

Birdathon Sets a Campaign Fundraising Record

By Donna McCarty, Birdathon Committee Chair

What a banner fundraising success we have had due to Birdathon sponsors generous donations! The Birdathon campaign set an all-time record for January 1 to June 30. Sponsors donated a whopping \$32,518 to benefit the birds of Central Indiana. With a challenge to fund 10 grant recipients for a total of \$39,611, every dollar was crucial. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and to sufficient carryover funds from our first online auction, we met this lofty goal.

Projects made possible include habitat protection in Colombia, which is important for wintering neotropical warbler species. We funded three research projects — one on Cerulean Warblers, one on Saw-whet Owls, and the third on window strikes by birds. We supported a local native plant nursery as well as bird-friendly habitat restoration at the Marian University's Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab. The purchase of 25 acres for the new Sargent Road Nature Park on the northeast side will be made possible by Birdathon funding. Donations also support education projects focusing on the importance of birds at The Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center, Camp Utopia, and the Indiana State Museum.

As the vaccine allowed the return to more activities, Birdathon teams were able to go back to traveling together. The biking birders, Carbon Neutral, turned in another impressive species total of 133, but this year the Wild Birds Unlimited team, scouring the state via auto, tallied the highest species count of 162. Most impressive, however, was the Noddy Little Gulls team, which set a new fundraising record of \$8,395!

Donna McCarty, Birdathon Chair, members of the Birdathon Committee, and the Board of Directors of the ABAS are extremely grateful for all of the Birdathon sponsors.



Left: 2021 Birdathon Fundraising Champs team, the Noddy Little Gulls. Team members left to right: Becky Heck, Bill Murphy, April Sterling and Laurie Voss. Below: Runner-up Fundraising Champs, the Bud & Carl's Legacy team. Team members left to right: Janet Tuten, Keith Starling and Marty Williams.



Left: High Count Champs, Team Wild Birds Unlimited. Team members left to right: Brian Cunningham, Rob Ripma and John Schaust

Biking Birders on the Carbon Neutral team top right: Dave Benson and Wes Homoya. Below left: Jonathan and Whitney Yoerger.



LIGHTS OUT INDY

Lights Out Indy: Fall 2021 Call Out

By Austin Broadwater, Lights Out Indy Committee Chair

Attention Indy Bird Lovers!

Lights Out Indy is looking for volunteers to help document bird strikes in the early morning hours as well as rescue injured birds. These start on August 15th and run through November 15th.

The Lights Out Indy Committee is also seeking volunteers interested in:

- Reaching out to building owners to encourage them to participate in our initiative to turn off or 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

We would love to have you on our team. If you are interested, please contact Austin Broadwater at abroadwater1990@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Audubon Events and Field Trips

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

Return of In-Person Monthly Programs

We are pleased to welcome everyone back to our monthly programs at Holliday Park. We respectfully request that any non-vaccinated attendees wear masks.



Bats of Indiana — and Beyond

**Tuesday, September 14
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**

Holliday Park, 6363 Springmill Road, Indianapolis

Ryan Slack holding a Big Brown Bat at Daubenspeck Community Nature Park. Image courtesy of Chuck Anderson

Join Ryan Slack for our September program about bats. He will touch upon everything from myths surrounding bats, their classification and specialized anatomy, their habits, conservation, why bats are important, the threats they face, bat species native to Indiana, the truth about bats and rabies, and the latest in bat call analysis.

Ryan holds a BS from Purdue University in Wildlife Science. He is currently a Principal at the engineering consulting firm Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) and also the Ecological Practice lead of their Indianapolis office. In this position, he coordinates projects involving threatened and endangered species, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy. He holds CEC's Federal Bat Scientific Collecting Permit, which is valid for the entire range of Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats.

Brown Bears of McNeil River

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

Holliday Park, 6363 Springmill Road, Indianapolis

Join Chuck Anderson, ABAS President and Field Trip Chair, for an informative program about the Brown Bears of McNeil River State Game Sanctuary in Alaska. Chuck will share his four day experience watching Brown Bears interact, feed, sleep and play. Many of the bears photographed were within 25 feet and one curious cub came within 5 feet before mom called him back to her side.

Chuck slept outdoors in a tent he brought, supplied his own food, purified his water, and cooked on a camp stove.



Brown Bear courtesy of Chuck Anderson

ABAS Field Trips

Masks on Hikes and Limited Numbers

It is possible that masks might again be required for field trips and local hikes. Please follow the example of our leaders. 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.

Strawtown-Koteewi — Warblers and Migrants

Saturday, September 4, 8:00 am to 10:00 am

12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville, IN

Max 12 participants

Join local birder and ABAS field trip leader, Terry Ballenger, as we look for migrating fall warblers and local resident birds in the 800-acre park.

