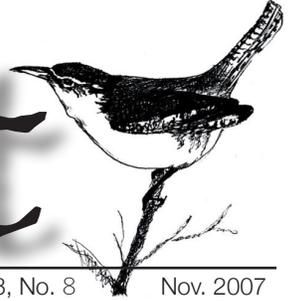


The Chat



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

Volume 33, No. 8 Nov. 2007

November 12: **Annual Awards Banquet** **Reservations due Nov. 5**

You have just a few more days to make your reservations for our biggest event of the year: our annual awards banquet! This year's banquet is set for **Monday, November 12**, from **6-9 p.m.**, at Minnetrista. The evening will begin with dinner, followed by a special program, door prizes, and presentation of conservation awards.

Our **speaker** will be a surprise this year – which is a clever way of saying we don't yet know who the speaker will be. A photographer from Cincinnati was all lined up for the event, but he had to back out at a late date because of health problems. But the board is still working on finding a nature photographer for the banquet, so you can expect a light program of beautiful images from nature.

Following the program (and our typically fabulous door prizes), recipients of this year's **conservation awards** will be honored for their service and accomplishments in four different categories. Join us and find out who has been helping our corner of the planet during the past year.

Dinner will feature a buffet catered by Bella Avanti's, of Muncie. You'll have your choice of chicken parmesan or vegetarian mostaccioli (a tube-shaped pasta) with alfredo or marinara sauce, plus potatoes, veggies, salad, bread, an assortment of pies, and coffee, iced tea, or water. The cost is \$15.75 per person, and reservations are required, at \$15.75 per person.

Please send your check, payable to Robert Cooper Audubon Society, to Cynda Turner, Hospitality Chair, at 4300 W. Moore Rd., Muncie, IN 47304. **Reservations must be received by Monday, November 5**, and you must specify whether you want chicken or pasta at the time you place your reservation. Please bring a guest or two and join us for what we expect to be a wonderful evening!

If you have questions about reservations, contact Cynda Turner at 765-289-9390 or Turner_craig@sbcglobal.net. For all other questions, contact Bonnie Nicholson at 765-886-5099 or nickrb69@yahoo.com.

Birdseed Sale

Our Audubon chapter is selling birdseed throughout the year (excluding July and August), but only on a pre-order basis. Thanks to Seedy Sally's in Pendleton, we can offer several varieties of high-quality bagged seed for pick up at our monthly chapter meetings, September through June.

Proceeds go to a scholarship fund to send a local young person to Audubon Ecology Camp or be used for a youth ecology project. (Details to come in the next Chat.)

Fill out the order form below and mail it to Barb Butler, RCAS treasurer, at 6113 W. Penrod, Muncie, IN 47304. Each order placed by the first of each month can be picked up at the next regular RCAS meeting, at Minnetrista. Make checks payable to Robert Cooper Audubon Society.

PLEASE NOTE: prices on birdseed have gone up dramatically this year, because of poor harvests. But you'll find that our prices are competitive with those of area retailers – often lower in cost per pound, in fact. These prices are subject to change, as wholesale prices fluctuate, and any such changes will be announced in future Chats and on the RCAS website (www.cooperaudubon.org).

| Seed type & size of bag | Quantity | Price per bag or cake | Total |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|
| Black oil 50# | | \$20.00 | |
| Black oil 25# | | 11.00 | |
| Safflower 50# | | 31.00 | |
| Safflower 25# | | 17.00 | |
| Safflower 10# | | 8:50 | |
| Mixed seed* 40# | | 20.00 | |
| Mixed seed* 25# | | 13.00 | |
| Thistle 10# | | 13.00 | |
| Thistle 10# | | 7.00 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | |

* This is a premium mix made for Audubon with sunflower, safflower, peanuts, and no corn.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Osprey nest, open for new residents

On Friday, October 19 four I&M vehicles and crew along with an excited band of RCAS members gathered at the Redtail Nature Preserve parking lot to launch the installation of the first Delaware County osprey nesting platform. It was the culmination of an extended coming together of a number of partners to create the critical first step in the reintroduction of nesting ospreys to the Prairie Creek Reservoir area.

Charlie Mason first suggested the idea to the RCAS board. Mike Lannoo followed up by coordinating with John Castrale, DNR wildlife biologist, on the optimum platform locations and the specifications for the nesting platform itself. Mike then supervised a volunteer crew which constructed the platforms at Bill Cumming's Red-Tail Farm. The platform sites are on Indiana American Water Company land which is leased by the City of Muncie Parks Department. Mike James and Larry Wood of AM Water have been strong supporters of the project, as has Ron Bonham, superintendent of Prairie Creek.

Warren Vander Hill arranged with Jim Riggle, manager of I&M to secure the poles and install the platforms at the Prairie Creek sites. Joe Lemons, crew supervisor for I&M, organized the installation along with Audubon's Jeff Ray who coordinated the attachment of the platform to the pole.

Lending support at the installation were Charlie Mason, Bill Grummer, Barb Stedman, Martha Hunt, Jon Creek, Jim Riggle, Larry Wood, Ron Bonham and Barry Banks.

Although ospreys pass through the Prairie Creek area they have not been known to nest there. Indiana DNR has been successful in reintroducing osprey to other areas of Indiana and views Prairie Creek as a prime prospect for East Central Indiana. RCAS also installed platforms this year at Province Pond and Summit Lake State Park in Henry County.

To view the osprey platform, visit the Red-Tail Nature Preserve at the corner of 650S and 461E. From the parking lot take the gravel trail to the right and follow it to the hill overlooking the reservoir. You will notice that the latest version of the nesting platform include a perch above the platform itself, a feature copied from natural nesting sites.

Pictures of the platform installation and the site are available on the RCAS website, cooperaudubon.org.

Osprey nesting platforms are constructed by RCAS volunteers. These nesting platforms were built and installed in the hopes of reintroducing the osprey to the Prairie Creek Reservoir area.



South Central Indiana Birding Guide

The Sassafras Audubon Society in Bloomington recently published a Birding Guide to South-Central Indiana. They are using proceeds from sale of the guide for projects connected with their adopted Important Bird Area at Goose Pond. The 56-page guide includes descriptions of 27 birding hotspots in south-central Indiana. The descriptions include detailed directions for finding the locations and suggestions of what you might expect to find during each season of the year. Maps in the guide will also help you find localities. The guide includes a checklist of birds found in the area including their general habitat and relative abundance during various times of the year.

The guide may be purchased by sending a check for \$10 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling to:
Sassafras Audubon Society
P.O. Box 85
Bloomington, IN 47402

Find more information at: <http://www.sassafrasaudubon.org>

Robert Cooper Audubon Society



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2700 S. Cecil Rd.
Muncie, IN 47302

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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

Nov. 12: Annual Awards Banquet
Nov. 16: Articles due for December *Chat*. Send to Beth Simmons at basimmons2@bsu.edu

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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