

Anna's Hummingbird in Indiana

By Allen T. Chartier

Indiana's first Anna's Hummingbird, a female, was found in 2010 at a private residence where birders could not visit. On the afternoon of November 2, 2020, I was contacted by a homeowner in Lake County, Indiana about a hummingbird they had at their feeders since October 31. One of their photos is below. It was pretty clear to me that it was an immature (hatch-year) male Anna's Hummingbird. The homeowners, Janis and Dennis Rubino contacted a local birder, Michael Topp, who managed some additional photos before it got dark, and he agreed that it was an Anna's Hummingbird. These generous people then opened up their back yard to visiting birders.

I was contacted by Don Gorney about the possibility of banding this bird, as I have done with many other rare hummingbirds in Indiana since 2002. Discussions about this with the homeowners were brief, as they had attended a hummingbird banding program that I do annually at the Indiana Dunes State Park every August (but not this year due to COVID-19). I scheduled the banding for Friday, November 6, when there might not be too many people around (for COVID compliance). When I arrived at 8:30 in the morning, the bird had just made a brief appearance at 8:20. It returned at about 8:55, and it lingered for about 10 minutes, checking out each of the 4 feeders that were available in the backyard.

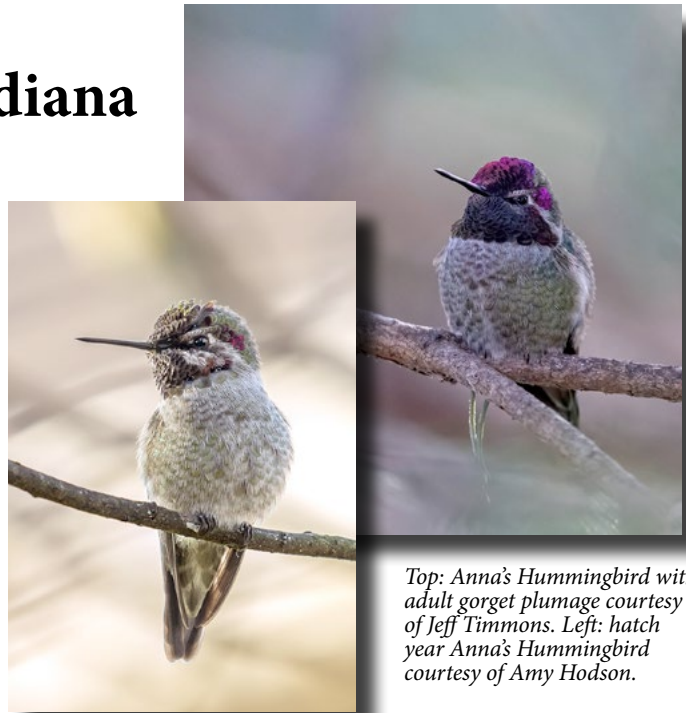
I set up my trap at 9:15 and waited for about 45 minutes before the bird reappeared, immediately went in, and was captured.

All plumage characteristics confirmed that this bird was indeed a hatch-year male Anna's Hummingbird, in a fairly advanced molt with a lot of iridescent gorget feathers and an adult-type tail.

The hind-crown and cheek had a few blue-purple feathers mixed in with the mostly rose-red ones on the throat and crown. This is not considered a sign of the bird being a hybrid (in this case most likely with Costa's Hummingbird), as hybrids typically have all gorget feathers intermediate in color, not mixed with two colors.

All measurements that were taken were consistent with male Anna's Hummingbird and were outside the range for Costa's Hummingbird or hybrids with Costa's Hummingbird. Anyone wishing to read more details about these measurements and the process for eliminating other species and hybrids can download a PDF of my report to the Indiana Bird Records Committee by going here:
<https://tinyurl.com/y5yh7z8o>

As time passed, this male Anna's Hummingbird continued his molt, and by late November had acquired the full beautiful iridescent throat shown by a breeding male. Anna's Hummingbirds nest early in the year, starting by February in much of California and by March farther north. They molt earlier than Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which does not acquire adult plumage until just before they begin migrating north in February or March.



Top: Anna's Hummingbird with adult gorget plumage courtesy of Jeff Timmons. Left: hatch year Anna's Hummingbird courtesy of Amy Hodson.