We'll meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History building parking lot at 8:00am and bird on foot from there. The terrain is flat and the trails are well defined. The Taylor Center opens at 10:00am and has modern, well-maintained restrooms, as well as great cultural exhibits.

There is no fee for the field trip. However, it is limited to 12 participants and registration is required. Priority registration will be given to ABAS members through August 15, 2021, at which time if there are any spots available, registration will be open to non-members. Email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com to reserve your spot on the field trip.

Please remember to dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring any water, hats, bug spray and sunscreen you need. As always, bring your binoculars. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Anderson.



Chestnut-sided Warbler courtesy of Amy Hodson

Special Donations

*In memory of Margaret Reisert
by Joan Parker*

*Our 11 Lifetime Members and their
contribution to the Permanent Fund*

McCloud Nature Park — Warblers and Migrants

Saturday, September 18, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
8518 Hughes Road, North Salem, IN
Max 10 participants

Join ecologist, botanist and ABAS bird hike leader, Roger Hedge, as we look for migrating fall warblers and year-round residents in this 232-acre park in Hendricks County. We'll meet at the Nature Center at 8:00am and bird on foot from there. The trails are well defined and the terrain is flat.

The Nature Center opens at 10:00am and has modern restrooms, as well as a bird feeders viewing area.

There is no fee for the field trip. However, it is limited to 10 participants and registration is required. Priority registration will be given to ABAS members through September 1, 2021 at which time if there are any spots available, registration will be open to non-members. Email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com to reserve your spot on the field trip.

Please remember to dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring any water, hats, bug spray and sunscreen you need. As always, bring your binoculars. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Anderson.



Blackburnian Warbler
courtesy of Amy Hodson

Eagle Creek Park — Warblers and Migrants

Saturday, September 25, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
7602 Walnut Point Road, Indianapolis, IN
Max 12 participants

Join birders extraordinaire Lisa and Randy Vanderbilt as we look for migrating fall warblers. We'll meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot at the marina and bird along the road leading to the marina as well as the open area and trails near the parking lot. Walking distance will be minimal and we'll be on both paved roads and well defined, hard-packed dirt trails. There are indoor restrooms at the marina.

There is no fee for the field trip but an admission fee is required at the entrance. Annual passes for frequent park visits are available. The field trip is limited to 12 participants and registration is required. Priority registration is available to ABAS members through September 10, 2021, at which time if there are any spots available, registration will be open to non-members. Email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text (317) 767-5438 to reserve your spot on the field trip.

Please remember to dress for the weather and don't forget to bring your binoculars. If you have any questions, please email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com.



Blackpoll Warbler courtesy
of Amy Hodson

Lye Creek Prairie Burn — Fall Sparrows

Saturday, October 23, 9:00 am to 11:00 am
240 East County Road 650 North, Cherry Grove, IN
Max 12 participants

Join experienced bird hike leader Laurie Voss on a field trip to the Lye Creek Prairie Burn, aka "The Burn", in search of fall sparrows, migrant waterfowl, and possible shorebirds. We'll meet at The Burn at 9:00 am.

Participants should expect to hike two to three miles. The terrain is flat, but there are no defined trails. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate walking shoes. As always, don't forget your binoculars. There are NO restroom facilities on the property

There is no fee for the field trip. However, the field trip is limited to 12 participants and registration is required. Priority registration is available for ABAS members until October 7, 2021, at which time if there are spots available, non-members may register. To register email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text Chuck at (317) 767-5438.

The Burn is on County Road 650 N in Montgomery County in the general area of Crawfordsville. To get there from I74 take the US 231 exit and go north just under 3 miles to County Road 550 N. Take a right on County Road 550 N for just over a mile to County Road 150 E. Take a left on County Road 150 E and continue to

County Road 650 N. Take a right on County Road 650 N for less than a mile to The Burn which will be on the right. The address given is approximate. These GPS coordinates might be helpful: 40.135048, -86.863575.



Swamp Sparrow courtesy of
Amy Hodson

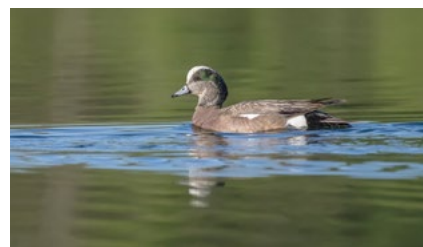
Celery Bog — Waterfowl

Saturday, October 30, 8:00 am to 10:00 am
1620 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette, IN
Max 12 participants

Join ABAS President and Field Trip Chair Chuck Anderson for a field trip to Celery Bog Nature Area. This will be a great opportunity to view waterfowl and year-round resident birds. Target birds are waterfowl, including Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Canvas-back ducks. swans, Greater White-fronted Goose and various species of grebe also frequent the bog.

