

# The Chat



Newsletter of the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, serving East Central Indiana

Volume 37, No. 2

Mar./Apr. 2011

March 14

## Bird Protection & Conservation in an Urban Environment

**Don Gorney**, president of central Indiana's Amos W. Butler Audubon chapter and program director of the chapter's Lights Out Indy initiative, will speak about important issues affecting birds in an urban environment at our March meeting.



Don is working on projects and pursuing collaborations to benefit urban birds: most notably, Lights Out Indy, an initiative to reduce bird deaths due to building strikes; Wings Over Indy, a multi-organizational project to benefit Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts; and advocacy work before decision-makers, such as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, to consider bird conservation when making decisions.  
*(cont. on page 2)*

April 11

## Indiana Turtle Conservation & Rehabilitation

Test your turtle knowledge! Which of the following statements is not true?

- Indiana has nearly 20 species of turtles.
- Many turtles are expert climbers.
- Some turtles lay their eggs on land, while others lay their eggs in water.
- In Indiana, it is illegal to take a box turtle from the wild.

Learn the answer to this question and many others on **April 11**, when **Marty LaPrees**, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in turtles and tortoises, will present "Indiana Turtle Conservation and Rehabilitation."

As founder and president of Indiana Turtle Care – a non-profit organization in New Palestine,  
*(cont. on page 3)*



## Spring Birding Extravaganza!

Celebrate Earth Day 2011 in style by participating in our Spring Birding Extravaganza on **April 23!**

If you're sometimes unsure what birds you're seeing in your back yard, we'll help you gain the skills to identify them. Through a full day of activities we'll offer birding ID information sessions, demonstrations, and other activities that will give you the confidence you need to identify birds, by both sight and sound, and to select the equipment you need to become a first-class birder. *(cont. on page 3)*

**Saturday, April 23, 9 am - 3:30 pm**  
At **Minnetrista**, in Muncie

**Admission** for Audubon members is **FREE**

Photo by Tom Harbron



# Upcoming Field Trips

## March 19 Summit Lake

On Sat., March 19, we will take a field trip to Summit Lake State Park.

Meet at the Nature Area, which is at the intersection of County Roads 500 E and 750 N (Henry County), at **8:30 am**. OR carpool from Cooper Science parking lot (Ball State campus) at **7:45 am** with the Field Trip Coordinator.

## April 30 Spring Wildflowers

On Sat., April 30, at **1:00 pm**, we will take a spring wildflower tour on Carolyn and John Vann's property (*see map below*). Carolyn is a professor of biology at Ball State, and John is a professor in the College of Business and teaches courses emphasizing sustainability.

There will be a guided tour of their wooded acreage, time for hikes, and some bird watching.

Carpoolers will leave from the Cooper Science parking lot (Ball State campus) at **12:15 pm**.

## May 7-8, overnight field trip Magee Marsh & Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

On Sat., May 7, we will take overnight birding trip to Magee Marsh (formerly Crane Creek) and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, on Lake Erie in Ohio, to observe warblers and other spring migrants. We will leave around 7:30 am Saturday and return Sunday afternoon.

We have reserved the Railroad Depot Bed & Breakfast in Oregon, Ohio, on May 7. Three rooms are currently available. One of the rooms may be set up for multiple singles if traveling alone. The room rate is \$100 plus tax.

The innkeeper is encouraging guests to book an extra night (Friday or Sunday) if desired. Cancellations must be 30 days in advance. When booking, be sure to mention you are with the Robert Cooper Audubon Society of Muncie, Indiana.

### Booking information:

Railroad Depot Bed & Breakfast

5331 Cedar Point Rd.

Oregon, OH 43616

(888) 690-7137 / [www.bbrailroad.com](http://www.bbrailroad.com)

