

Welcome to the World of Phylogenetics

By Jeff Peters, Professor of Avian Biology at Wright State University



Merlin courtesy of Jeff Peters

The Merlin is part of a group of birds called falcons. Throughout the history of taxonomy (the naming and classification of organisms), it was thought that falcons were closely related to other raptors, including hawks, eagles, kites, and vultures. I mean, they look and behave similarly, right? This entire group was classified in the avian order “Falconiformes”. However, as scientists dug further into the genetics of birds, an incredibly surprising relationship emerged. Falcons are genetically more similar to songbirds and parrots than they are to hawks and eagles! And it turns out that hawks and eagles are genetically more similar to woodpeckers and kingfishers! Additional research examining more DNA, including complete genomes, and using more sophisticated analyses has only strengthened this finding.

So, check out the phylogenetic tree below created using publicly available data at birdtree.org. Find the Merlin. I arbitrarily placed it at the top of the tree. If you place your finger on the line leading to the Merlin (this is called a tip) and trace the line (this is a branch) to the left, you will hit a point where the branch merges with a branch leading to the American Kestrel. This point shows that, of the birds I included in this analysis, the Merlin is most closely related to the American Kestrel.

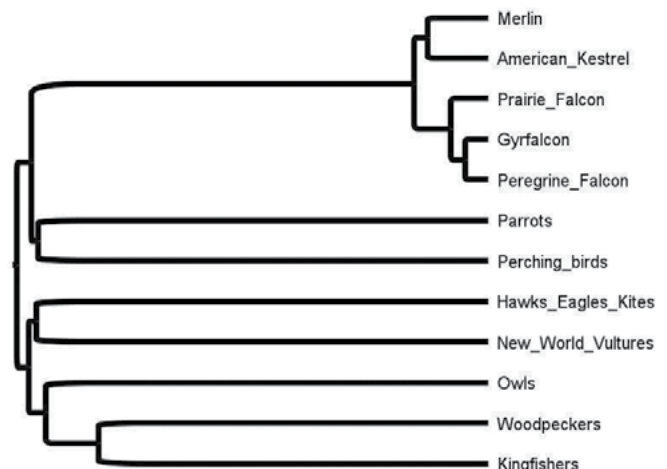
Continue tracing the branch to the left; it then merges with a branch leading to the Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, and Gyrfalcon. Thus, the Peregrine, Prairie, and Gyrfalcon are more closely related to each other than they are to the Merlin and Kestrel. They are the “sister” group of the merlin/kestrel group.

Now here is where it gets really cool. Continue moving to the left along the branch, and you will find the next most closely related group includes the parrots and the perching birds, including songbirds. Only when you move further to

the left do you find a point where this branch merges with the branch leading to hawks and eagles! And this branch also leads to woodpeckers, kingfishers, owls, and a number of other birds not included in this analysis. Note that owls are genetically more similar to woodpeckers and kingfishers than they are to hawks and eagles — another really cool result! Trace your finger along the branch starting at Owls to convince yourself of this.

The length of the branch from the tip to the point where two branches merge tells you how genetically similar are the birds. This tells us something about how long ago the birds shared a common ancestor. Shorter branches equal less time. Longer branches equal more time. The falcons shared a fairly recent common ancestor, though the common ancestor of falcons, songbirds, and parrots existed a long time ago, and the common ancestor of falcons and hawks is even older!

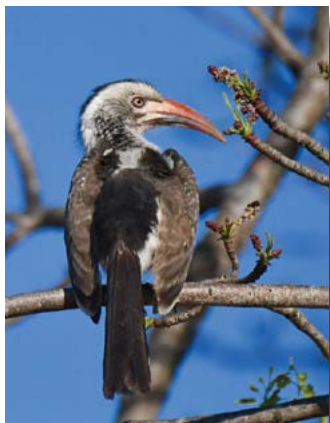
Since the publication of these results, the taxonomy of birds has changed dramatically. Falcons have retained the name Falconiformes. Hawks, eagles, and kites have been placed in a new order, the Accipitriformes. Given how long ago vultures shared a common ancestor with hawks and eagles (check out the phylogenetic tree to see this), they have been placed in their own order, the *Cathartiformes*. If you have updated to the latest edition of Sibley’s field guide, you might have noticed that falcons are no longer placed near hawks, eagles, and vultures. You’ll find them just before the parrots, and after the woodpeckers. If you are an eBird lister, you might have noticed the same placement of falcons on the checklist. They are nowhere close to hawks. If you read the entirety of this article, you now know why. Welcome to the world of phylogenetics. I love this field!