The terrain is flat and trails are well managed. The hike will be 2 to 2 1/2 miles. Restrooms are available at the Lilly Nature Center after 10:00 am. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. Dress appropriately for the weather. We'll meet at 8:00 am in the first parking lot on the right inside the park.

There is no fee for the field trip. However, it is limited to 12 participants, and registration is required. Priority registration is available for ABAS members through October 15, 2021, at which time if there are any spots open, registration will be open to non-members. Email Chuck Anderson at chucka1999@aol.com or text (317) 767-5438 to reserve your spot on the field trip. If you have any questions, please email Chuck.



American Wigeon
courtesy of Amy Hodson

ABAS Workday at Hazel Landing Park

Wednesday, October 13
from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm
10601 Hazel Dell Parkway, Carmel, IN

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation is hosting a joint event for ABAS and Hamilton County Invasives Partnership (HIP). Join us at Hazel Landing Park where these two nature loving groups will (net)work together to beautify the park. ABAS members will do litter cleanup along the White River and enjoy some bird observations while the HIP strike team will take out invasive plants. It's an opportunity to meet like minded people and do some good work in the community.

To register go to the link: <https://carmelclayparks.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/carmelclayparks/projectList.jsp?query.project.id=843>

We hope to see you there.

ABAS Event Recap

Birds & Brews with Audubon Great Lakes, July 22

In late July, ABAS welcomed Audubon Great Lakes to Indianapolis for a Birds & Brews event at Metazoa Brewing Company. This event brought residents from across Indianapolis together to learn about the steps we can take to protect birds for generations to come.

After a warm welcome from ABAS President, Chuck Anderson, Marne Urso took the mic to lead a 5-person panel of local leaders and policy experts in a discussion. The panel answered questions and discussed important policy solutions, like the Growing Climate Solutions Act, that will create a cleaner future for birds and people.



Panel discussion members: Morgan Mickelson, City of Indianapolis Director of Sustainability, Katie Nelson, Director of Legislative Affairs at the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Representative Carey Hamilton (D-IN-87), Andrew Mills, Vice President of Political Affairs for National Audubon Society and Marnie Urso, Senior Policy Director, Audubon Great Lakes. Photo courtesy of Audubon Great Lakes.

Local Bird Hikes

Due to the ongoing 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.

Masks on Hikes

It is possible that masks might again be required for field trips and local hikes. Please follow the example of our leaders.

Eagle Creek Park

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis, IN
Every Sunday, 9:00 am to 11:00 am
September 5, 12, 19, 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Meet in front of the Ornithology Center.

Holliday Park

6363 Spring Mill Road
Indianapolis, IN
Third Tuesday of each month from
8:00 am to 9:30 am
September 21 from 8:00 am to 9:30 am
October 19 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am

Meet in front of the Nature Center.

Cool Creek Park Bird Hikes

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN
Every Saturday in September from
8:00 am to 10:00 am
September 4, 11, 18, 25
Every Saturday in October from
8:30 am to 10:30 am
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Join expert birder Keith Starling. Meet in the north parking lot past the Nature Center.

Cool Creek Park Beginning Bird Hikes

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel, IN
Every other Sunday 8:30 am to 10:30 am
September 5, 19
October 3, 17, 31
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesday from
8:30 am to 10:30 am
September 8, 15, 22, 29
October 13, 20, 27

Meet in the parking lot at the bottom of the road by Cool Creek, past the Nature Center. This is a great opportunity for bird-watchers of all levels.

Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Avenue
Noblesville, IN
First Wednesday of each month from
8:30 am to 10:30 am
September 1, October 6

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

Fort Harrison State Park

6000 North Post Road, Indianapolis, IN
Sundays in September and October
from 8:00 am to 10:00 am
September 5, 12, 19, 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

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

Nina Mason Pullium EcoLab

3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, IN
Wednesdays from 8:00 am to 10:00 am
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
October 6, 13, 20, 27

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

Greenfield Birders Hikes

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

Thornwood Nature Preserve

1597 South Morristown Pike
Greenfield, IN
2nd Saturday of the month from
8:00 am to 10:00 am
September 11, October 9

Meet in the parking lot.

Beckenholdt Park

2770 North Franklin Street
Greenfield, IN
4th Saturday of the month from 8:00
am to 10:00 am
September 25, October 23

Meet in the parking lot.

My Top 5 Indiana Birding Sites for Fall Migration

by Mark Welter

Get Out There and Go Birding!

Birds follow their own internal chronometers, so their movements often seem at odds with the way we humans understand and mark time. The end of spring migration and the beginning of fall migration are, in reality, only separated by a few weeks. While songbirds here in the midwest are busy raising their young, shorebirds that have bred in the far north are already making their way back toward their wintering grounds in South America. It is easy to imagine some slightly tardy northbound migrants crossing paths with early breeders headed the opposite direction!

