brood, with the

male provisioning and attending to one group of fledglings while the female tends to the other.

Central Indiana Land Trust Hills of Gold BioBlitz

The Land Trust used Birdathon funds to support the 2015 Hills of Gold BioBlitz and a purchase of binoculars. The goal of the project was to facilitate a two-day scientific inventory of all living things in a 695-acre conservation area.

Endangered and threatened species plus one new to science

Researchers found the federally endangered Indiana bat, the federally threatened Northern long-eared bat, and the state endangered timid sedge — only the third time it has been found in Indiana. The arachnid researcher from the University of Indianapolis shared preliminary findings that several very rare species of spiders have been identified, including at least one that is new to science.

Purdue University Post-fledging Association of Mature Forest Birds

The research goal was to clarify the driving factors behind post-fledging habitat associations of mature forest birds and to provide sound scientific data to allow informed wildlife habitat management decisions.

An unexpected resident breeder and another surprise

Project researchers encountered an unexpected resident breeder in two of the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) clear cuts in southern Indiana. They captured and banded 16 Chestnut-sided Warblers. This was the first confirmation of the species' successful breeding attempt in the region in 20 years.

In addition to the presence of Chestnut-sided Warblers, researchers were also surprised to find how many Worm-eating Warblers utilized the HEE clear cuts. They were the most frequently captured species during the 2015 pilot season. Over the summer, researchers captured 257 individuals. Prior to the study, the largest single dataset containing Worm-eating Warbler morphometric measurements consisted of 60 individuals.

Birdathon funds clearly are contributing to a better understanding of bird habitat usage!

Hamilton County Parks Activities

American Woodcock Walk

Taylor Center of Natural History, Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville

Saturday, March 19

Indoor program 7 p.m., outdoor program 7:45 p.m.

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 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 outside. Free. All ages welcome, no pre-registration required. Questions? Call (317) 774-2574 or email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Rookery Preserve

25440 Scherer Ave., Arcadia

Thursday, March 10, 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, March 22, 2:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 26, 4 p.m.; Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 9, 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m.; Friday, April 22, 4 p.m. (Earth Day); Friday, May 6, 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday, May 18, 3:30 p.m.; Thursday, June 2, 2 p.m.; Saturday, June 11, 3:30 pm

Join a Naturalist at the Great Blue Heron rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the Stoops Observation Deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons, which should be busily courting and tending their nests. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment; some equipment will be available. We meet at the observation deck. Free; pre-registration suggested at (317) 774-2500 or email Amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov Questions? Call (317) 774-2574 or email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Audubon Hamilton County May Bird Count

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Saturday, May 14, 8 a.m.

Volunteer to help Hamilton County Parks & Recreation and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day. The results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the United States. Bird watchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Pre-registration is required. Register by calling (317) 774-2500 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Here's a Great Way to Support ABAS — It's AmazonSmile!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Amos Butler Audubon Society every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Amos Butler Audubon.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You will want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile so that all your purchases can benefit the birds of Central Indiana.

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

So go to smile.amazon.com and enter Amos Butler Audubon Society in the search bar, and you will be shopping not just for your family and friends, but for birds like the Cerulean Warbler, too!



Peregrine Falcon dining on Rock Pigeon at Eagle Creek Park January 31. Photo by Barb Jablonski.



Immature Bald Eagle resting on the ice in the waterfowl sanctuary at Eagle Creek Park February 7. Photo by Barb Jablonski.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center Events

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis

Homeschool Family Day

Friday, March 4, 12-3 p.m. Class #9942

Fee: \$10/person, \$3 multi-person discount (max 60 people, all ages)

Parents and children can sign up together for a day of bird-filled fun. The day will consist of 3 activity rotations: Backyard Birds (including bird house building, one per family group), Early Spring Bird Hike, and Nature Journaling. Due to limited indoor space, please register each person, ages 2+, who will be attending. Lunch time is not included. Be sure to dress for the weather!

