November 8:  
**Conservation Awards Banquet**

Join us for a very special evening as we honor the 2010 recipients of our chapter’s annual conservation awards. This year’s banquet is set for **Monday, November 8**, from **6:00-8:30 pm**, at Minnetrista.

The evening will begin with dinner, followed by door prizes, then presentation of conservation awards, which includes an opportunity for all award winners to “show and tell” us about their accomplishments in protecting natural resources in East Central Indiana.

Dinner will be a buffet offering your choice of lasagna (regular or vegetarian) and pasta with grilled chicken and vegetables (or just vegetables, if you prefer), plus oven-browned potatoes, broccoli, salad, bread, peach cobbler, and beverages. The cost is $15.00 per person, and reservations are required.

Please send your check, payable to Robert Cooper Audubon Society, to Nona Nunnelly at 1302 N. Alden Rd., Muncie, IN 47304. **Reservations must be received by Monday, November 1**, and the vegetarian option MUST be selected at the time you place your reservation. See p. 3 for registration form. If you have questions about reservations, contact Nona at 284-0751 or nanunnelly@aol.com. For other questions, contact Barb Stedman at 765-288-2890 or bastedman@gmail.com.

This is an inspiring, fun evening, so please join us and bring a friend. You won’t be disappointed!

**November 20 field trip:**
**Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski FWA**

On **Sat., Nov. 20**, RCAS will travel to northern Indiana to see Sandhill Cranes at one of their favorite stopover sites during their migration south. The number of Sandhill Cranes stopping over at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area to feed and rest peaks in mid- to late November, totaling in the **thousands**.

If you are interested in carpool or caravan opportunities, we will leave the Cooper Science parking lot (on Ball State’s campus) at **6:30 am**, with plans to arrive at Jasper-Pulaski around 9:00 am.

Other birding opportunities will be available up north, and we will plan to be back in Muncie around 7:00 pm Saturday evening.

Based on what field-trippers decide, we can either pack or buy lunches. However, you are encouraged to bring the following: appropriate cold-weather clothing and footwear, binoculars, snacks, and money.

For more information, contact the field trip coordinator, Sarah McKillip: smregister@bsu.edu or 765-287-8464.

More information about the wildlife area and Sandhill Cranes is available at www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3109.htm.

**December 13 program:**
**BSU Field Course to South Africa**

South Africa provides an ideal field laboratory for students to examine and experience biological and cultural diversity in one of the hidden Edens of our planet. Social issues range from the AIDS epidemic to extreme disparity of wealth among its people. Conservation biology issues range from the controversial culling of African elephants in well-managed national parks to “green hunting.”

Join Dr. Kamal Islam, Professor of Biology, on a journey with students from Ball State University to explore the biodiversity, conservation biology issues, and cultures of South Africa.

Refreshments begin at Minnetrista on **Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.m.**, with the chapter meeting at 7:15, followed by Kamal’s program at 7:30.
Nov./Dec. Bird of the Month: Yellow-Rumped Warbler

The yellow-rumped warbler, formerly called myrtle warbler, is said to be one of the most abundant of that group of songsters. The warbler is 4½” - 5½” in length and, for a bird of that size, really gets around. It seems to spend a great part of its life migrating to and from the breeding grounds, which are found in upper Michigan and on north in Canada and even Alaska.

In the late summer and fall it begins its trek southward toward the southern states, Mexico and Central America. As one of the most common warblers, it is seen in flocks of hundreds during spring and fall migrations, especially fall. During the trip a great many come through Indiana beginning in late August, but the peak of the migration is in October.

Many leave for the south later, but some are staying in Indiana now for the winter, according to late studies. A great deal of the population of yellow-rumped warblers may be found in southern Indiana, but it is said that some may be found in various parts of the state where there is a bountiful supply of trees.

The spring migration from the south and back north into Indiana begins in April and is over usually by June when the birds have returned to the northern breeding grounds.