Allen examines the bird's bill with a 10x magnifier looking for the extent of tiny grooves on the bill to determine a hummingbird's age in-hand. Hatch-year male Anna's Hummingbird tail feathers courtesy of Allen Chartier.



As of this writing (December 8), Janis and Dennis have welcomed more than 200 birders to their home, which is quite a few considering that the pandemic has likely discouraged many birders from traveling this year. Janis has said that their experience with this bird, and all the visiting birders, has been very positive and they would encourage future hosts of rare birds to open their homes to birders.

I think I speak for all birders when I say that we greatly appreciate the generosity and hospitality of any homeowner

who does this, and I am particularly grateful to Janis and Dennis for being such exceptional hosts. The Anna's Hummingbird was not seen on December 7, which is apparently only the second day since he arrived on October 31 that he has been absent, but he was back at the feeder on December 8.

After he does move on, with a little luck, another hummingbird bander may recapture him and we can piece together a little more information about the movements of these birds. It is also possible that he could return to Indiana next fall, perhaps even to the Rubino home. Everyone should keep an eye out for any unusual hummingbirds after October 15.

Upcoming Audubon Events and Field Trips

All are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all of these events are subject to cancellation. Please check our website event calendar before attending an event to see if it might have been canceled. Once restrictions are softened, we might also schedule last-minute events.

Virtual Monthly Programs

We are pleased to continue our virtual programs. The first two in November and December were a success and we will continue through May. You must register for the programs through Eventbrite. It will be easiest to link to through the event post on the ABAS calendar. Once registered, you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom meeting prior to the program.



Harnessed Tiger Moth courtesy of Chuck Anderson

The Dark Side of Lepidoptera

Tuesday, January 12, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-dark-side-of-lepidoptera-tickets-131374539785>

Join Amanda Smith, Superintendent of Natural Resources and Education for the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department, for an informative discussion about the dark side of Lepidoptera, specifically moths. They make up 90% of the Order of Lepidoptera. However, they share very little of the excitement or appreciation that surrounds their more popular cousins, the butterflies. Moths are critical to the food webs, extremely diverse, understudied, and many are more striking than the prettiest butterfly. In this program we will discuss moth identification, their importance in the ecosystem, how to attract them, tips on moth photography, and provide connections to resources and projects geared to helping people learn about these fascinating and yet often overlooked insects.

This will be an online program using Zoom. Participants will register using Eventbrite and there will be a limit of 90. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-dark-side-of-lepidoptera-tickets-131374539785>. Once we are close to the program date, you will receive an email with an invite to a Zoom meeting.

Hoosiers for Whoopers:

How You Can Help Whooping Cranes in Indiana

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

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hoosiers-for-whoopers-how-you-can-help-whooping-cranes-in-indiana-tickets-129922907915>

Join Taylor Franklin for an update on the Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes. Taylor is a Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant with the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Taylor will cover where and when whoopers are in Indiana, how people can help by reporting locations of birds they see, and a protocol for watching them. He'll also cover how to turn in people that are harming them, and other interesting and important information for folks to know about whooper conservation.

This will be an online program using Zoom. Participants will register using Eventbrite and there will be a limit of 90. To register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hoosiers-for-whoopers-how-you-can-help-whooping-cranes-in-indiana-tickets-129922907915>. Once we are close to the program date, you will receive an email with an invite to a Zoom meeting.



Whooping Crane courtesy of Rob Ripma

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.

ABAS Field Trips

Masks on Hikes and Limited Numbers

It is anticipated that masks will be required for the majority of all field trips and local hikes. There may be times when we can spread out and get a quick break from the masks. Many hikes will also have a limit to the number of participants and require registration. Please check the details of each hike and register as appropriate. Priority will be given to ABAS members early in the registration process for those hikes with limited numbers.

Winter Lakefront Field Trip

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 am EST to 6:00 pm EST
114 Lake Shore Drive, Michigan City, IN
(This is the park entrance. Please proceed to the beach.)

Join experienced birder and field trip leader Scott Enochs as he leads you along the Indiana Lake Michigan lakeshore in search of wintering gulls, waterfowl, and any vagrants that may be in the area. We'll meet at Washington Park Beach in Michigan City (41.7281N 86.9040W) at **8:00 am local time (9:00 am EST)**. We will spend the morning and early afternoon visiting various sites around the Indiana lakeshore. Little time will be spent hiking, though some hiking terrain would be considered moderate to rugged. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Most of the time will be spent traveling to as many sites as possible to scan the lake.

