May 12:

The Land of the Limberlost

Join us in May as we explore Indiana’s Limberlost area. Our May 12 program meeting will feature photographer and Geneva IN resident Bill Hubbard. Bill will introduce us to the birds of the Limberlost, including their songs. His presentation will also include a brief history of the Limberlost and author Gene Stratton-Porter. For many of us the works of this Hoosier author provided some of our first glimpses into the natural world and helped form our love of the environment.

Refreshments and chapter announcements will begin at 7:00 PM with our program commencing at 7:30. As always, guests are welcome.

Limberlost Field Trip

On Saturday, May 17, we hope you’ll join us for Nature Day at the Limberlost. Ornithologist Ron Weiss (from the Chipperwoods Observatory in Indianapolis) will lead us on a morning of birding through the Loblolly Marsh Wetland Preserve, which is the most significantly restored portion of the Limberlost wetlands.

We’ll have at least two spotting scopes with us, to give us great views of the typically wonderful birding we find at the Loblolly. (Highlights of one of our most recent May field trips included an American bittern, a dunlin, several green herons, semi-palmated plovers, wood ducks, northern shovellers, blue-winged teals, lots of great egrets and great blue herons, Baltimore orioles, and indigo buntings.)

Meet at the Minnetrista parking lot at 7:30 a.m. if you want to carpool, or rendezvous with us at the Loblolly Marsh at 8:45. Remember to bring your binoculars and field guide, and wear shoes that you aren’t afraid to get muddy!

Directions, if you go on your own: Loblolly Marsh is located west of the small town of Bryant, in Jay Co. Take State Road 18 three miles west from Bryant to County Road 250W, and look for signs pointing to the right. Go north on 250W just a short distance, and you’ll see the parking lot on the left. If you need further information, call Barb Stedman at 765-288-2890 or email her at bastedman@gmail.com. If you have any questions on the day of the field trip, call 765-212-6873.
The Ameri
can redstart, 
a warbler, is 
one of those 
birds that ei
eyer see it 
or you don’t. 
It seems not 
to afford even 
a glimpse of 
its unique beauty at our own 
feeders in our own back yards, at 
least not at my place. It is one of 
the most numerous warblers in 
N. America, because its favored 
habitat, second-growth wood-

canoe County, Kosisuko Coun-
ty, Kankakee Fish and Wildlife 
Area, Pine Hills Nature Preserve 
and Shades State Park.

The American redstart is, in 
appearance, rather like the Balt-
timore oriole, but on a much 
smaller scale. The redstart male 
is a small songbird, being four 
to five inches in length with a 
black hood, back, wings, tail 
and chest. The chest has orange 
on the sides, in the wings and 
in sides and base of the tail. Its 
belly is white. The female has 
a light gray head, gray to light 
green back and yellow patches 
on the side of the breast with 
yellow patches in the wings and 
a yellow base of the outer tail 
feathers. An appropriate nick-
name might be “little fantail” or 
“red tail”. The redstart is also 
known as the butterfly of the 
bird world because of its quick 
flutter motions and bright or-
ge, or more characteristi-
ical tsee, tsee, tsway. The nest is 
a round cup-like structure made 
of bark shreds and grass, bound 
with plant fibers and spider 
webs. The lining is of fine grass, 
rootlets and hair and holds up 
to five eggs.

The American redstart got 
its name from early settlers who 
remembered a similar looking 
bird----a thrush----from back 
home in Europe or England. We 
can see from this that the Amer-
ican redstart is not particularly 
related to the painted redstart 
and other redstart warblers of 
the neo-tropics or those of the 
Old World. It is interesting to 
know that it derives its name 
from the male’s red tail, ‘start’ 
being an old word for tail.

The migration of the Ameri-
can redstart is almost always at 
night. This might account for 
collisions with TV towers which 
is a migration hazard. This may 
help account for the somewhat 
declining population, along 
with some forestry management 
factors. However, the conserva-
tion rating of the American red-
start is now at ‘the least concern’ 
level.

