



# Cooper's Talk

Newsletter of the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, serving east central Indiana

Volume 41, No. 2  
March/April 2017

## From North to South: tracking individual Hudsonian Godwits (*Limosa haemastica*) across the hemisphere" – Rose Swift

*Wednesday, April 19, 7 p.m.*

The Hudsonian Godwit breeds in the Arctic and winters in southern South America, apparently making the migration nonstop. The species is listed as "Near Threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and is on the 2016 State of North America's Birds' Watch List. Because of its remote breeding grounds, there is not much known about the Hudsonian Godwit. Rose Swift, a Ph.D. candidate at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is researching the species so we have a better understanding of its habits. Rose will be presenting her research and discuss the lifestyle of the Godwits, in addition to where they breed and winter.



RCAS programs are held at the **Kennedy Branch** of the Muncie Public Library. Chapter business and refreshments start at 7:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:15 p.m.

## Bird Banding Demonstrations

Starting March 21 and continuing through April, Clay Delancey will be banding birds at the Ball State University property, Cooper Farm in Muncie, Indiana. Lucky for us, Clay has opened the banding to anyone who has an interest in watching and helping with the process! Clay will be banding Tuesday mornings starting at 7:15 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Banding is weather dependent and will not occur in rain or winds above 14 mph. For questions or more information contact Clay at [cddelancey@bsu.edu](mailto:cddelancey@bsu.edu).



Pine Warbler



Fox Sparrow

## Upcoming Field Trips

---

### Summit Lake State Park

**Sunday, March 19, 1:30 p.m.**

Meet us at the north west section of Summit Lake Reservoir at the corner of Henry County Roads 500 E and 750 N. We will bird the reservoir for a few hours before heading home. The group may bird Prairie Creek Reservoir on the way back to Muncie. Carpoolers will meet at Cooper Science parking lot at 1 p.m.

### Loblolly Marsh and Limberlost Historic Site

**Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.**

Meet at the Limberlost Visitor Center in Geneva, Indiana. Carpoolers will leave from Cooper Science parking lot at 7:45 a.m.

Directions from Muncie: From N Broadway, continue north on SR-67. In Portland, SR-67 takes a left. In Bryant, continue onto US-27 (rather than going right to stay on SR-67). The visitor center will be on the right at 200 E 6th St., Geneva.

---

### Mounds State Park

**Sunday, March 26 & April 30**

Monthly Mounds State Park hikes will continue on the last Sunday of the month. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. The \$5 entrance fee will begin at the park in March. We will provide binoculars and a scope. The hikes end with a recap of birds seen and cookies in the visitor's center!

---

### Eagle Creek State Park

**Sunday, April 2, 9 a.m.**

We will be joining Amos W. Butler Audubon on their weekly bird hike. Meet at the Ornithology Center in the park. There is a park fee of \$7. Carpoolers will leave from the Cooper Science parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

### Service Trip, Red-tail Nature Preserve

**Saturday, April 1, 8:30 a.m.**

Join us for a combined birding and service trip. We expect warblers and other Spring migrants. We will also be pulling garlic mustard and eradicating bush honeysuckle. Bring work gloves, binoculars, and extra loppers! If you wish to carpool, meet at the Cooper Science parking lot at 8:10 a.m.

---

### Fox Island and Eagle Marsh, Fort Wayne

**Saturday, April 22, 9:15 a.m.**

Meet us at the **Bird Observation** parking lot at Fox Island. We will spend most of the time at Fox Island but will spend some time at Eagle Marsh as well. There is a \$2 per person entry fee at Fox Island. If you would like to carpool from Muncie, meet at the Cooper Science parking lot at 7:45 a.m.

Directions from Muncie: Take I-69 north to exit 299, Lower Huntington Rd toward Airport Expressway. Turn right on Lower Huntington, then take the first left to stay on it. Take the second left onto Branstrator Rd, then turn right onto Yohne Rd. Fox Island is on the left. After you enter the park, go straight through a 4-way stop just past the gatehouse and continue to the end of the road. Turn left into the parking lot. The address is 7324 Yohne Rd, Fort Wayne.

---

### OVERNIGHT: McCormick Creek State Park and Goose Pond

**April 7-8**

We will gather at McCormick Creek State Park on the evening of April 7th. We will take an early morning bird hike on Saturday, April 8th at McCormick and have breakfast at the park. McCormick Creek is a lovely park and we can expect to see many wildflowers as well. We will depart for Goose Pond following breakfast. Goose Pond is one of the most spectacular birding sites in Indiana. We will plan to spend several hours birding at Goose Pond. Consider bringing something to drink and a snack. Also, bring rain gear, water-proof boots, etc. just in case. If you are unable to join the group at McCormick Creek State Park and would like to bird at Goose Pond, contact Rose to make arrangements. To reserve a room call the Canyon Inn at McCormick Creek State Park at 877-563-4371. Camping is also available at the park. Email Rose with your intentions to attend the trip. She will be sending out more information as the trip gets closer. Rose's contact information: Home 765-747-9699, Cell 765-716-0299, Email [rosemariejeffery@gmail.com](mailto:rosemariejeffery@gmail.com)



## Indiana State Parks Second Century Survey Now Open

The DNR wants to know what you like and don't like about our state parks, what you'd like to see.