In contrast to the frenzied race northward in the spring, fall migration seems much more leisurely and protracted. Without a biological imperative to drive them (i.e. the need to breed), birds may delay their departure time if food supplies and weather allow, and may spend more time at staging areas along their migration route, resulting in a more drawn-out migration period. That being the case, fall migration affords birders ample opportunities to observe and enjoy their favorite species. Here are some of my favorite birding spots to visit from August through October:

Eagle Creek Park

Located on the far west side of Indianapolis, Eagle Creek is one of the largest municipal parks in the country, covering some 5900 acres, including the 1400-acre reservoir. The park's varied habitat is a magnet for migrating birds. More than 280 species have been recorded there over the years. The Eagle Creek Marina and the Ice Skating Pond (which hasn't been used for that purpose in decades) are prime locations to find fall warblers, while the reservoir itself, as well as the Bird Sanctuary impoundment, host a variety of waterfowl. Later in the season, mudflats often form in the northern part of the reservoir as water levels drop, attracting shorebirds. My best fall bird — Marbled Godwit in 2013.

Fort Harrison State Park

More than 220 species of birds have been recorded in this 1700-acre park along Fall Creek on the northeast side of Indianapolis. With a mix of forested areas, open spaces, and water features, this park is a prime location to find warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, and other songbirds in the fall. The Lawrence Creek and Fall Creek trails and the area around Delaware Lake are particularly popular birding spots within the park. My best fall bird — Connecticut Warbler in 2017.

Miller Beach

Located in Gary, the area commonly referred to as "Miller Beach" by non-residents of the area is actually Miller Woods Beach, Lake Street Beach, and Marquette Park Beach. Located at the southern tip of Lake Michigan and surrounded by the Indiana Dunes National Park, this area is a natural funnel for migrating birds and represents the first available rest stop for southbound migrants coming off the lake. It is also an ideal vantage point for conducting lakewatches to view migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, and terns, and is the only place in the state to potentially find all three jaeger species. My best fall bird — Parasitic Jaeger in 2018.

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.



Top left, Dunlin. Top right, Parasitic Jaeger. Above, Bay-breasted Warbler. Right, Cape May Warbler. All photos courtesy of Mark Welter

Goose Pond FWA

Established in 2005, Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area near Linton in Greene County consists of some 9000 acres of restored forest, prairie, and wetland habitat. Goose Pond has become an important migratory stopover site for a variety of birds, including herons, rails, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. In the fall, large numbers of Sandhill Cranes and American White Pelicans congregate here on their way to their southern wintering grounds, and a significant percentage of the Eastern Migratory Population of Whooping Cranes also spends time at Goose Pond. Due to the immense size of this property, the best way to bird it is by looking and listening while slowly driving the county roads, then getting out to scan or walk in key units. My best fall bird — Nelson's Sparrow in 2013

Cane Ridge/Tern Bar Slough

Cane Ridge Wildlife Management Area near Owensville in western Gibson County was created as a joint restoration project by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Duke Habitat Conservation Program to provide a nesting area for the federally endangered "interior" Least Tern. This 463-acre property also provides wetland habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds. Cane Ridge is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Tern Bar Slough Wildlife Diversity Area lies immediately east of Cane Ridge and consists of 840 acres of grassland, scrub, and wetland habitat. My best fall bird — Green-tailed Towhee in 2015.

What do these sites have in common? Aside from being some of my favorite places to see birds on fall migration, they are all part of the Indiana Birding Trail, a network of nearly 70 incredible birding sites throughout the state of Indiana. Additional information can be found at www.indianabirdingtrail.com.

Amos Butler Audubon Society Chapter Supporter Membership

Membership benefits:

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

One-year individual membership \$25

Two-year individual membership \$45

One-year household membership \$40

Two-year household membership \$75

Lifetime individual membership \$500

Lifetime membership goes to Permanent Fund

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail (required) _____

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

Amos Butler Audubon Society

Officers:

Chuck Anderson, *President, Executive Committee and Field Trip Chair*

Rob Ripma, *Past President and Executive Committee*

Ted Meyer, *Treasurer, Executive Committee, Membership Chair*

Joanna Scott, *Secretary, Executive Committee*

Board Members:

Amy Hodson, *Communications Chair*

Brian Cunningham

Adam Barnes, *Volunteer Chair*

Austin Broadwater, *Lights Out Indy Chair*

Chandler Bryant, *Conservation Chair*

Additional Committee Chairs:

Donna McCarty, *Birdathon Chair*

Jessica Helmbold, *Education Chair*



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

Amos Butler Audubon Society

P.O. Box 80024
Indianapolis, IN 46280

Visit our website:
www.amosbutleraudubon.org
Sign up for the online LifeLines at
info@amosbutleraudubon.org