On their spring migration or on their breeding grounds, these warblers are clad in a dazzling mix of bright yellow, charcoal gray and black with bold white. The male has a yellow crown, rump and shoulder patch, white throat, black bib and white tail patches which are visible mainly in flight. Sometimes they are called butter-butts due to the yellow patch on the rump.

The female is paler, browner, but is similar to the male. In the fall yellow-rumped warblers are impressive in their sheer numbers with which they flood the landscape. Trees and shrubs fill with the now brown and yellow birds, having molted into their winter plumage which is more drab than the summer charcoal and yellow.

(To be continued in our January/February issue)
It’s time to renew chapter-only memberships!

In case you didn’t know, you can join our chapter two different ways: 1) by joining the National Audubon Society, which automatically makes you a member of our local chapter, or 2) by opting for chapter-only membership separate from or addition to your National Audubon Society (NAS) membership. (NOTE: Chapter-only members do not receive the Audubon magazine.)

Chapter-only membership sends every penny of your membership dues to our local chapter, to help fund conservation activities, youth scholarships, and other chapter projects, while your NAS membership gives us only $2.50 per person.

To become a new member of our Audubon chapter or renew your chapter-only membership, please send the form below, along with your check made payable to the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, to:

Laurie Lindberg, Membership Chair
4614 W Burton Dr.
Muncie, IN 47304

Chapter-only memberships run January-December. Your membership will begin or be renewed in January.

I want to become or a chapter-only member or renew my membership at the following level:

___ Student - $15    ___ Basic - $20    ___ Supporting - $50    ___ Partner - $100

I want to maintain my membership in the NAS, but here is my gift for the local chapter: $_______

Name _______________________________________      Telephone __________________________
Address ______________________________________________________________
City _____________________________     State _____     Zip _________________
Email _____________________________________

I want to receive The Chat newsletter in print form ____, via the U.S. Postal Service, or in electronic form ____

Banquet Reservations

Number of guests (@ $15 per person): _______   Amount enclosed: $___________
Dinner option (please indicate number for each guest): _____ Vegetarian _____ Non-vegetarian
Name(s): _______________________________________________________________________

Phone number __________________________ Email: ___________________________________

Please print out this form, complete it, and return it, along with your check, payable to Robert Cooper Audubon Society, to: Nona Nunnelly, Treasurer
1302 N. Alden Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304

Reservations must be received by November 1.
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.

**Dates for Your Calendar**

**Nov. 1:** Banquet reservations due  
**Nov. 8:** Conservation Awards Banquet  
**Nov. 20:** Sandhill Cranes at Jasper-Pulaski  
**Dec. 13:** “BSU Field Course to South Africa”  
**Dec. 18:** Muncie Christmas Bird Count  
**Dec. 30:** Send in chapter-only membership renewals

**Chapter Website:** www.cooperaudubon.org  
**Email:** cooperaudubon@gmail.com

**Meetings**

Program meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (except July & August) at Minnetrista  
1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway  
Muncie, IN

**7:00 p.m.:** Coffee and Gathering  
**7:15 p.m.:** Chapter Business  
**7:30 p.m.:** Scheduled Program

**Officers**

- President: Barb Stedman 288-2890  
- Vice-President: Jon Creek 348-4019  
- Recording Sec.: Barb Hesselgrave 284-5661  
- Treasurer: Nora Nunnelly 284-0751

**Directors**

- 2009-2011  
  - Joe Jeffcoat 286-2896  
  - Phil Tuttle 289-4251

- 2010-2012  
  - Dave Cramer 260-726-9492  
  - Frank Meeker 289-5635

**Committee Chairs**

- Conservation: Charlie Mason 288-9937  
- Education: Sara Jarvis 759-5167  
- Field Trip: Sarah McKillip 287-8464  
- Hospitality: Doris Cheney 288-0981  
- Membership: Laurie Lindberg 282-7516  
- Newsletter Ed.: Meredith Sims 317-640-8205  
- Program: Lois Rockhill 287-8698  
- Publicity:  
  - Position Vacant

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