



Audubon Leaves

A Publication of the South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society

Summer 2010

Volume 62, Number 5

Serving St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties Since 1944

PARTICIPATE IN THE SUMMER BIRD COUNT

Submitted by Louise Fessenden

The Summer Count includes any birds seen between June 1 and July 31, including evidence of nesting. As usual, the maximum number of each species seen at any one time and place is counted. If you go specifically on a birding trip, please keep track of time and distance covered. However, you may add birds seen at your feeders and in your neighborhood, as you go about your daily routine, without the time and distance data.

For an instructions and report form for St. Joseph County, call or email Louise Fessenden, (574) 245-7863 or towhee31@holycrossvillage.net.

ELKHART COUNTY MAY COUNT REPORT

Submitted by Chuck Gooding, Elkhart County Compiler



© Tanya Dewey

With a high temperature of 72 degrees and clear morning skies, Saturday May 10 was a perfect day for the 2010 Elkhart County May Count. The 30 participants who watched feeders, floated the waters, and scoured the fields, woods, and marshes were treated with excellent conditions the entire day. In all, 4,535 birds of 119 species were observed, with Ring-billed Gull (360), Chimney Swift (342), and Canada Goose (302) being the species seen most often. Of interest is the fact that of the 342 Chimney Swifts observed, 271 were found at the Rice School Tower.

Participants in this year's count included: Elizabeth Berkley, Trice Berkley III, Don Beyeler, John Davis II, Paige Deak, Claire Deak, Ronda DeCaire, Mariah DeCaire, Connie Fowler, Mary Jane Hiles, Chuck Gooding, Diane Gooding, Jennifer Cline, Nolan Cline, Helen Hostetler, Kerri Lyle, Ruth Mallory, Olivia McDonald, Allen Peachy, Marlene Pratt, Euda Rader, Jim Rader, Mike Rynski, Deborah Shaum, Paul Shaum, Samuel Shaum, Doris Stickel, David Stokely, Ray Troyer, and Monica Yoder.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY MAY COUNT REPORT

Submitted by Louise Fessenden, St. Joseph County Compiler

With miserable weather (similar to last year), the species total was just 139 (140 last year), but there were a few bright spots. There are now 6 active Osprey nests in the county, including the 3 at Potato Creek State Park. Thanks to the camera in the nest box, both Peregrine Falcons were observed staying under cover in their box on the day of the count. No Upland Sandpipers were seen on count day, although as many as 4 have been seen or heard by the Bendix Meadows monitors this season. Surprises included a Caspian Tern, a Forster's Tern, and 22 Black Terns at Potato Creek. Two Red-breasted Nuthatches and a Winter Wren also showed up in the county. Warblers were especially scarce again, but a Prothonotary Warbler, a Connecticut Warbler, and 8 Hooded Warblers were among those observed. Once again, American Robin was the most common bird (1282), followed by Canada Goose (752), Red-winged Blackbird (688), European Starling (647), Common Grackle (564), and Tree Swallow (357).

Sincerest thanks to all of the 42 individuals who braved the wind and accumulated a total of 116 field party hours, 82 of them on foot. (Maybe one of these years we'll have better weather!) And thanks also to those who sent in their yard lists; they are very much appreciated. Save the second Saturday of May for next year's count!

JUNE CALENDAR

19 Field Trip to Kankakee Sands



JULY CALENDAR

3 Sanctuary Workday, 8 AM to 12 PM

4 Pancake Breakfast at the Sanctuary, 7:30 AM to 10 AM

AUGUST CALENDAR

7 Sanctuary Workday, 8 AM to 12 PM

11 Summer Audubon Leaves Articles Due



NOTE: Sunday potlucks at the Sanctuary, 5 PM throughout the summer

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US

Submitted by Marge Riemenschneider, Treasurer

It takes many people to keep a volunteer organization running. It would be impossible to list all the people who have volunteered for various activities during the last year. Once a year we acknowledge the people who responded to our annual solicitation letter, sent donations with memberships, or donated to the sanctuary.

