

The Chat

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

Volume 33, No. 5 June 2007

Living Lightly Fair

The one event of the entire summer that you don't want to miss is finally here! It's Living Lightly A Resource Fair for Sustainable Lifestyles.

Fair-goers will get to hear more than two dozen speakers, browse displays by dozens of vendors and exhibitors, listen to great music, and go on field trips to area sites that show sustainable practices in action. Special events will be available for kids as well. And admission to the fair will be FREE, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.

You'll learn about ways to live simpler and healthier lives, alternative energy sources, construction and remodeling strategies that save energy and materials, gardening and landscaping that are better for you, your family, and wildlife and much, much more!

Minnetrista's Garden Fair and Farmers Market will be happening right across the street, so fair-goers can plan on a full weekend of great activities! You won't even have to leave for meals. Living Lightly organizers will have breakfast and lunch available for purchase on site.

See p. 3 for the schedule of events. Better yet, go to www.livinglightlyfair.org for complete information. Bring the entire family. And remember: it's FREE!

FREE presentations,
children's activities, field trips,
and outdoor concerts,
vendors and exhibitors
marketplace

Practical, inspiring tips for living more sustainably!

Saturday, June 2

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 3

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Delaware Co. Fairgrounds, Muncie
www.livinglightlyfair.org



Dozens of volunteers are needed for the fair weekend. If you'd like to contribute to one of the most exciting events to come to East Central Indiana, email bastedman@gmail.com

June 11 program:

Emerald Ash Borers

Join us **June 11** for our final program meeting before we take our summer break. Melissa Shepson from Purdue University will be our guest speaker. Melissa is a Program Assistant with the Department of Entomology working with the Emerald Ash Borer Program. She will give us an overview of the invasive insect species that exist in Indiana with a special focus of the Emerald Ash Borer. This insect is of special concern during summer because warmer weather means camping which often involves the transport of insect infested firewood. Social time with refreshments begins at 7:00 p.m. with announcements following and our program beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Wood Thrush: June Bird of the Month

Wood Thrush:
Hylocichla mustelina
By Helen Twibell



The wood thrush is a comely bird, and the most familiar of our brown thrushes. It is richly-colored, with the bright reddish brown on the head running off into a warm brown on its back. The white underparts are heavily marked with dark teardrop spotting. As is true with other thrushes, the wood thrush has a relatively long, slender, but not sharply pointed bill adapted for eating soft foods such as insects, worms and berries, but not seeds. The wood thrush measures about 8 inches, which is said to be starling-sized.

The natural habitat of the wood thrush is found in moist, deciduous, woodlands with a thick undergrowth. It is also the only one of the species which nests regularly in the vicinity of houses. The thrush, by nature, is a bird of the forest floor, and it seldom rises above the lower limbs of trees, even to sing. Most food is obtained by scratching dead leaves on the ground and flipping them over, hopping about in typical thrush fashion.

The voice of the wood thrush is a beautiful two-toned flute-like song. It seems to prefer singing during the early morning, or evening hours just before sunset. Before the song comes an introductory phrase pip-pip-pip call note. Then comes the outpouring of the full ee-oh-lay notes that scale down-

ward. These evening vespers will continue until just before dark, when they taper off and the sounds of other night birds take over. The wood thrush has one of the most beautiful songs of any of the N. American birds. Thoreau wrote of it: "Whenever a man hears it he is young, and Nature is in her spring; whenever he hears it, it is a new world and a free country, and the gates of heaven are not shut against him."

The nest, typical of thrushes, is mud-lined with grass and rootlets placed on the inside and the outside. It is loose in structure with lots of dead leaves, grass, vine bark and even paper (around human habitation.) Although the nest is neatly built, the types of materials used may cause it to appear shaggy. It is always placed firmly in the crotch of a shrub or small tree, most often evergreen--from 3 to 15 feet from the ground. The 3 or 4 greenish-blue eggs are evenly marked with light brown.

The wood thrush breeds from New Hampshire, Ontario, over to Wisconsin, S. Dakota, and south to Florida, Louisiana and Texas. It winters in Mexico, south to Panama. This thrush tends to return to the same winter territory year after year. Not all wood thrushes succeed in getting a winter territory. "Floaters" are subordinate birds that are presumably chased out and prevented from establishing a territory by more dominant birds. Floaters are less likely to survive than thrushes who can establish winter territories. Wood thrush-

es migrate in October and return in May, for the most part. The wood thrush is believed to have been a common summer resident throughout Indiana over a hundred years ago. However, the numbers seem to have dwindled in the last few decades. Since this species winters in Central America and nests in areas subject to much recent forest fragmentation, they may be victims of population stress. Studies also reveal that in areas of highly fragmented small forest plots, they sometimes actually fledge more brown-headed cowbirds than wood thrush young (parasitism). It is difficult to measure the reproductive success of the wood thrush.