It will help them set priorities; for instance: spend more to maintain existing parks or to acquire new ones.

Please take about 15 minutes to fill out the online survey.

Besides giving them valuable feedback, you can also win prizes, like an annual pass, gift cards and more.

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/9410.htm>

---

March 22, 2017 is World Water Day. On that day, Pope Francis hopes to inspire a global conversation that will shift how we view our most precious resource, water, by initiating the five-year program, WATERSHED. You can join the conversation leading up to World Water Day and WATERSHED by sharing your water story on social media using #MyWaterStory. Visit [worldwatervalues.org/mywaterstory](http://worldwatervalues.org/mywaterstory) to view prompts and themes to help you with your submissions. Don't forget to share your #mywaterstory with RCAS on social media!

---

## From the National Audubon Society: How to Be an Effective Advocate in Less Than Five Minutes

So you've made a decision to do more to protect birds, other wildlife and our shared environment—now what? You—as a constituent—are your lawmakers' boss. They want to hear from you. Use that influence; you don't have to be an expert or a professional lobbyist. It won't take up much of your valuable time, and you will have an important impact on our efforts to save wildlife and the places they call home.

**1. Contact your lawmakers with a letter or an email:** Lawmakers often calculate that each letter they receive from one of their constituents represents a similar view of at least 100 constituents. That's why letters to lawmakers are so important. **2. Place a phone call:** Phone calls are a great way to communicate your concerns to lawmakers. You will probably speak with an aide or intern rather than the lawmaker, but your call is still very important. **3. Personal visits:** By far the most effective way to articulate your views to your elected official and positively affect the outcome of legislation is to speak with your lawmaker face-to-face. **4. Monitor the idea:** Keep conservation issues alive in your local newspapers, TV and radio stations and magazines. The media play a powerful role in conservation efforts as they help shape public opinion on policies, such as protecting endangered species, restoring the Everglades, or preserving roadless areas in our national forests. You can help maximize the potential of this resource by calling in to local talk shows or writing letters to the editor. **5. Letters to the Editor:** Letters to the Editor provide you with an opportunity to comment on articles, editorials and advertisements appearing in local newspapers. Letters to the Editor are widely read by lawmakers and community leaders to gauge public sentiment about current issues in the news. **6. Get others involved:** Make sure your family, friends and co-workers are aware of conservation legislation and encourage them to get involved. Use the "tell a friend" feature in Audubon Alert system to email alerts to friends and co-workers quickly when a conservation bill is up for a vote, or in danger of being ignored. Let them know the outcome of that vote, and how your specific lawmaker voted on the measure.

For more tips on this topic visit <http://www.audubon.org/content/how-be-effective-advocate-less-five-minutes> or contact the National Audubon Society at [audubonaction@audubon.org](mailto:audubonaction@audubon.org).



Robert Cooper  
Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1635  
Muncie, IN 47308

**Dates for Your Calendar**

- March 15: Newport Aquarium @ Minnetrista
- March 19: Summit Lake
- March 22: World Water Day
- March 25: Loblolly Marsh / Limberlost
- March 26: Mounds Bird Hike
- April 1: Red-tail Nature Preserve Service Trip
- April 2: Eagle Creek
- April 7-8: Goose Pond
- April 19: Monthly Program - Rose Swift
- April 22: Fox Island / Eagle Marsh
- April 30: Mounds Bird Hike

Chapter Website: [www.cooperaudubon.org](http://www.cooperaudubon.org)  
Find us on Facebook!  
Email: [admin@cooperaudubon.org](mailto:admin@cooperaudubon.org)

Program meetings are held every month except July, August, and September at  
**Muncie Public Library, Kennedy Branch**  
1700 W McGalliard Rd, Muncie, IN  
7:00 pm: chapter business & refreshments  
7:15 pm: scheduled program

*Cooper's Talk* 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.

**Officers**

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President:      | Sarah McKillip  | 765-287-8462 |
| Vice-President: | Willy De Smet   | 260-726-6693 |
| Recording Sec.: | Kim Lee         | 765-215-0576 |
| Treasurer:      | Robert Williams | 765-730-8427 |

**Directors**

|            |                  |              |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2016-2018: | Annette Rose     | 765-741-8376 |
|            | Kevin Tungesvick | 765-354-2775 |
| 2015-2017: | Kamal Islam      | 765-284-9872 |
|            | Kim McKenzie     | 707-535-6946 |

**Committee Chairs**

|                |                 |              |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Conservation:  | Jon Creek       | 765-348-4019 |
| Education:     | Kim Lee         | 765-215-0576 |
| Field Trip:    | Rose Jeffery    | 765-716-0299 |
| Hospitality:   | Doris Cheney    | 765-288-0891 |
| Membership:    | Sandy Ho        | 765-215-4361 |
| Program:       | Crystal Nichols | 812-655-1909 |
| Newsletter Ed: | Micayla Jones   | 765-635-1320 |