DONORS SUMMER 2009-2010: Ted Beatty, David Albert, Tamara Ashley, John T. Ayers, Glen Batten, Larry L. Benjamin, John & Alice Bentley, Art Berkley Jr., Andrew Betts, Richard & Jo Borrer, Fran Boyce, Rosemarie & Charles Bradford, Jane K. Callan, Dan & Carol Carlson, Mark Carney, Mr. & Mrs. David S. Crotser, Mr. & Mrs. William Cushwa, Judy & Ernest Davis, John DeFries, Gerry Dickey, Bettie Dippo, Dennis B. Doordan, Heather & Steve Downey, Kay Easton, Ruth Eraybar, Paul Farthing, Larry E. & Judith Farver, Dick & Louise Fessenden, Christine Fiordalis, James & Sharon Fisko, John & Audrey Fleming, Jayne C. Fogle, Larry Ford, Janet S. Fore, Barbara Fredman, Theresa F. Frick, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Galbreath, Joe & Dede Guth, Mary Hagen, John & Antoinette Harding, Milton & Phyllis Hughes, Bill Johnson, David Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. William Johnson, Robert H. Johnson, David J. Justice, Gary Keister, Lynne C. Keller, Charles M. Kiefer, David Kindt, Daniel & Melissa Kinsey, Evelyn Kirkwood, Charles Klatt, William & Julie Knight, Marie Knox, Mary Kohn, Ray & Jan Kosarski, Mrs. William Kremer, Ronald J. Kriha, Charles H. Krueger, Joseph Kuranda, Myrna Laughlin, Bob & Linda Leliaert, Ms. Karen Lemmon, Sun-Shing & Sik-Chuen Leung, Richard Liechty, Herb & Phyllis Luckert, Harvey Ludwig, Kerri D. Lyle, Wesley R. Mark, Deborah Marr & James McLister, Mary Martin, Nancy McAdams, Jan McGowan, Michaele D. McIntosh, Mr. & Mrs. John McNarney, Ruth Middleton, Olive Grace Miller, John A. Miller Family, Nancy Morrison, Neil Murdie, Scott & Lindsay Namestnik, Barbara Naranche, Patricia A. Nemeth, J.F. New & Associates, Kathryn Nobles, Mary Lou & Hal Nofzinger, Tom Nowak, Elaine M. Olis, Elizabeth A. Overmyer, Rebecca Parker, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Perrin, Eve Pierce, Ted Poledor, Alice Poseley, M. K. Pratt, James T. Rahilly, Billie Rakestraw, Vic & Marge Riemenschneider, Stan Ross, Earl Savage, Elizabeth Scarborough, Elnor Schnitzer, Anita Schwarz, Ruby Seymour, Susan Shank, Elisabeth Shelly, Dee Sherman, Robert & Katharene Shreiner, Ms. Wylan Shultz, Karen Smith, Gerald & Joyce Snyder, Jean & Robert Spain, Mark A. Stadtherr, Tom & Lavetta Stankus, Jean Brennecke, Gawain & Wanda Stewart, Dan Stoltzfus, Mrs. Lloyd S. Taylor, William Thorne, Ms. Emilie Tiedemann, Frank & Rosemary Toepp, Margaret A. Trobaugh, Joan Tweedell, Kenyon Tweedell, Mrs. John VanderVeen, Sue VonGunten, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Votava, Dave Weber, S. A. Wekony, Barry Wertz, James & Marsha Wirt, Gary Wordinger.

GO PAPERLESS!

E-subscribe to the *Audubon Leaves* at LSNamestnik@yahoo.com. Include your present mailing address, and put "Leaves" in the subject line. We'll do the rest!

BIRDATHON 2010

Submitted by Becky Parker, Birdathon Chair

A great big thank you goes out to all those individuals who collected pledges and birded the day of the Birdathon. The proceeds will be used to purchase *Audubon Adventures* for local school classrooms. Look for a final report in the September *Audubon Leaves*. Thank you everyone for your efforts and support!

Please send any additional contributions to me by **June 30**. If anyone needs pledge follow-up forms to use for tax deduction purposes let me know. Contact me by phone at (574) 258-4133 (leave a message), or by e-mail at rap50@sbcglobal.net.

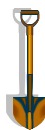
BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

Submitted by Laura Fuderer



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Some of us are still pluggin' away on the Breeding Bird Atlas for the State of Indiana. If you own property within the priority blocks described in the May *Audubon Leaves* and you wouldn't mind if a couple Audubon members birded your property two or three times over the summer, please contact either Laura Fuderer, (574) 277-0409, or Doris Watt, (574) 284-4668. Alternatively, if you see evidence of breeding by the unusual species listed in the May *Audubon Leaves*, would you also let us know? Thanks very much.



NOTICE: SANCTUARY WORKDAYS
SATURDAY, JULY 3 AND AUGUST 7, 2010,
8:00 A.M.





The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society
is on the web at www.sbeaudubon.org

REMEMBERING LAVETTA STANKUS

Submitted by Marge Riemenschneider

Few members of our Society command the love and respect that Lavetta was given. We sadly have to acknowledge the passing of Lavetta on May 25, 2010, and our hearts go out to Tom, her loving husband for 54 years.

As many of you know, Lavetta and Tom have been enthusiastic members of our society for 40 years. When we identified and decided to raise funds for Spicer Lake (now a dedicated Indiana State Nature Preserve), Lavetta volunteered to record donations and send thank you letters to donors. Lavetta spent many years as a member of the board of directors and as our membership chair. Many members first came to know us through Lavetta's cheerful welcome. In 1990 Lavetta received the John Groet Award. This award was given to members who rendered outstanding service to the Society or to the community on behalf of the Society. Years ago a decision was made by the Stankuses to honor the passing of long time active members by giving a donation to our Woolman-Groet-Miller account. You may have noticed this happened year after year.