IAS Big May Bird Count

The Indiana Audubon Society Big May Day Count will be conducted on Saturday, May 10, 2008. 
The IAS BMDBC is always held on the second Saturday in May which is also International Migra-
tory Bird Day. The count is statewide on a county-by-county basis. Participants may count both 
in the field and at feeders.

If you are interested in participating in Delaware County, please contact county coordinator, Bill 
Grummer, at billcarolee@comcast.net or 765.254.1943 by May 5.
How do we know global warming is really happening?

Over the last several decades, scientists have carefully studied patterns of climate change around the world. In its most recent assessment, the IPCC reviewed hundreds of these studies on such topics as past climate changes, observations of retreating ice, warming and rising seas, and other changes, as well as a wide array of supercomputer simulations to model how the planet has and will be affected by increasing amounts of greenhouse gases. Together these studies offer a stark portrait of a rapidly changing world:

- Temperatures have risen about 1.3 degrees F since the late 19th century. Greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere have increased by 18% (nitrous oxide), 35% (carbon dioxide), and 148% (methane).
- Mountain glaciers and snow cover are declining in most parts of the world.
- The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are melting and breaking up.
- The area covered by Arctic sea ice in winter has shrunk about 2.7% each decade since 1978, with even greater summertime reductions.
- Global sea levels rose between 5 and 9 inches during the 20th century.
- The North Atlantic has shown increased hurricane intensity since 1970.
- Precipitation amounts have increased in northern Europe, the eastern Americas, and parts of Asia. Elsewhere, droughts have become longer and more severe. Information from:  http://www.audubon.org/global-Warming/GetTheFacts.php#reall

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Purple Martin Fans Flock to April Meeting

Our April program on purple martins, with speaker Tom Jonker, may have set a new record for our chapter: We had 106 eager listeners on hand to learn about martin housing, martin adversaries, and much more!

May 31 field trip to purple martin colony

On May 31, we will accept Tom’s invitation to visit his Coatsville Indiana home and see his purple martin colony. We can do nest checks and get some hints from Tom about managing for purple martins. The Jonker’s lakeside property is home to swallows, bluebirds, osprey, eagles and other wildlife. If you need a ride or are able to give rides, meet at Minnetrista at 8:30am. Specific directions to the Jonker residence may be found on our website sometime before May 31. Please take lawnchairs and provide your own food and beverages for this long trip. If you missed the program but are interested in becoming a purple martin landlord or want to learn more about expanding an existing colony, we’d like to hear from you. RCAS member Frank Garinger, of Hartford City, is an experienced martin landlord who’s willing to share his expertise with new landlords and swap secrets with long-time landlords.

If you’re interested, contact Frank at 765-348-4246. Frank also welcomes RCAS members to drive by his home and view his colony, at 2776E State Road 26 in Hartford City.

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for our field trip to Tom Jonker’s place, as well, to see his martin colony, on May 31. (Details available elsewhere in the Chat.)
**Officers**

- **President:** Bonnie Nicholson 886-5099
- **Vice President:** Jon Creek 348-4019
- **Recording Sec.:** Barb Butler 284-5661
- **Treasurer** Nona Nunnelly 284-0751

**Directors**

- **2007-09**
  - Phil Tuttle 289-4251
  - Marcia Johnson 288-5629

- **2006-08**
  - Dave Cramer 260-726-9492
  - Jane Duckworth 282-2161

**Committee Chairs**

- **Education:** Pam Kistler 284-0946
- **Field trip:** Blanche Townsend 284-0391
- **Hospitality:** Cynda Turner 289-9390
- **Membership:** Jane Duckworth 282-2161
- **Newsletter ed.:** Lis Mitchell 289-0513
- **Program:** Beth Simmons 812-343-8927
- **Publicity:** Barb Stedman 288-2890
- **Conservation:** Charles Mason 288-9937

**Dates for Your Calendar**

- **May 12:** Limberlost Program
- **May 17:** Limberlost field trip
- **May 23:** Articles due for June Chat. Send to Beth Simmons at basimmons2@bsu.edu
- **May 31:** Purple martin field trip

**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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*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.