Participants can expect to return to the Indianapolis area around 6:00 pm EST. There will be a break for lunch in the Gary/Chesterton area.

The field trip is free but is limited to 10 participants and registration is required. Priority registration is available to ABAS members through January 10, 2021. After that date, if any open spots remain, non-members may register. To sign up email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text Chuck at (317) 767-5438.

Masks will be required for the majority of the trip. There may be times when we can spread out and get a break from the masks.



Harlequin Duck courtesy of Amy Hodson.

Special Donations

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

*Our seven lifetime members whose
membership fee benefited the
Permanent Fund*

Great Backyard Bird Count Caravan

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Zionsville Community High School Football Stadium
1000 Mulberry Street, Zionsville, IN



*Brown Creeper courtesy of
Amy Hodson*

If you need an incentive to get outside mid-winter, join ABAS Field Trip chair, Chuck Anderson, as he leads you to several local parks in conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) worldwide event. At each park, we will record the species and number of all birds seen and submit that list to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via eBird. To get more information on the GBBC, go to birdcount.org.

We will meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot next to the entrance to the Zionsville Community High School football stadium located at 1000 Mulberry St., Zionsville. The parks that we plan to visit are Turkeyfoot Nature Park in Zionsville, Starkey Park in Zionsville, Central Park in Carmel, and Daubenspeck Community Nature Park in Indianapolis. Time permitting we may add a 5th park. We will caravan to each park and all participants will receive driving directions prior to February 13.

One of the parks has 70 stairs which we will walk down then climb up. Restrooms will be available at Central Park, our 3rd planned stop. Make sure you dress appropriately for the weather conditions and don't forget your binoculars.

The field trip is free but limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. Priority registration is available to local ABAS members through January 10, 2021. After that date, if any open spots remain, non-members may register. To sign up email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text Chuck at (317) 767-5438.

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Local Bird Hikes

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, all of these events are subject to cancellation. Please check our website event calendar before attending an event to see if it might have been canceled. Once restrictions are softened, we might also schedule last-minute events.

Masks on Hikes

It is anticipated that masks will be required for the majority of the local hikes. There may be times when we can spread out and get a quick break from the masks.

- Eagle Creek Park hikes are canceled until further notice.

Holliday Park

6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN
Third Tuesday of each month
Start times vary during the year
January 19, 8:30 am to 10:00 am
February 16, 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Meet in front of the Nature Center.

ABAS Field Trip Recaps

Newfields Bird Walk December 5, 2020

On December 5, 15 intrepid birders were out on a frosty morning. If you haven't been to the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres at Newfields, you need to give it a try. It's a beautiful property with a 35-acre lake. As a former farm and later gravel quarry, Fairbanks Park has a history of disturbance that has resulted in a mix of early successional woodlands, some mature woodlands, wetlands, and a lake. This habitat diversity has created a property with the ability to host niche species of several different habitat types. Newfields strives to maintain that habitat diversity by invasive species removal and planting of Indiana native plant species in all areas of the Park.

On this Saturday the group had an immature Bald Eagle fly over and Pine Siskins among the 31 species they saw. Another highlight was a white-tailed deer and a nice buck at that. ABAS holds these hikes quarterly in conjunction with Newfields. Check back soon for our 2021 dates.



Birders at Newfields courtesy of Chuck Anderson

Goose Pond Field Trip November 22, 2020

On November 22, 13 enthusiastic birders met at the Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area Visitor Center for an afternoon of birding. Though the skies were gray and there was a chill in the air, spirits were lifted when 2 Whooping Cranes were in sight before the field trip was even underway. As we caravanned around the property, we saw 4 Trumpeter Swans, multiple Northern Harriers, Rough-legged Hawks, and numerous Canvasbacks to name a few of the 39 species of birds we recorded that day. The highlight for the outing occurred just before dusk when we observed 8 Short-eared Owls flying over the fields in search of prey. Special thanks to Whitney and Jonathan Yoerger who did a fantastic job in leading this field trip.