Year after year Lavetta and Tom took any role the society needed, whether it was leadership positions or the day-to-day work of helping with bird counts, pancake breakfasts, the big red barn rummage sale, cleaning and clipping at our wildlife sanctuary, or whatever else needed to be done.

Lavetta not only volunteered for us, she also volunteered at the First Presbyterian Church of South Bend, and for many St. Joseph County Park Department activities. Lavetta loved to sew, and her needlework can be seen at her church and at Bendix Woods County Park.

We will miss you, Lavetta.



MEMORIALS IN HONOR OF LAVETTA STANKUS

Linda & Bob Leliaert
Marge & Vic Riemenschneider

INDEPENDENCE DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Submitted by Vic Riemenschneider



Plan on coming to the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society Sanctuary on Sunday, July 4, to enjoy a pancake breakfast; then enjoy a hike on the beautiful trails. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Just bring your own table service and the pancakes and coffee/tea/milk will be served by chief cook Brian Miller.

THE AWFUL NEWS FROM THE CONSERVATION FRONT

Submitted by Laura Fuderer, Conservation Chair

Everyone has seen videos of the gigantic oil plume that's destroying marine life in the waters of the Gulf and now beginning to coat the shores and marshes of the Louisiana coast. I have no words to offer that might mitigate this dismal picture. I do have suggestions for action, however.

One is to join us in pressuring the Obama administration to continue its moratorium on offshore drilling. If we cannot completely prevent such drilling, let us at least demand that the companies doing it be held to the most rigorous standards of environmental and *human* safety. That companies like BP can conduct a huge experiment on an essential natural resource like the ocean with almost no oversight or regulation is outrageous. No drilling in the ocean should be allowed until companies know how to contain potential gushers. "Leak" hardly describes the volcano of oil we've been watching.

Another suggestion is to pressure Congress to pass global warming legislation that will reduce our carbon emissions by moving our country away from its addiction to petroleum with all its awful consequences to greater reliance on forms of energy such as wind, solar, biofuels, and other sustainable and much cleaner sources.

A third suggestion is to reduce our use of petroleum by avoiding or re-using plastic products such as bags, cups, etc. and finding alternative means of transportation to our cars, if possible, or car-pooling when we can.

These proposals seem limp in face of the devastation we're witnessing, but until we find alternatives to petroleum we may continue to experience such catastrophes.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS THE KEY TO PROTECTING MIGRATORY BIRDS

National leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States release landmark tri-national conservation assessment for birds

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA—Canada, Mexico, and the United States share 882 native landbird species, almost one-third of which depend substantially for their survival on at least two of the countries each year, according to a new assessment by a collaboration of conservation scientists in all three countries. The assessment also identified 148 bird species in need of immediate conservation attention because of their highly threatened and declining populations.



Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation is the first comprehensive conservation assessment of birds at the tri-national level. Partners in Flight is a cooperative effort involving government agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, academic institutions, professional associations, industry, and private individuals.

Key findings of *Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation*:

- The most imperiled birds include 44 species with very limited distributions, mostly in Mexico, including the Thick-billed Parrot and Horned Guan.
- Also of high tri-national concern are 80 tropical residents with ranges in Mexico, such as the Red-breasted Chat and Resplendent Quetzal.
- Additionally, 24 species that breed in the United States and Canada continue to warrant immediate action to prevent further declines, including Cerulean Warbler, Black Swift, and Canada Warbler.
- Forty-two common bird species have steeply declined by 50% or more in the past 40 years, including Common Nighthawk, Eastern Meadowlark and Loggerhead Shrike.

“Our continent’s spectacular birdlife extends from Canada’s boreal forests where billions of birds raise their young each year, to the stunning diversity of Mexico’s tropical forests, and the hemispheric migrations of birds that connect these distant lands,” said Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who serves as the Partners in Flight Science Committee Chair. “Conserving our continent’s birdlife will require greatly increased international cooperation, among our nations’ governments, as well as our societies.”

Government officials, on behalf of international bird conservation leaders from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, released the report on May 11, 2010, at the XV Annual Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The release of the report also brought attention to International Migratory Bird Day 2010, celebrating The Power of Partnerships.

“The release of this report illustrates our three countries’ commitment to the long-term conservation of biological biodiversity and to working with each other to protect our natural heritage through forums like the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and the International Year of Biodiversity,” said Virginia Potter, Canadian Wildlife Services’ Director General at Environment Canada. “The Government of Canada is proud to contribute to the conservation of our migratory birds and to collaborate with the United States and Mexico to protect our shared birdlife.”

