



Cooper's Talk

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

Volume 41, No. 4
Sept. / Oct. 2017

Join us for our annual picnic!

On Sunday, September 24, our annual fall picnic will take place at Mounds State Park Friends Shelter at 11:30 a.m.

Please bring (1) a hot or cold dish, salad, or dessert to share and (2) your own tableware. RCAS will provide sausages, brats, and veg options as well as a number of outdoor games and activities for all ages.



Prior to the meal, RCAS will be holding the monthly *Mounds State Park bird hike*. The hike starts at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor's center and ends with a review of which species were recorded. The picnic is free, but entrance into Mounds State Park is \$7 per vehicle.

Christy Frampton from the Indiana Bluebird Society *Wednesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us to hear Christy Frampton discuss the Indiana Bluebird Society's efforts to protect and grow the Eastern Bluebird populations in Indiana.

The chapter meeting will be held at the **Kennedy Branch** of the Muncie Public Library. Chapter business and refreshments will begin at 7:00 with the program beginning at 7:15.

Join us as we sponsor the 3rd Annual Ride for the Mounds (Greenway)! Saturday, September 30

Register for a scenic bike ride to support the Mounds Greenway. The 15, 25, and 45-mile bike rides start and finish at **Canoe Country** (6660 S CR 900 W, Daleville, IN 47334). There will be a post-ride party and optional camping that is open to all! The post-ride event begins at 4 p.m. More information and ride registration can be found by visiting (<http://www.hecweb.org/get-involved/ride-for-the-mounds-2017/>)

Upcoming Trips & Announcements

Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, October 7

Muscatatuck was Indiana's first National Wildlife Refuge and was established in 1966. Its mission is to restore and manage a mix of forest, wetland, and grassland habitat. Management for waterfowl, other migratory birds and endangered species is a high priority. We will gather at the visitor's center at 9:30 a.m. Carpoolers will leave from the Cooper Science lot at 7:00 a.m.

Mounds State Park Bird Hike

Sunday, Sept 24 & Oct 29, 9:00 a.m.

The Mounds Bird Hikes will continue in September and October! Meet at the visitor center at 9 a.m. We will provide binoculars. The hike ends with a review of which species we recorded. Birders of all skill levels are invited and children are encouraged to join!

Limberlost Swamp and Loblolly Marsh

Saturday, October 21

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor center in Geneva to explore the Limberlost region. The address is 200 E 6th St. Those who wish to caravan can meet at the Cooper Science lot at 8:00 a.m.

Make a reservation now for a joint IAS workshop!

Saturday, February 24, 2018 at 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

This workshop is good for all birders. Why in the winter? It is the season to see Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, and Bald Eagles at Limberlost. The workshop is hosted by the Indiana Audubon Society, Limberlost SHS, Robert Cooper Audubon Society, and Friends of the Limberlost. Registration has begun and there are only 20 spots left. There is a registration fee of \$15.

Conservation Awards Banquet

Saturday, November 11

Mark your calendars to attend the Conservation Award Banquet to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Muncie on November 11. The banquet will honor individuals and organizations that have made noteworthy contributions to the environment in our region in the following categories:

Robert H. and Esther (Munro) Cooper Conservation Award: the chapter's highest honor, for overall contributions to, conservation of, and appreciation for, the natural environment.

Phyllis Yuhas Wildlife Habitat Preservation Award: for development or preservation of habitat that contains significant wildlife and/or native plant life populations.

Richard Greene Public Service Award: for active involvement in serving the public's environmental interests and concerns.

Clyde W. Hibbs Conservation Education Award: for excellence in educating the area's children, youth, and /or adults on conservation issues and practices.

Charles Wise Youth Conservation Award: for excellence in conservation practices by a youth under age 18.

To make the event a success, we need your help. If you know of an organization or individual who deserves recognition for his or her service in any of these categories, *please send your nomination, along with a description of the nominee and his or her contact information, to Annette Rose at rosenflowers@hughes.net*. Nominations must be received by Sept. 25. Be sure to include your own name, phone number, address, and email address. Award nominees need not reside in our chapter's seven-county region or be affiliated with the Audubon Society. A list of past recipients is linked from our website at the bottom of the "Monthly Programs."

Now collecting items for the RCAS silent auction!

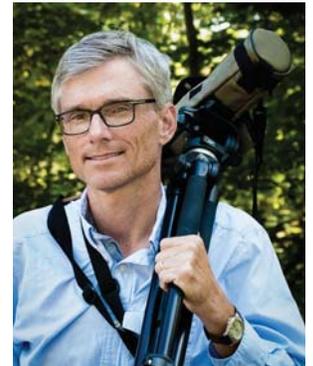
Our 3rd Annual Silent Auction will be held on November 11 in conjunction with the Conservation Awards Banquet. Audubon members who have interesting items to donate could bring them to the October 18th meeting at Kennedy Library or get them to Doris Cheney at 500 S. Umbarger Road in Muncie by November 1st!

In the past, items that relate to nature in any way have sold well. Some suggestions are bird houses, bat houses, bird feeders, art works, ceramic items, things made of wood, creative wall hangings, baskets of environment friendly items, books, note cards, carvings, and restaurant gift cards are ideas. Others are also welcome! Contact Doris Cheney at 765-288-0981 or Dr. Kamal Islam at 765-284-9872 with questions or to arrange drop off plans. All contributions will be greatly appreciated! The proceeds will go to fund conservation and education projects of Robert Cooper Audubon Society.

Two RCAS Board Members to fill Board vacancies

As RCAS continues its search for enthusiastic leaders to guide the chapter, current Board members have accepted temporary appointments to these positions.

Mary Annette Rose will serve as interim president. Annette is a board member of the Living Lightly Fair and professor at Ball State teaching sustainability, energy, and technology courses. She and husband Jim Flowers nurture 13 acres near Prairie Creek Reservoir, fighting invasive species, gardening, and marveling at the interconnected web of life.



RCAS's interim vice president will be Robert Williams, who continues to serve as treasurer, a post he has held since 2012. He lives in Muncie at Sandpiper Lake, which attracts a variety of migrant waterfowl despite its urban setting.



Outgoing RCAS President, Sarah McKillip, received the Vivian Conley Award. Sarah was among several influential women who were recognized on Women's Equality Day. Honored for her work as RCAS president, Sarah helped lead the fight against the proposed Mounds Reservoir, launched the About Birds program for the youth of Whitely, created monthly bird hikes at Mounds State Park, and undertook numerous initiatives and partnerships to promote appreciation of East Central Indiana's natural resources and to encourage outdoor activity. Sarah completed her third and final term as RCAS president in July.



Robert Cooper
Audubon Society

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Dates for Your Calendar

Sept 24: Mounds Bird Hike
 Sept 24: Annual Picnic
 Sept 30: Ride for the Mounds
 Oct 7: Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge
 Oct 18: Monthly Program - Christy Frampton
 Oct 21: Loblolly & Limberlost
 Oct 29: Mounds Bird Hike
 Nov 11: Conservation Award Banquet

Chapter Website: www.cooperaudubon.org
 Find us on Facebook!
 Email: admin@cooperaudubon.org

Program meeting 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
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