Birders at Goose Pond Field courtesy of Chuck Anderson

Jasper-Pulaski Field Trip November 14, 2020

On Saturday, November 14, 6 birders participated in the ABAS field trip to Jasper-Pulaski FWA to view Sandhill Cranes. Jasper Pulaski hosts the largest concentration east of the Mississippi River. The temperature was cool and the skies were overcast but the rain held off. We heard the loud, trumpeting sound of thousands of cranes as they flew into the field to socialize before roosting for the night. Also in view were several Wild Turkeys and at least two dozen White-tailed Deer. The highlight for the outing came when a hunter in the far woods shot his gun and all the cranes took to the air in mass hysteria. They settled back down in the field after several minutes. As sunset came the group called it an end to an enjoyable afternoon afield.



Sandhill Crane and birders at Jasper-Pulaski courtesy of Chuck Anderson

Celery Bog Field Trip October 31, 2020

On October 31 Chuck Anderson led an ABAS field trip to Celery Bog Nature Area in West Lafayette. Fourteen birders enjoyed a clear, cool, crisp day. It was 32 degrees at the start. We began birding at a viewing platform and were able to spot and ID 11 duck species highlighted by Redhead and Northern Pintail. Also in view were 14 Tundra Swans, 1 Trumpeter Swan, 3 White-fronted Geese, and 2 Bald Eagles. The group was then taken by a local birder to an area where they were able to get great looks at a red-morph Eastern Screech Owl. Lastly, we shifted closer to the bridge and got close looks of an Eared Grebe, a life bird for several in the group. In all, it was a wonderful morning of birding.



Birders at Celery Bog courtesy of Chuck Anderson

The Making of Garfield Park

By Jessica Helmbold

Garfield Park is the oldest park in Indianapolis. The park is located on the south-central side of Indianapolis at the intersections of Shelby Street, Raymond Street, Southern Avenue, and Pleasant Run Parkway. It was originally purchased by the Bradley family in 1821. Initially, it was a family farm and woodlands. Eventually, the family decided to sell the farm to local horse racing promoters.

The Indianapolis Fair Association purchased the land known as Bradley Woods with the intention of building a racing facility better than the one available at the State Fairgrounds. However, because the park was not on a trolley line, the idea was a financial failure. In 1873, the Association sold the land to the City of Indianapolis where it was turned into what was known as Southern Park. In 1881, after the assassination of President James A. Garfield, the park was renamed in his honor.

When the park was sold to the City of Indianapolis in 1873, they had no immediate ideas for the use of the land. It wasn't until 1885 that the park we know today began to take shape. During that year, the first greenhouse (40,000 square feet) was built. It produced 72,000 individual plants which were used at many parks, fire stations, libraries, and other public facilities.

In 1895, a streetcar line and turn-around were added from downtown to bring visitors to and from the park. In 1903, the iconic Pagoda shelter was constructed. This iconic, oriental-style shelter is host to many large park events and family picnics still to this very day.

In 1908, the Indianapolis Department of Parks hired George Kessler to design and develop a park system for the city, beginning with Garfield Park and building from there. His design would impact the parks, waterways, and boulevard system throughout the city. In fact, the system Kessler developed between 1908 and 1915 is still much in existence today.

George Kessler was born in Germany in 1862. He immigrated to the U.S. at the end of the Civil War and lived here until he was sixteen. He then returned to Germany where he attended school, studying forestry, botany, landscape design, and civil engineering. This background gave him the skills to become a brilliant landscape architect and city planner. He also had the opportunity to study under Frederick Law Olmsted, which had a major impact on his work as a landscape designer. Kessler's vision for the Sunken Garden and Conservatory at Garfield Park was to be a place where formal and informal, classic and modern all came together.

He designed the overlook and gardens in classic European-style reminiscent of the Royal Gardens of Europe, bordered by natural wooded areas of trees and shrubs. The Conservatory was to be filled in the winter months with a collection of summer plants, so the park could be enjoyed year-round.

In 1914, the planning for the Sunken Garden began under the vision of George Kessler, and the overlook was completed in 1915. It was approximately 7 feet above the garden. The original Conservatory was completed in 1916. It was quite Victorian in style with soft, gentle curves, reminiscent of Art Nouveau.

The Conservatory was replaced in 1954 with the current Art Deco style structure on the same foundation. A unique feature in the design of the current Conservatory is its all-aluminum frame. This was the first aluminum-framed building in the country. The building is now about 10,000 square feet and houses a tropical and subtropical collection along with seasonal floral displays. It is open year-round.