Phylogenetic Tree courtesy of Jeff Peters

Upcoming Audubon Programs, Events, and Field Trips

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



*Southern Red-billed Hornbill
courtesy of Doug Vine*

Birding South Africa

**Tuesday, March 12
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

**Holliday Park Nature Center
6363 Spring Mill Road
Indianapolis, IN**

Join ABAS member, shutterbug, and local birder Doug Vine as he presents photo highlights from his recent visit to South Africa. African creatures are majestic and awe-inspiring, and so are the birds! Doug's trip included a Cape

Town-based pelagic trip, and safaris into Kruger National Park, the Karoo, and KwaZulu-Natal regions.

Why Bird Feeding Makes A Difference

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

**Holliday Park Nature Center
6363 Spring Mill Road Indianapolis, IN**

Join ABAS Board Director Brian Cunningham for an informative program about feeding the birds.

Anyone who has ever fed wild birds knows that it can bring joy to their lives. But, does bird feeding just benefit people? Do the birds become dependent on the food we provide? We'll take a look at what we have learned from various scientific studies and citizen science data on why feeding wild birds makes a difference for the health and well-being of people and for our backyard feathered visitors.

Brian Cunningham has a love for the outdoors, nature, and birds. His greatest passion is helping others experience nature and opening their eyes to the wonder and beauty of birds. Brian has worked at Wild Birds Unlimited for 22 years and is their Product and Hobby Education Manager.

Brian has a BS in Forestry with an emphasis in Forest Recreation from Purdue University



*Brian
Cunningham*

Beers with Birders!

Thursday, March 14, 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.

Spring Warbler Workshop

Saturday, April 13, 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm

**Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center
6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN**



Prothonotary Warbler courtesy of Amy Hodson

Join Scott Enochs, warbler identification enthusiast and Field Trip Chair for ABAS, for a crash course in warbler identification. We will start in the Ornithology Center classroom and then head outside, weather permitting, to look for migrating warblers in Eagle Creek Park.

This event is free with park admission. Drop-ins are welcome. If you have binoculars, please bring them. If you would like to look for warblers after the presentation, please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Please let us know if you plan to attend at jh_beagle@hotmail.com.

Smith's Longspur Field Trip Lye Creek Prairie Burn

Sunday, April 14, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Meet at old Marsh Parking Lot
6965 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN



Smith's Longspur courtesy of Christopher Collins

Join ABAS on a trip to the Lye Creek Prairie Burn (aka "The Burn") and surrounding areas in search of migrating Smith's Longspurs. The Burn is the most reliable place for viewing this species in Indiana as it is managed specifically for them.

We will meet at 8:00 am at the old Marsh parking lot, located at 6965 West 38th Street in Indianapolis, and will 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 around 1:00 pm.

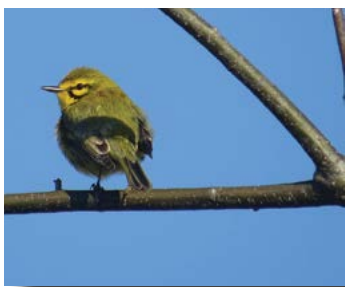
Please contact Amy Hodson at aehodson@gmail.com if you have any questions. Registration is not required, and the event is open to the public.

Spring Warbler Migrant Hike

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 am to 10:00 am

Sodalis Nature Park
7700 South County Road 975 East, Plainfield, IN

Join Scott Enochs on a hike through Sodalis Nature Park. We will meet in the Sodalis Nature Park parking lot and begin our search for migrating warblers, tanagers, and thrushes. This hike will last approximately two and a half hours. Participants are encouraged to bring insect repellent and water boots as the trails can be muddy at this time of year.



Prairie Warbler courtesy of Scott Enochs

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register by contacting Scott at (317) 850-4801, or at msenochs@comcast.net.