### Other hotel option:

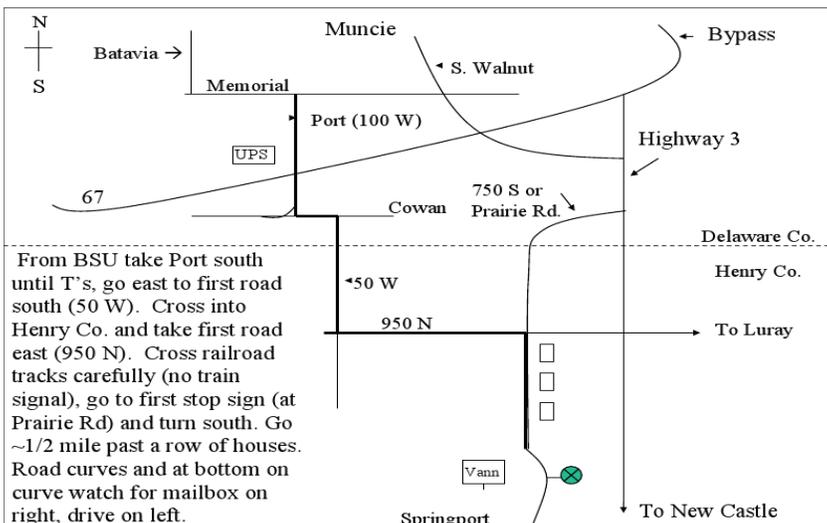
Holiday Inn Express

3154 Navarre Ave.

Oregon, OH 43616

(419) 691-8800

If you have questions, contact Sarah McKillip, Field Trip Coordinator, at [smregister@bsu.edu](mailto:smregister@bsu.edu) or 287-8464.



## Bird Protection & Conservation (cont. from page 1)

Lights Out Indy, begun in 2009, has documented 850 instances of bird strikes in downtown Indianapolis. Unfortunately, many of the birds die instantly. Countless survivors flutter away to die hours, or even days, later from the massive trauma they sustained. The reasons for avian building strikes are complex, but key aspects include excess lighting and glass. Lights Out Indy is working to understand the problem in metro Indianapolis and engaging building managers and others to assist in the initiative.

Don has been an extremely active birder for almost 20 years and has 359 species on his Indiana list. He is a former chair of the Indiana Bird Records Committee and currently serves on the committee as a member.

Learn full details about Don's work by joining us on March 14 at Minnetrista. Refreshments and time to socialize will begin at Minnetrista at **7:00**, followed by the chapter meeting at **7:15** and Don's program at **7:30**. As always, non-Audubon members are welcomed, so bring a friend!

## **Board Updates**

The board welcomes Amy Mansfield, new Publicity Chair, and Martha Hunt, who's completing the term of our outgoing Membership Chair, Laurie Lindberg.

Terms for several officers and two directors will be ending on June 30. If you or anyone you know would be willing to serve on the board for a one- or two-year period, please send their names to Doris Cheney ([jcheney3@juno.com](mailto:jcheney3@juno.com)) or Sarah McKillip ([smregister@bsu.edu](mailto:smregister@bsu.edu)) by April 1.

Especially needed is someone willing to serve as president. Our chapter cannot exist without one!

# Spring Birding Extravaganza *(cont. from page 1)*

Here's the day's **tentative schedule**:

## **9 am - 12 pm: Birding 101**

Learn the basic features to look for when identifying birds: size, body shape, bill shape, eye stripes, wing bars, etc. Participants will handle field study skins – a fundamental tool for ornithology students – in order to examine distinguishing field marks of dozens of common species in our area. (Led by Dr. Ron Weiss, ornithologist and director of Chipper Woods Bird Observatory in Indianapolis.)

## **12-1 pm: Brown bag lunch / mini-presentations**

Bring a sack lunch, and while you eat, you can learn how to select binoculars, spotting scopes, and bird field guides.

## **1-2 pm: Birding by Ear**

Birders need to use their ears, not just their eyes, when identifying birds. Learn how to discern the songs and calls of some of the most common birds in your back yard. (Led by Ron Weiss.)

## **2-2:30 pm: Mist-netting and bird-banding demonstration**

Learn how and why birds are banded. (Demonstration by Ron Weiss.)

## **2:30-3:30 pm: Bird walk**

Conclude the day by putting your new bird identification skills to the test! Small groups, led by experienced birders, will look and listen for birds on the Minnetrista grounds and at Christy Woods. *Be sure to bring your binoculars (and any extras you might have, for novice birders to use)!*

We also hope to have bird-focused kids' activities, a display of bird carvings, and birdseed for sale by Seedy Sally's (Pendleton), to support our Youth Conservation Scholarship fund.

Finally, we'll have prizes for the day's best "students," and every participant will receive a chokecherry sapling, to take home and plant. (Chokecherries are small native trees that provide food for birds, especially important for birds that spend the winter in our area.)

