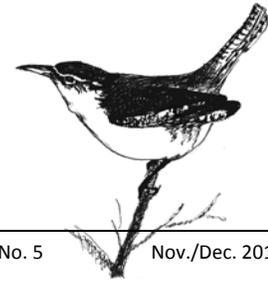


# The Chat



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

Volume 36, No. 5

Nov./Dec. 2010

## 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 Nunnally 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 nanunnally@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 stop-over 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](http://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**.

## TogetherGreen Grant Project Details by Tom Reeve

The Robert Cooper Audubon Society was recently named a recipient of a \$20,000 TogetherGreen Innovation Grant. This grant program, funded by Toyota, supports creative and ambitious projects that engage diverse communities and find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

RCAS will be collaborating with Muncie-Delaware Clean & Beautiful, the Red-tail Conservancy, Cardinal Greenways, and Blue Ash Consulting to remove invasive species and plant native trees and grasses at the Hughes Nature Preserve and along the Cardinal Greenway.

The Hughes Nature Preserve lies between the Cardinal Greenway and the White River in Muncie, across from the John Craddock Wetland Nature Preserve. It is the site of the former Gill Clay Pot Company, and remnants of the site, including building foundations and trash piles, still remain. The site has a major infestation of invasive species. Asian Bush Honeysuckle blankets the site with its arching maze of braches. Without restoration, the site will continue to decline until there are no native tree species left and all that remains is a jungle of invasives.

Led by RCAS members, volunteers will remove Bush Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, and other invasive shrub species. Tom Reeve, owner of Blue Ash Consulting and a certified pesticide applicator, will apply generic glyphosate (the product used in Roundup) both during removal and in the spring to ensure complete control of the shrubs.

In the spring, 1000 native trees and 1000 native grass plugs will be planted on the site. These plants will provide

the site with the support it needs to begin to develop a strong native ecosystem, which will resist future invasions of exotic pests.

In addition to regular volunteers, schoolchildren from the surrounding neighborhoods will be actively involved in both the removal of invasive species and the planting of native species. A key group of volunteers representing Ball  
*(Continued on next page)*

December 18th

### Muncie Christmas Bird Count

The National Audubon Society Muncie Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by RCAS, will be held this year on Saturday, December 18.

CBC participants count birds in the field or at feeders within a 15-mile diameter circle. The count circle for the Muncie CBC is centered in downtown Muncie. More information on CBCs can be found at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

Interested birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in this fun day with other birders! If you have questions or would like to join in this citizen-science outing, **contact Bill Grummer** at 254-1943 or [billcarolee@comcast.net](mailto:billcarolee@comcast.net) as soon as possible, but **no later than December 8**.

## Nov./Dec. Bird of the Month: Yellow-Rumped Warbler

Yellow-Rumped Warbler:  
*Dendroica Coronata*  
By Helen Twibell



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 mi-

grations, 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)*

*TogetherGreen Project details, continued from page 2*

State, Muncie Community Schools, the Buley Center, and MOMs (Motivate Our Minds) will work to teach our future conservationists about the whys and hows of ecological restoration. This will help to ensure that our works will be continued will in to the future.

This grant was made possible through the hard work of the Conservation Committee and other members of RCAS and the Muncie community. It is our hope that this is just the first phase of restoration along the greenway and that we will be able to continue all the way to Prairie Creek Reservoir. If we are able to accomplish that great feat, we will create a native wildlife corridor from the reservoir to Muncie.

### **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.

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**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 , as an email attachment. (**Please check box of your preference.** Email saves us money!)

### **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.**

## Robert Cooper Audubon Society



Robert Cooper Audubon Society  
Nona Nunnally  
1302 N. Alden Rd.  
Muncie, IN 47304



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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.

### 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](http://www.cooperaudubon.org)  
Email: [cooperaudubon@gmail.com](mailto: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



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- 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 Nunnally	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:	<i>Position Vacant</i>	