Lights Out Indy Call Out for Volunteers

Volunteers needed April 1 through May 31

ATTENTION INDY BIRD LOVERS! Lights Out Indy is looking for volunteers to help in several aspects of our initiative.

We are seeking volunteers interested in:

- Contacting building owners to encourage them to participate in our initiative to turn off/dim their lights during nighttime hours to reduce bird collisions during migration.
- Developing ideas for education and promotion.
- Networking with nonprofit organizations, businesses, societies, etc., to create partnerships.
- Contacting public officials to encourage bird-safe building legislation.
- Surveying for birds fallen victim to window strike. This volunteer position will involve walking routes downtown to document bird strikes in the early morning hours, as well as rescuing injured birds.

Spring migration is coming up soon! If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please contact Austin Broadwater at abroadwater1990@gmail.com.

Support ABAS using AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support ABAS every time you shop, at no cost to you. With AmazonSmile, you'll find the same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as on Amazon but with the added bonus that Amazon donates a portion of the purchase to ABAS.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com and enter Amos W. Butler Audubon Society in the search bar. You can use your existing Amazon account on AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings remain the same.

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.

Local Bird Hikes

Starkey Park Spring Walks

667 Sugarbush Drive, Zionsville, IN
Saturdays, 8:00 am to 9:30 am
March 23 and April 27

Explore Starkey Park in search of resident birds and spring migrants during a series of monthly morning bird walks led by Zionsville birders Jonathan and Whitney Yoerger. All skill levels are welcome. Meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot located on Sugarbush Drive. Email whitney.yoerger@gmail.com for more information.

Cool Creek Park Beginning Bird Hikes

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN
Walks are 9:00 am to 10:00 am
March 10, 13, 20, 24, 27 and April 7, 10, 17, 24

Join a naturalist and other guest leaders most Sunday and Wednesday mornings and we will learn together. This is a great opportunity for birdwatchers of all levels. Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the road by Cool Creek, past the Nature Center.

Eagle Creek Park

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN
Every Sunday at 9:00 am to 11:00 am
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 14, 21, 28

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 19, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
April 16, 8:00 am to 9:30 am

Meet in front of the Holliday Park Nature Center.

Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville, IN
First Wednesday of each month, 9:00 am to 10:00 am
March 6 and April 3

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History. For more information, call (317) 774-2574 or visit myhamiltoncountyparks.com.

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab

3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN
Most Wednesdays in March and April
8:00 am to 10:00 am
March 6, 20, 27 and April 3, 10, 17, 24

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

Fort Harrison State Park

6000 North Post Road, Indianapolis, IN
Sundays in April and May, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
April 7, 14, 21, 28

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

Spring Migration at Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN
Saturdays in April and May, 8:00 am to 9:30 am
April 20 and 27

The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the road by Cool Creek, past the Nature Center.

Southeastway Park

5624 South Carroll Road, New Palestine, IN
Tuesdays in April and May, 9:00 am to 11:30 am
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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

Greenfield Birders Hikes

Second and fourth Saturdays of most months

Thornwood Nature Preserve

1597 South Morrissetown Pike, Greenfield, IN
April 13 at 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Brandywine Park

900 East Davis Road, Greenfield, IN
April 27 at 8:00 am to 10:00 am

Stay up-to-date via facebook.com/groups/GreenfieldBirders. For more information, contact Adam Wilson at NikonBirdHunter@gmail.com.

Great Blue Heron Rookery Programs

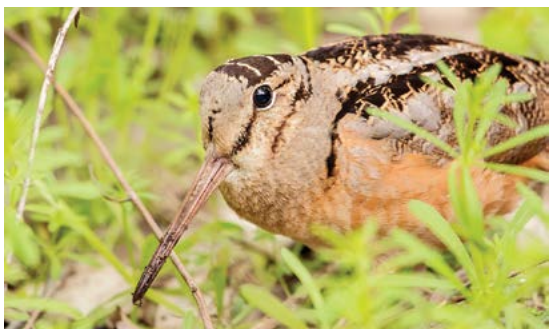
25440 Scherer Ave, Arcadia, IN
Wednesday, March 28, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturday, April 6, 8:00 am to 9:30 pm
Thursday April 11, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Tuesday April 16, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Monday, April 22, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Join a Hamilton County Park Naturalist at the Great Blue Heron rookery in Hamilton County. Meet at the Stoops Observation Deck. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment. Some equipment will be available. The event is free though pre-registration is preferred. Register by calling (317) 774-2574 or emailing amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