“This Partners in Flight report will help us build on the great work being done by the many federal agencies, conservation groups, academic institutions, and individuals who care about birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. Our many bird conservation initiatives such as the Partners in Flight and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act already make a difference for birds,” said Rowan Gould, Acting Director U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “We are committed to increase our cooperation with Mexico and Canada to work together to help save our shared birdlife.”

“The winter ranges of shared migrants show a striking geographic overlap with the ranges of species at greatest risk of extinction,” said Dr. José Sarukhán Kermez, National Coordinator of Mexico’s National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO). “More than 100 of the migrants shared substantially among our three countries depend on the same tropical and pine-oak forests in Mexico that support highly threatened tropical residents.”

This report is the latest effort by Partners in Flight to help species at risk and keep common birds common—its mission since 1990. Partners in Flight achieves success in conserving bird populations in the Western Hemisphere through combining resources of public and private organizations in North and South America.

PHOTO QUIZ!

The winner of the May Photo Quiz was Lucinda Wyse, who correctly identified the bird in the May Audubon Leaves as a Chestnut-sided Warbler. Lucinda was awarded a \$20 gift card to Wild Birds Unlimited. Congratulations, Lucinda!



© Kevin Bolton

The Summer Audubon Leaves Photo Quiz is shown above. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing, and the winner will receive a \$20 gift card. Send responses along with your mailing address to LSNamestnik@yahoo.com with PHOTO QUIZ in the subject line. You can also send a response in the mail to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 SR 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Good luck!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Submitted by Rebecca Parker, Membership Chair

If you have a local only membership, please note the expiration date on your label and mail your renewal accordingly. This will save us the time and money of sending you a reminder.

To contact me by email, send a message to member_help@sbcglobal.net. Include SBEAS in the subject line so that I know your message is not spam.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MONITOR NESTING BIRDS

Submitted by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Ithaca, NY--Peeking is allowed. In fact, it is a vital part of participation in the NestWatch citizen-science project offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NestWatchers peek into bird nests and nest boxes to collect data on which species are nesting, when eggs are laid, how many eggs are in a nest, and how many chicks hatch and fledge. Scientists use NestWatch information to learn more about nesting birds and study the impacts of climate change and land use.

“NestWatch is a free, fun activity for people of any age,” says project leader Laura Burkholder. “The nesting season is now in full swing, and it’s not too late to get in on the action. NestWatchers participate on their own, in classrooms, or as a homeschool project. We need more people to help gather this important information.”

All materials and instructions are on the NestWatch website (<http://watch.birds.cornell.edu/nest/home/index>), including directions on how to get certified to monitor nests without disturbing the birds, following the NestWatch Code of Conduct. Look for information on how to provide the best and safest boxes for bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, and other cavity-nesting birds and how to monitor the nests of backyard birds that don't use nest boxes, such as phoebes, robins, and goldfinches.

NestWatch was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and funded by the National Science Foundation.

For more information, contact Laura Burkholder, (607) 254-2450, llb93@cornell.edu.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Mildred Ferro, Deborah & Steve Gaby, April L. Schultz, Zara Sunday, Barbara Sutton, R. Whiney

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 I would like to receive the Newsletter by email Email Address _____

New Memberships:

Combined membership (\$20) - Includes National Audubon membership and AUDUBON magazine, as well as South Bend – Elkhart Chapter membership

Renewals:

Local Chapter only membership renewal (\$20) - All money goes to South Bend - Elkhart Audubon; does not include national membership or magazine

For **combined membership renewal**, for all benefits of membership in National Audubon and the local chapter, mail your renewal form directly to the National Audubon Society. All of this money goes to the National Audubon Society.

I would like to give additional chapter support of \$ _____.

Mail to Rebecca Parker, Membership Chair, PO Box 581, Mishawaka, Indiana 46546.

Audubon Leaves

South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society
Membership Chair - Rebecca Parker
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Membership: Rebecca Parker
(574) 258-4133

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society publishes the *Audubon Leaves* nine times a year: February, March, April, May, Summer, September, October, November, and December-January. Comments and members' articles are welcome; deadline for the September issue is **August 11. Send comments or articles to: Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 State Road 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554;
or email to: LSNamestnik@yahoo.com.**

NEW SBEAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Submitted by Heather Downey, President

Interested in becoming more involved with a successful environmental organization? Look no further than your local Audubon chapter, South Bend – Elkhart Audubon Society. Everyone has a special talent or two to share, so don't be shy! We need new people all the time to help our society reach each of our goals of education, philanthropy and conservation. Listed below are all the exciting opportunities that await you:

- Birdathon & Audubon Adventures
- Historian & Scrapbook
- Publicity
- Woolman-Groet-Miller Endowment

Please contact SBEAS President Heather Downey at (574) 233-4601 or hdowney364@comcast.net for more details.