NEWS NOTES:

Go Electronic!

You can help us save both money and trees by receiving the Chat electronically, via email, rather than in printed form. If you'd like to change the way in which you receive the newsletter each month, please send your request to cooperaudubon@gmail.com.

See you in September

As usual, there will be no RCAS program meetings of issues of the Chat during July and September. Look for the next Chat in late August, for complete details about our annual fall picnic, which should be September 10. Mark your calendars now!

Living Lightly Schedule of Events

For full details, visit www.livinglightlyfair.org

SATURDAY EVENTS

Vendors and exhibitors open at 8 a.m.

SAT. SPEAKERS:

8:30-9:30 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Green cleaning
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy in and around Indiana
- Rain garden workshop

9:45-10:45 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Community green buildings
- Creating healthy homes
- Modern wind and solar systems for sustainable living

11:00-12:00

KEYNOTE – How to live sustainably (and happily) ever after

12:30-1:30 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Community leaders round table – government leaders from ECI
- Creating green landscapes
- Beyond green building: Using straw bale, cob, and cordwood to create sustainable structures

2:15-3:15 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- The Slow Food movement: Connecting plate and planet
- Dispelling energy-saving myths in homes
- The need for green design and living

SAT. MUSIC:

12:15-1:15 Kid Kazooey – Energetic and engaging children's concert

2:00-3:00 Les & Gwen Gustafson- Zook – Autoharp and guitar American folk music

3:30-4:30 FEATURED MUSIC – Paula Monsalve – Latin American music

SAT. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

8:30-10:30 Sleep all day / play all night: Lifestyles of nocturnal animals

9:45-11:45 Build a dome!

11:00-12:00 Shrinking habitats

12:15-1:15 Vroom ... Build a Solar Car!

1:30-3:30 Watts with the sun? Solar energy in action

3:30-4:30 Playing fair/playing fun

Ongoing children's activities: Navigating Nature video game, storytelling, Safetytown presentations

SAT. FIELD TRIP:

12:30-4:00 Cooper Farm – tour a straw bale structure and prairie restoration

SUNDAY EVENTS

Vendors and exhibitors open at 9:30 a.m.

SUN. SPEAKERS:

10:00-11:00 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Healthy, wildlife-friendly backyards
- Creating a sense of community in your neighborhood: The City Repair Project model
- Landscaping with salvaged materials

11:15-12:15 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Green building materials
- Recycling and disposing of hazardous waste
- Simple steps for sustainable living

12:45-1:45

KEYNOTE – Natural Remodeling

2:00-3:00 CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS:

- Twenty practical tips to green your home and life
- Buying recycled
- Organic gardening

SUN. MUSIC:

11:00-12:00 Walden's Song – folk music with Celtic emphasis

1:45-2:45 The Great Divide – “Newgrass” approach to variety of music styles

3:00-4:30 FEATURED MUSIC – Salaam – traditional and modern ethnic music of other cultures

SUN. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:

10:00-11:00/12:00 Tracking wildlife

11:15-12:15 Roll your own tribal beads!

12:30-1:30/2:30 Creek stomp: What the water reveals!

1:45-2:45 For the birds! Build a bird feeder with recyclable materials!

Ongoing children's activities: Navigating Nature video game, storytelling, Safetytown presentations

SUN. FIELD TRIP:

2:00-4:30/5:00: Demonstration of home energy audit



Jennifer White

Jennifer White, Exec. Director of the Simplicity Forum, will speak on “How to Live Happily (and Sustainably) Ever After” on Saturday, June 2, at 11:00 a.m.



Carol Venolia

Author and architect Carol Venolia will speak on “Natural Remodeling” on Sunday, June 3, at 12:45 p.m.

Are you a chapter-only member?

If you're a National Audubon Society member, only \$2.50 of your annual dues support the work of our chapter. But if you're a chapter-only member, every cent of your dues comes directly to our chapter – helping us pay for program speakers, produce and mail this newsletter, support conservation activities in the region, and keep our chapter running smoothly.