Donations

*From Louise Haskett in memory of
her father, William Steinmetz*

Upcoming Woodcock Walks



American Woodcock courtesy of Amy Hodson

West Park

Saturday, March 9, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
2700 West 116th Street, Carmel, IN

Join Scott Enochs in 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 the northwest corner of the West Park parking lot. Please 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.

Daubenspeck Community Nature Park

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
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.

We will meet at 7:00 pm in the DCNP parking lot. The main trail of Daubenspeck is mowed, but the ground can be somewhat uneven.

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

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Saturday, March 23, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
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 of Natural History 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.

Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab Night Hike

Wednesday, April 3, 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN

Join Marian University for an early spring night hike to learn about beavers, owls, and other native Indiana wildlife active in the spring!

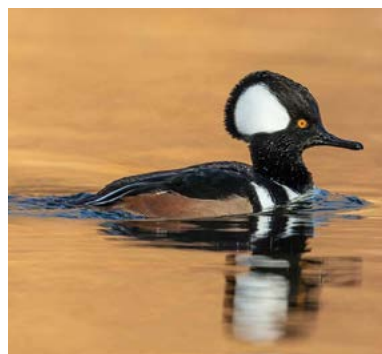
Come out to the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab to enjoy an evening hike looking for frogs, owls, and to see the handiwork of the resident beaver colony. We'll start with a hike at dusk, looking and listening for the elaborate aerial displays and calls of the woodcock that reside in the EcoLab, do some owl calling, and look for other signs of early spring wildlife activity. We'll learn about beaver adaptations and the role of beavers in wetlands, and will learn some really cool facts about owls too. All ages welcome and encouraged! Bring flashlight, binoculars, and dress appropriately for the weather since we will be outside. 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, and then head down to the EcoLab shortly after. This event is free and family friendly! Registration is appreciated, especially if you are bringing a group. You can register at the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab website. Go to the event titled Beaver Bonanza on April 3. Questions can be directed to Stephanie Schuck at sschuck@marian.edu.

Winter Lakefront Trip Recap

By Scott Enochs

On, January 26, Mark Welter and I birded the Indiana Lake Michigan lakefront in search of wintering waterfowl, gulls, and any vagrants that may be in the area. We started with a morning temperature of 1 degree and made it all the way up to 18 degrees. The lack of wind and abundant sunshine made birding comfortable. Stops included Hammond Lakefront and Marina, Whiting Park, BP Warm Water Outlet, Jeorse Park, Portage Lakefront Park, Port of Indiana, Beverly Drive, and Michigan City Harbor. Unfortunately, winds the previous days pushed ice inland, and we found many of our stops choked with ice. Despite this, we managed to get great looks at a few good birds. Highlights of the trip were Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Merganser, Common Merganser, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter (handsome male at Portage), White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Red-shouldered Hawk, Herring Gull, and Great Black-backed Gull.



*Hooded Merganser
courtesy of Mike
Timmons*

Bird Photography Walk at Eagle Creek Recap

By Amy Hodson

On a very foggy morning, 25 people joined me at Eagle Creek Park for an Amos Butler Audubon Society walk focused on bird photography. Boy, did we have fun!

We began at the Ornithology Center where we discussed camera gear, settings, techniques and had fun practicing our skills on the speedy birds around the feeders. While our lenses were focused on Tufted Titmice, Song Sparrows, Downy Woodpeckers (even Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers!), Jeff Ludlow called out “Red-breasted Nuthatch”! That little firecracker didn’t cooperate for my lens, but I know a few of the participants were able to capture some photos of him.

While shooting at the Ornithology Center, the fog lifted. We decided to head over to the seed piles that some wonderful birders have started around the park. Although the first seed pile didn’t have a ton of activity, the entire group was able to fire off some shots at a beautiful male Eastern Towhee!