Conservation 101

Wednesday, March 9, 5-6 p.m. Class #9011

Fee: \$4/person, FREE for college students (ages 15+)

Animal populations naturally grow, decline, and evolve over time, but human actions often have dramatic impacts on these processes. Learn about the basics of population ecology, the history of bird conservation in the United States, and why we should worry about protecting bird populations in the first place.

Conservation Threats

Wednesday, March 16, 5-6 p.m. Class #9015

Fee: \$4/person, FREE for college students (ages 15+)

Roughly 1/3 of bird species in the US are of conservation concern. In most cases, these species are declining due to multiple threats across their ranges. By understanding the threats such as habitat loss and overhunting, we can better recognize and regulate human actions that threaten bird populations. Join us in exploring the multiple issues that threaten animal populations and the simple ways that you can help in the future.

Friday Night Hoots

Friday, March 18, 6:30-8 p.m. Class #9925

Fee: \$8/person (max 15 people, all ages)

See owls up close, dissect an owl pellet, and take a hike into the night to discover the owls of Eagle Creek Park!

Conservation Success Stories

Wednesday, March 23, 5-6 p.m. Class #9016

Fee: \$4/person, FREE for college students (ages 15+)

Join us as we wrap up our conservation series by telling the stories of conservation successes in the US. We will discuss what works, what doesn't and how we can use this knowledge to protect other species and prevent future extinctions.

Fishin' for a Livin'

Tuesday, March 29, 3-4 p.m. Class #9954

Fee: \$3/person (ages 9+)

Many birds rely on a diet of fish. Come to the Ornithology Center to learn about the special adaptations birds have which make them skilled anglers and about the issues threatening their livelihood.

Coffee & Canvas

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Class #9926

Fee: \$20/person (max 12 people, ages 10+)

Come to the Ornithology Center for fresh shade-grown coffee (and other beverages) and a step-by-step art class where you will create a beautiful bird painting to take home. A little nervous to paint? Don't worry! No talent or experience is necessary. The fee provides all art supplies.

Herbs & Birds

Sunday, April 10, 3-4 p.m. Class #9956

Fee: \$6/person (ages 16+)

Which wild plants are edible? Which wild herbs are toxic? Which plants have effective medicinal uses? Which plants do birds scavenge for? Come learn all about Indiana's native wild edible and medicinal plants and how birds use them, and make your own natural herbal tea!

Birds & Beans

Thursday, April 21, 10-11:30 a.m. Class #9953

Fee: \$5/person (ages 18+)

Where did all the birds go? While many of migrants stop in Mexico or Central America, some go as far as South America. One of the biggest threats our wintering birds face is development of forests for coffee plantations. Learn more about shade-grown coffee and the effects it's having on our migrating birds. We'll even do a taste test!

Morning Migration Hike

Saturday, April 23, 9-11 a.m. Class #9976

Fee: \$5/person (max 20 people, all ages)

Celebrate Earth Day with a hike on the beautiful trails of Eagle Creek Park! Eagle Creek is a popular resting spot for many magnificent spring migrants. The hike will be led by one of our bird experts looking for migrating birds we may only see twice a year!

How to Identify Spring Warblers

Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Class #9924

Fee: \$5/person (ages 15+)

Brightly colored warblers are one of the highlights of spring. It's the time to dust off and improve those identification skills! We will start with some "how to" tips and then go on a hike to practice with the migrating warblers in Eagle Creek Park.

Learn Your Birds

Every Tuesday & Thursday, April through May 8-9:30 a.m. Class #9922

Fee: \$10 for 10 sessions total (ages 12+)

To become a birdwatcher, you'll need binoculars, a field guide, and two strong legs. Join us to learn how to find and identify the birds of Eagle Creek Park!

To register online, go to indy.gov/parks. For more information call the Ornithology Center: (317) 327-2473.

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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
- ☐ Two-year individual membership \$45
- ☐ One-year household membership \$40
- ☐ Two-year household membership \$75
- ☐ Lifetime individual membership \$500

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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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