The current Sunken Garden plantings are reflective of the original designs. In 1916, the gardeners strived to plant a formal garden with popular Victorian plants. The Victorians like to use new plants that were imported from around the world. When most people think of a Victorian garden, they think of the informal cottage style. The park's gardeners tried to combine the two styles of gardening into one cohesive garden. This was achieved by keeping the carpets around the fountains very formal and having informal areas in the common grounds.

Currently, the formal areas have plants that are in a theme consistent with the early days of the garden. Current spring plantings consist of approximately 10,000 tulip bulbs in the beds and pansies in the overlooks. The summer planting includes approximately 15,000 individual annuals. In the fall, the Sunken Garden is often planted with mums and decorative cool-season greens, accented with pumpkins and gourds. Along with the many indoor and outdoor gardens in the park, there are also many picnic shelters, an amphitheater, an arts center, a fitness center, and a pool.

In 1922, the main shelter house was constructed and later became the Community and Family Center, the first family and fitness center built in the park. This building later became the changing room for the pool that sat at the base of the building which is now a parking lot. In 1996, the pool and Family Center were relocated, and an entirely new building was constructed on the other side of the park. This building was eventually named the Burrello Family Center after Linda Burrello, a long-time park employee and Director of the Family Center.

The previous Family Center was not scrapped. It was renovated in the early 2000s to become the Arts Center, which opened in 2006. The Arts Center now hosts theater productions, and a variety of classes, such as dance, ceramics, and painting. In 1926, it temporarily housed the Indianapolis Children's Museum and was also home to a zoo at one point as well.

Garfield Park has been an integral part of the Indianapolis community for over a century. It has provided many recreation, fitness, art, and nature activities over those years. However, one thing many people may not be aware of is that it is a great sanctuary for year-round and migratory birds. It is an urban refuge.

For 6 years I have worked here as a Naturalist and have seen many species of birds. I love to listen to the Sandhill Cranes fly overhead in the fall, or watch the Chimney Swifts at the historic Arts Center at the end of summer. The park has also recorded Scarlet Tanagers, Magnolia Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Gray-cheeked Thrushes, and Cooper's Hawks to name a few.

I invite you to join me on a bird walk in the park sometime. Starting in March and running through October, the park hosts bird walks every month. 2021 dates so far are March 20, April 17, and May 15. Attendance is limited and per Indy Parks policy, pre-registration is required. Contact Garfield Park if you have questions. I hope to see you out birding the park, enjoying the tropical plants of the Conservatory, walking the Pleasant Run Trail, or enjoying a concert sometime.



Garfield Park Conservatory after it was first built. Garfield Park present day aerial view. Park architect and designer, George Kessler. Photos Courtesy of Jessica Helmbold and Garfield Parks.

Peregrine Falcons of Anderson, Indiana

By Jeff Timmons

In the spring of 2019, Lois Rockhill notified me that there was a possible Peregrine Falcon in downtown Anderson. We both looked several times with no luck. Eventually, between the two of us, we were able to determine that there were actually two adult Peregrine Falcons, and one of the falcons had been banded.

I was able to get a picture of the band and report it. The report came back with information that the bird was a male, and was banded in Canton, Ohio in 2012. He was named “Peenie” at the time of banding. He has a black band with the number “39” over a “Red U” band that is unique to him.



“Peenie” taking off and showing his bands. Photo courtesy of Jeff Timmons.

The female was not banded and disappeared rather quickly after her first sighting. She was replaced by a young female Peregrine Falcon that showed up in May 2019. This bird was born in 2018, which we knew by the streaking on her breast and the overall brown coloring of the bird. We are not sure what happened to the previous female, but it was clear these two were here to rule the skies of downtown Anderson.

We continued to monitor activity and we determined they had a favorite building. The male would provide food deliveries, they would fly around together, and rest on perches in close proximity.

I was able to do some site exploration and contacted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) about the new falcons. IDNR made a site visit to the building to determine if there was any sign of a nest. No nest was found, but the owner of the building was willing to have a nest box installed.

Peregrine Falcons typically nest on cliff edges, and there aren't many of those in Indiana. A solution to the lack of cliff edges is to build nest boxes. Boxes vary from trays to an enclosed rectangular box. The box is then filled with a layer of pea gravel. Falcons lay their eggs in a small shallow scrape that is made by the birds. These are typically placed on tall buildings, bridges, smokestacks, or even water towers.