June is our annual chapter-only membership drive month, so if you haven't taken out a separate membership in the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, now is the perfect time to do so. (Please note: If you drop your National Audubon Society membership, you'll no longer receive the Audubon magazine.)

Just return the form below and return it to Membership Committee Co-Chair Jane Duckworth, at the address indicated. Readers of the electronic Chat can download membership forms from the "About our chapter" section of our website, at www.coop-eraudubon.org.

Thank you for your support!

I want to support the Robert Cooper Audubon Society at the following level (please check your choice):

- Student \$15
- Basic \$20
- Supporting \$50
- Partner \$100
- I want to maintain my membership in the National Audubon Society, but here is my gift for the local chapter: \$_____

Please make your check payable to the Robert Cooper Audubon Society and send it, along with this form, to:

**Jane Duckworth, RCAS Membership Chair
806 N Briar Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304**

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.)

RCAS Continuing Conservation Efforts

RCAS Conservation update

The osprey nesting platforms project in Henry county is waiting for drier weather to erect our 3 nesting platforms at Summit Lake State Park and Province Pond. Henry County REMC will help us dig the holes and “plant”. While RCAS was at Summit Lake on Tuesday, May 15 planting sedges and rushes we glassed an osprey in the nature ponds area. We are set to go!

Mark and Robin Scott (RCAS member) 20 acre prairie planting project that RCAS is a partner on is progressing. The burning of the area was accomplished on May 13th. We wait for the new green growth to get 8-12”, then mow and apply herbicide. We plant the new prairie in the fall. The project is using Henry county genotype grasses and forbs that are compatible with the remnant prairie at the Rogersville Cemetery. This project is an US Fish & Wildlife “Partners with Fish and Wildlife” and Indiana DNR Fish & Wildlife Division funded project. RCAS stands ready to help

with funding if needed.

Sandhill Crane Nesting Habitat Project

Loblolly Nature Preserve in Jay County was the site of this year’s first Sandhill planting on May 10. A group of thirteen restoration workers included seven 4-H members and their parents. In addition to RCAS’s 500 plugs, the crew also planted 400 plugs of cordgrass in a separate area of the marsh.

On May 15th, we planted 500 sedges and rushes plugs east of the nature ponds at Summit Lake State Park in 4 hours. Helpers were Blanche Townsend, Bill Grummer, Jon Creek and Jeff Ray. It was a beautiful morning to be outside creating habitat for the Sandhills and sedge wrens.

Wetland plants Demonstration area

This partnering project that Summit Lake State Park asked RCAS to help with was planted the week of May 20th. This project is located on trail 1 in a small cove on the lake. The sedges and rushes and blue flag iris are the plants to establish this new wetland demo area. Since there are many geese on the lake we will need to put up an exclusion fence around the new plants.

At the last regular meeting, Jon and Jeff offered a bluebird, wren, or tree swallow birdhouse for at least a \$20 donation for conservation projects. We started with 12 and have 4 left and are in need of additional funds to complete our conservation projects. Please help RCAS.

During the first stage of wetland plantings last year, two of the seven volunteers, led by Conservation Chair Jon Creek, help to put in 400 native plant plugs at the Bonham Preserve. The work will continue at different sites this year.



THE ABSENT PRESIDENT SENDS A NOTE FROM THE OUTER BANKS OF NORTH CAROLINA

I am having a great time here in the Outer Banks on Hatteras Island. Working for the National Park Service is a fun job and I spend my days off exploring the area. I am serenaded each night by Chuck-wills widows and spend my days listening to the mockingbirds and great crested flycatchers that seem to be everywhere. I have developed an cautious acceptance of the water moccasins but not the deer ticks.

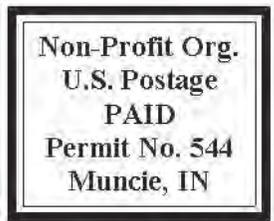
I miss a lot about Indiana and will be glad to get back home in the fall. I know I have missed some good programs, spring wildflowers and our warbler migration. I am sorry to have to miss the Living Lightly Fair. I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall and to a new chapter year. Enjoy your summer.

Bonnie

Robert Cooper Audubon Society



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Lis Mitchell
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Muncie, IN 47302



Dated Material- Please Deliver Promptly

The Chat is published 10 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

June 2-3: Living Lightly Fair

June 11, 7:30 p.m.: Emerald Ash Borers

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 Cultural Center
1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway
Muncie, IN

7:00 p.m.: Coffee & Gathering

7:15 p.m.: Chapter Business

7:30 p.m.: Scheduled Program



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