**Admission for Audubon members and Minnetrista members is FREE.** (Just tell the receptionist that you're an Audubon member.) All others pay the regular Minnetrista admission fee of **\$5**.

The Birding Extravaganza will be a fabulous opportunity to move up to the next level of bird knowledge and enjoyment! Be sure to tell your friends, neighbors, and co-workers!!

*Final details for the day, as they're confirmed, will be posted on our website ([www.cooperaudubon.org](http://www.cooperaudubon.org)).*

## **Volunteers Needed!**

For our Spring Birding Extravaganza to be a success, we need a couple dozen experienced volunteers to lead small groups for the bird walk. You don't have to be an expert birder – just someone who can identify common backyard birds.

This is an easy way to give back to the chapter! To volunteer, please email Barb Stedman at [bastedman@gmail.com](mailto:bastedman@gmail.com) or call 288-2890.

## **Indiana Turtle Conservation** *(cont. from page 1)*

Indiana – Marty has been helping injured, ill, orphaned turtles for more than ten years. At our April meeting she'll tell us about Indiana turtles: their natural history, habits, and habitats, as well as conservation of native species, including six species that are endangered in Indiana.

Marty will also tell us about the work that she does in rescuing and rehabilitating turtles, which includes some surprising tools and techniques for repairing damaged shells and draws upon her experience as an oral surgery assistant. Marty will have several Indiana turtles on hand, so **this will be a great program for the entire family!**

As with all Audubon programs, Marty's presentation will be free and open to non-Audubon members, so be sure to invite your friends and neighbors. Time to socialize and enjoy refreshments will begin at **7:00 p.m.** at Minnetrista. Chapter business will begin at **7:15**, and Marty's program will get underway at **7:30**.

## **Mary Gough**

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society lost a long-time member and former leader on January 7, when Mary Gough, of New Castle, died at the age of 87.

Mary had been extremely active in the Indiana Audubon Society, serving as president, editor of the society's newsletter, and organizer of programming at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary. For our own chapter, she served as a board member and as bird count coordinator for many years. Before retiring, as a biology teacher she shaped the lives of hundreds of nature-lovers in Indiana.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, 3499 South Bird Sanctuary Road, Connersville, IN 47331.

**Robert Cooper Audubon Society**



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*The Chat* is published 5 times a year by the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, and Randolph counties.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dates for Your Calendar</u></p> <p><b>March 14:</b> Bird Protection &amp; Conservation  <b>March 19:</b> Summit Lake field trip  <b>April 1:</b> Board nominations due  <b>April 11:</b> Indiana Turtle Conservation  <b>April 23:</b> Spring Birding Extravaganza!  <b>April 30:</b> Spring wildflower tour  <b>May 7-8:</b> Overnight field trip to Magee Marsh</p> <p>Chapter Website: <a href="http://www.cooperaudubon.org">www.cooperaudubon.org</a>                  Email: <a href="mailto:cooperaudubon@gmail.com">cooperaudubon@gmail.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Meetings</u></p> <p>Program meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except July &amp; August) at Minnetrista Cultural Center                  1200 N. Minnestrista Parkway                  Muncie, IN</p> <p> 7:00 p.m.: Coffee and Gathering                  7:15 p.m.: Chapter Business                  7:30 p.m.: Scheduled Program</p> <p><small>Printed on recycled paper 25% post-consumer fiber</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></p> <p>President: Barb Stedman 288-2890                  Vice-President: Jon Creek 348-4019                  Recording Sec.: Barb Hesselgrave 284-5661                  Treasurer: Nona Nunnelly 284-0751</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Directors</u></p> <p>2009-2011 Joel Jeffcoat 286-2896                  Phil Tuttle 289-4251                  2010-2012 Dave Cramer 260-726-9492                  Frank Meeker 289-5635</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Committee Chairs</u></p> <p>Conservation: Charlie Mason 288-9937                  Education: Sara Jarvis 759-5167                  Field Trip: Sarah McKillip 287-8464                  Hospitality: Doris Cheney 288-0981                  Membership: Martha Hunt 212-6873                  Newsletter Ed. Meredith Sims 317-640-8205                  Program: Lois Rockhill 287-8698                  Publicity: Amy Mansfield 749-4003</p>
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