Since our time was coming to an end, some of the group decided to call it a day while the rest of us went to check a second seed pile. At that location, there was a lot more activity. A few Fox Sparrows popped in for a visit with the American Tree Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and my personal favorite, Dark-eyed Juncos. The regular crew



Eastern Towhee courtesy of Jining Han

of Tufted Titmice were bossing around the Blue Jays, and about a DOZEN Eastern Towhees were all scratching in the snow. It was awesome!

After 15 minutes or so, Jeff Packer spotted the definite highlight of the day, a Brown Thrasher! We patiently waited, and were rewarded with excellent views and photo opportunities. Photographing a Brown Thrasher in the snow was not something I anticipated for the day. It goes to show that when photographing birds, you just never know what might show up!

Big high fives to everyone who joined the photography walk!

A Decade of Avian Education

By Will Schaust, Ornithology Center Manager

2019 will mark a special anniversary for the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center. In October of this year, the center will celebrate its 10th anniversary of offering premier bird education to the residents of Indiana and beyond. With this being such a special occasion, I thought that it might be fun to take a look back at its historic past and offer a glimpse into its future.

In its early days, the building served as the private library of Josiah Kirby (J.K.) Lilly Jr., grandson of pharmaceutical company founder Col. Eli Lilly. In 1934 he purchased his initial 12 acres where a library, lodge, and caretaker’s cottage were constructed. Lilly kept his most prized possessions in his library, including 20,000 books, 17,000 manuscripts and letters, old coins, stamps, nautical models, and firearms. One of the highlights of Lilly’s collection was one of John Audubon’s Birds of America. This book contained life-sized drawings paired with 435 hand-painted plates. You can still see this book on display at the Lilly Library on the campus of Indiana University – Bloomington. With all of these precious items being housed in one building, Lilly made sure to construct a building with the utmost security. The walls and floor of the Ornithology Center are made of 14 inch thick, reinforced

concrete, and every door and window has a steel shutter that can be closed and locked.

After Lilly took ill in the mid-1950’s, he donated the land to Purdue University to manage. About a decade later, the entire property (about 3,000 acres) was sold to the City of Indianapolis for the creation of a flood control reservoir. Once the reservoir was completed, Eagle Creek Park was opened in 1972 by our then-mayor, Dick Lugar. Lilly’s library served as the original nature center from 1973 - 2007.

The creation of the Ornithology Center was due to the vision and extraordinary drive of Kevin Carlsen. Kevin had been working at Eagle Creek Park since 1999 after a career in construction that lasted over 30 years. As the new Earth Discovery Center was being built in 2007, the fate of the Lilly Library was unknown at that point. Kevin amassed

an incredible amount of funding and a dedicated crew of volunteers and got to work remodeling the original nature center into a facility dedicated to the study of birds. After two years of remodeling, Kevin’s dream was a reality. The Eagle Creek Ornithology Center opened in October 2009 and has continued to be a site for excellence in bird education with the help of live raptor ambassadors, one of a kind displays, and top rated interpretive programming. Thanks to the success of what Kevin and his volunteer crew had



Continued on page 8



Ornithology Center staff naturaliste, Rachael Ledbetter conducts an interpretive program class.

A Decade of Avian Education continued from page 7

accomplished, Indianapolis Power and Light Co. awarded Kevin the Golden Eagle Environmentalist of the Year Award.

As for the future, we are incredibly excited for what lies beyond our 10th anniversary. The staff at the Ornithology Center are passionate, knowledgeable, creative, and frankly some of the best people I've had the fortune to work with. Not only are we looking forward to our 2nd Annual Eagle Creek Birding Festival (May 4th), 4th Annual Owl Festival (October 26th), and countless school groups, we are also taking a hard look at our displays, daily operations, and programming to provide you with Indy's best nature experience. Eagle Creek Park is one of the state's best destinations for birdwatchers, and we are happy to provide a place where folks can channel their passion for birds and hopefully introduce newcomers to the wonders of the hobby.

