

Birdathon—28 Years and Still Going Strong!

by Donna McCarty

Generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and exuberant team members made a winning combination for the 2014 the Amos Butler Audubon Birdathon. It wasn't a record-breaking year for fundraising, but it was darned close. This year's total was a most impressive \$35,298 — just shy of last year's all time record high of \$35,774. However, it was a record-breaking year for Big Day species counts.

Three Teams Break Birdathon Species Count Record!

It's been a phenomenal year for Birdathon team Big Day events. The previous Big Day species count record of 172, set by the IBA team in 2007, was beaten by not one, not two, but by three teams. The multiple-year high-count champ team, DNR, tallied 173 species on May 18. Last year's high-count champ, UIndy, ventured forth a week earlier in the month, on May 10, and turned in an impressive 175 species. But it was the Wild Birds Unlimited team on May 18 that really raised the bar with a whopping 182 species!

This year we were pleased to add another very youthful team, Wren's Warblers, to our roster. All members were between the ages of three and six. Stonegate Elementary's Benson's Junior Rangers joined us for a second year. These students were all first graders. Our hope is to see some of these budding birdwatchers competing on future teams and continuing our efforts to save wild birds.

Birdathon Dollars Benefit the Birds

Of course, our ultimate goal has always been to support projects that benefit the birds of Central Indiana, both migrants and nesting species. This year some of our grantees are long-time Birdathon grant beneficiaries such as the American Bird Conservancy and their Cerulean Warbler Corridor Project. Also included in this group is the Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, which impacts thousands of visitors with their world-class bird exhibit. Marian University's Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab's bird-friendly habitat restoration projects fall into this category as well. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful received a grant for its native plant showcase project, creating bird habitat at the St. Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center. Hamilton County Parks & Recreation has created an exhibit at its Cool Creek Park facility to educate the public about the history and importance of bird protection laws. The Jameson Camp, which serves hundreds of children each year, was able to create a bird-viewing area.

Our volunteers and team members are already looking forward to Birdathon 2015!



High count champs Wild Birds Unlimited Team members (l-r): Landon Neumann, Eric Ripma, Brian Cunningham, Rob Ripma, and John Schaust



DNR Team members (l-r): Lee Casebere, Michael Brattain, Roger Hedge, John Cassidy, and Cloyce Hedge



Representing UIndy Team members Ryan Sanderson, Ryan Hamilton, Kim Higdon, and Aidan Rominger is this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Photo by Aidan Rominger



Fundraising champs Bud & Carl's Legacy Team members (l-r): Marty Williams, Janet Tuten, Keith Starling, Amanda Smith, and Jerry Williams

Upcoming Audubon Programs

All Programs are held at the Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Springmill 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. Information: Email Brittany Davis Swinford at bluemoosey8@yahoo.com or call (812) 340-0824.



Spangled Skimmer



Halloween Pennant

September 9: Dazzling Dragonflies

Speaker: Tom Swinford, Assistant Director and Ecologist at IDNR Nature Preserves

Ferocious predators of powerful flight, dragonflies have changed little over millions of years. Join IDNR expert Tom Swinford for a review of many aspects of dragonfly biology and their conservation in Indiana. Learn to identify both the common species as well as some of Indiana's rarest species and learn about their unique stream and wetland haunts.



October 7: Two Months in a Tropical Rainforest

Note: This month the program is on the first Tuesday

Speaker: Ron Weiss, certified Master Bird Bander and Assistant Professor of Biology at Marian University

Ron's research has taken him to many regions of North America as well as to the Bahama Islands, the rainforests of Costa Rica, the Páramo of the Andes Mountains, the rainforests of Ecuador, the deserts and coastal regions of Namibia and South Africa, and various regions of the tropical Pacific. Join him for an evening and learn about his research in the tropics and what impacts it has had for Indiana's birds.

Audubon Field Trips



Tennessee Warbler photo by Donna McCarty

Fall Warbler Field Trip – McCloud Nature Park, North Salem, Indiana (Hendricks Co.)

Saturday, September 13, 8 a.m.

Meet at the Marsh grocery store, 6965 West 38th Street in Indianapolis

Join Scott Enochs as he leads a nature walk through McCloud Nature Park. The primary targets for this trip will be migrating warblers that are stopping over on their journey to their wintering grounds. We will also seek out migrating tanagers, grosbeaks, and thrushes. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Marsh grocery store located at 6965 West 38th Street in Indianapolis and carpool to McCloud Nature Park, which is located at 8518 Hughes Road, North Salem, in Hendricks County. Participants can expect to return by approximately 11:30 a.m. Please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or email him at msenochs@comcast.net if you have any questions. Registration is not required for this event, and it is open to everyone.