The birds showed interest, but it was soon obvious that luck was not on our or their side. The birds became harder to locate, and we restricted observations to let them hopefully settle in over the summer. The young adult female started molting and developing into her adult plumage as a young lady. By July, she looked like a new bird.

“Peenie” Disappears

After September of 2019, “Peenie” disappeared leaving us to wonder if he was migrating or gone for good. The female stayed, and it appeared that she may stay the whole winter.

The most interesting part about trying to catch up with this young lady was that she had a new friend in town. There was a new male Peregrine Falcon in Anderson. This bird was not banded and had a light peach colored face, not the same white face that “Peenie” had.

Finding a new male was hard to believe, and it was the fourth documented falcon in the vicinity of the nest box. Fortunately, these two birds remained the rest of the winter. By February, activity and interactions seemed to be heating up between the new pair.

Unfortunately, it appeared that both the new male and female falcon had disappeared even though they had shown interest in each other and the nest box. Despite a lot of effort between Lois and me, we had no sightings. This went on for ten days and nearly all hope was lost.

Fifth Falcon is Documented at the Site

On March 15, Lois messaged me saying that she had a falcon downtown. I immediately stopped what I was doing and rushed downtown. Not long after arriving, a falcon came flying in. I was shocked that a falcon had shown back up, and was even more shocked that I was seeing yet another young brown-streaked female bird. It was the fifth falcon documented at the site.

The young female was wearing bands and I was able to capture the band identification. I reported the bird, and in the interim, made some contacts. I learned right away that the red tape on the normally silver band is used on some birds in Canada. After a few emails, I was able to determine that this bird was named “Raptorette” when she was banded in Toronto, which happens to be the largest city in Ontario. Anderson is roughly 400 miles from Toronto.



“Raptorette”, a Peregrine Falcon from Ontario, photographed after she just arrived in Anderson, Indiana. Photo courtesy of Jeff Timmons.

“Peenie” Returns

Not long after seeing this young female, another male falcon flew in. I took a few quick photos to get documentation. “Peenie” had returned! This raised my hope that they would attempt to nest in 2020. The only downside is that this was another young female, and they typically do not breed until they are two years old.

We witnessed the birds around the nest site, flying together, and performing food delivery. This went on for another month, but

then things seemed to slow down a bit. By the end of April, the clock was ticking with still no change. By this time it looked like another year was lost.

Nesting Success Verified

Suddenly on May 21, it appeared that there was an exchange where the female, “Raptorette”, left the box and the adult male “Peenie” took her place. This was an indication that there were eggs. With the direction of IDNR, I did a quick 5-second box check after a couple of days. Our suspicions were confirmed. There were two eggs! I spent early mornings or late evenings looking for food delivery to the box. After 35 days we saw the next change in behavior.

On May 25, the male delivered food to the nest box. This was a great sign that there was at least one possible egg that hatched. After a few days, and with the direction of IDNR, I did yet another nest box check. This was done in a manner to provide the least amount of disturbance to the birds, but also allow us to confirm the final number of eggs and how many hatched, so the IDNR knew the best time to band the birds. Banding can provide valuable information on the travels of Peregrine Falcons.

Over the next three weeks, the male was busy delivering food to the box while the female would prepare the food and feed it to the young. On June 15, IDNR made a site visit to band the young birds. It was determined that there were one female and one male.



Top photo: the female chick, “Freya” losing the downy feathers and nearly ready to fly. Middle photo: both chicks together on July 1st practicing their wing flapping. Bottom photo: “Blaze” ready to take to the sky! Photos courtesy of Jeff Timmons.

Jeff Timmons and “Blaze” during the banding of the chicks by the IDNR. Photo courtesy of Jeff Timmons.

First Flights

It is hard to believe that by June 23 these birds were brave enough to wander out of the box and start strengthening their wings in preparation for their first flight. The first flights for both young were short and quite noisy, but over time they built their strength and were closer to venturing out to the real world all on their own. This was a great way to occupy my time this year and learn more about the falcons overall.

One of the most interesting things has been watching, searching, and documenting what they eat. They have been observed eating American Woodcock, European Starlings, House Sparrows, Mourning Doves, Chimney Swifts, Bufflehead, Green Heron, and their early-on favorite dish of choice — many Yellow-billed Cuckoos and one Black-billed Cuckoo. I will spare you the documentation of the diet.

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

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