The Hills of Gold Hold Valuable Nuggets of Biodiversity

By Dr. Marc Milne, Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Indianapolis

Aside from the occasional polar vortex, Indiana is largely free of extreme icy conditions. However, most of Indiana was once covered by a gigantic, 10,000 foot deep ice sheet as recently as 11,000 years ago. The legacy of those ice sheets can still be witnessed at one special location in Johnson County called Glacier's End Nature Preserve. Located just southeast of Lamb Lake in the Brown County Hills, the Preserve's name comes from glaciers making their last stop in the northern part of this Preserve around 11,000 years ago. This stoppage led to interesting geology (unique rock types, a mixture of pH's in the soil, etc.) which, in turn, created interesting plant communities that may be partly responsible for high biodiversity in the area. While this area was also called the "Hills of Gold" due to a gold discovery there in the 19th century, this name can now also refer to area's high diversity of organisms.

In 2015, Glacier's End Nature Preserve, a 300-acre tract of land, was purchased by Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. (CILTI), a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to protecting natural places in central Indiana. CILTI purchased this land with the help of donors, landowners, and conservation organizations, including the Amos Butler Audubon Society (ABAS) who made a \$75,000 donation in honor of their 75th anniversary as an organization.

In 2015, the Indiana Academy of Science coordinated a bioblitz (or a short-term taxonomic assessment of a location by experts and volunteers) at CILTI and the results were golden! Plant experts found state endangered species, Timid Sedge, and two new state distribution records of species not known from Indiana, Tongue Moss and Pigtail Moss. Mammal experts found the state endangered Long-eared Bat and Indiana Bat. Reptile experts found protected species such as Eastern Box Turtles, and bird experts found species such as Red-Shouldered Hawks, Red-eyed Vireos, and Ovenbirds. But some

of the most amazing discoveries came from one of the birds' favorite lunch — spiders.

I led my spider team in discovering five new state distribution records and an undescribed species new to science: *Oreonetides sp.* — a yellow spider, about 3 mm in size, that lives among leaves near the soil. After these amazing discoveries, I knew I had to collect more. With CILTI's permission, my lab and I sampled Glacier's End four more times in 2016 and 2017 by sifting through leaf litter, using a sweep net over grasses and bushes, and collecting by hand.

Not only did we find five more new state distribution records (10 total), we also found the never-before seen male of a known species and four more undescribed species that were new to science! The male was of *Disembolus corneliae* (a 1.7 mm leaf-litter dwelling critter). The spiders new to science are *Neodietrichia sp.* (a 2.5 mm brown leaf-litter dweller), *Cicurina sp.* (a medium-sized mesh-weaving spider commonly living on the ground under leaves), *Ceratinops sp.* (a 1.3 mm brown leaf-litter dweller), and *Oedothorax sp.* (a 2 mm dusky orange spider that also prefers a life among fallen leaves). Our lab is currently describing many of these spiders and sending them to museums to be catalogued.

Conservation requires us to care about all the species existing in the fragile habitats of our world, because, as we have learned in the past, all these organisms are intricately connected. Small arthropods are prey to spiders, while spiders are prey to birds. Without the former, the latter would not exist. The unique spider diversity at Glacier's End is a testament to the uniqueness of the habitat and the importance of its conservation. CILTI was wise to purchase and protect such a biodiverse region of our state, and organizations like the ABAS help



Left to right: Never before seen male *Disembolus corneliae*, new to science *Neodietrichia sp.* and *Oedothorax sp.*

make CILTI's work possible. Finally, ABAS would not be able to aid such conservation organizations without the help of its members. Therefore, like an intricately connected ecosystem, we all work together.

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Membership benefits:

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 - *Audubon LifeLines*, the chapter newsletter
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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

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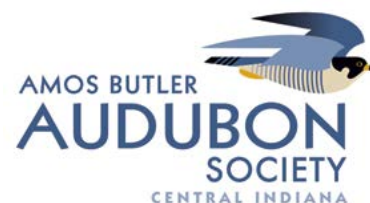
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Chad Williams, *Program Chair*



Brown Thrasher courtesy of Jeff Packer. Blue Jay courtesy of Phillip Taylor



Visit our website:
www.amosbutleraudubon.org
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*Our mission: To promote the enjoyment and
stewardship of the birds of Central Indiana*

Amos Butler Audubon Society
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