Sparrow Identification Field Trip Saturday, October 4, 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Registration required

Meet in the southwest corner of the Traders Point Dick's Sporting Goods parking lot

Join Scott Enochs on a field trip to a local hot spot near Lebanon in search of resident and migratory sparrows. Our target sparrows will be Song, Field, Swamp, Lincoln's, White-throated, White-crowned, Nelson's, and LeConte's. Participants can attend either the 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. trip, but space will be limited to 10 people in each time slot. We will meet in the southwest corner of the Traders Point Dick's Sporting Goods parking lot and carpool the fullest extent possible, as parking is limited at our destination. This is a free event, but registration is required by contacting Scott at msenochs@comcast.net. Please be sure to note which trip you wish to attend and to include the names and contact information of all participants. If you have any questions, please contact Scott at the email address above or at (317) 850-4801.

Cool Creek Park Birding Activities

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Beginning Bird Hikes

Wednesdays and every other Sunday, September 10, 14, 17, 24, 28; October 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29
8:30 to 10 a.m.

Meet in the north parking lot past the Nature Center

Birds are fascinating, and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures, however, can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings, and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for birdwatchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars! For more information, contact Amanda Smith at amandasmith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Saturday Morning Fall Migration Bird Hikes

Saturdays, August 30, September 6, 13, 20, 27
8 a.m.-10 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500

Catch a peek of some beautiful birds as they make their annual trip south this fall. The hikes are led by well-known birder Keith Starling. Hurry — some species will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the Nature Center's wildlife viewing room for coffee and doughnuts. Don't forget to bring your binoculars!

Indiana Bluebird Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cool Creek Park Nature Center
2000 E. 151st St., Carmel

The Indiana Bluebird Society will be holding its annual fall conference at the Cool Creek Nature Center. This free conference will feature guest speakers and a roundtable discussion concerning bluebirds. Lunch will be on your own, or bring a dish to share! Anyone who is interested in the preservation of bluebirds and who would like to learn more is welcome. You don't have to be a member to participate, and pre-registration is not required. If you would like more information, please check the website www.Indianabluebirdsociety.org or call the Cool Creek Nature Center at (317) 774-2500.

White River is Migration Station!

Saturday, September 6 at 4 p.m.

Potter's Bridge Park
19401 N. Allisonville Road, Noblesville

Stroll the White River Greenway Trail at Potter's Bridge Park while we look for birds! Water attracts birds all year, but fall migration is an especially great time to be along the river looking for birds. Binoculars will be helpful, but if you don't have them you can borrow some of ours. If the birding is slow, we will talk about native plants on which birds depend. We will meet in front of the south end of Potter's Bridge.

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

Fort Harrison State Park
5753 Glenn Road, Indianapolis
Each Sunday in September and October
8 a.m.

Leader: Don Gorney
dongorney@yahoo.com

Meet at the Delaware Lake parking lot.

Marian University EcoLab
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis
Wednesdays starting September 3, 8 a.m.

Leader: David Benson (dbenson@marion.edu)

Meet at the St. Francis Colonnade.

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel
Wednesday and every other Sunday
8:30-10 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500

Saturdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27; 8 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville
First Wednesday of the month
September 3 and October 1; 8:30-10 a.m.
Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Information: (317) 984-5556



*Looks like it feels good to be a Juvenile Mockingbird.
Photo by Barb Jablonski*

**Help raise funds for
Amos Butler Audubon
by printing out these flyers
and dining out at a
Granite City Restaurant on
Thursday, September 18**

**20% of your bill will be donated
to ABA by presenting
one of these flyers to your server**

Choose one of two locations:

**Downtown at
49 West Maryland Street**

or

**Carmel at
150 West 96th Street**



**It's Amos Butler
Audubon Day
at Granite City!**

September 18th

Granite City
49 West Maryland St
803.2025
150 West 96th St
218.7185

Present this flyer to your server and 20%
of your TOTAL tab will be donated to



www.gcfb.com
Can't make it? To-Go orders are included too!



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2014 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

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Amos Butler Audubon Chapter Supporter Membership

Membership benefits:

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

One-year chapter supporter \$20

Two-year chapter supporter \$35

One-year student memberships are free. Chapter supporter can be combined with National Audubon membership for a total of \$40.

National Audubon Society Membership Introductory Offer \$20 for first-time members only. Includes *Audubon* magazine

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Address

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E-mail (please include)

Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon

E-mail questions to:
info@amosbutleraudubon.org

Mail to: Martyn Roberts, Membership Chair
Amos Butler Audubon
5945 Ralston Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

I do do not want Amos Butler Audubon to share my name with the National Audubon Society. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. C3ZH000Z

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**

Amos Butler Audubon
P.O. Box 80024
Indianapolis, IN 46280