



Audubon Leaves

A Publication of the South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society

October 2023

Volume 75, Number 7

Serving St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties Since 1944

OCTOBER BIG DAY FIELD TRIPS

[Carol Goodall](#), *Field Trip Chair*

SBEAS is teaming up with Indiana Audubon Society and Indiana Land Protection Alliance to host October Big Day walks on October 14th at Ambler Flatwoods in Michigan City and Lydick Bog in St. Joseph County, two State Dedicated Nature Preserves. Hikes are also being held at various other locations around the state on the same day.

Lindsay Grossmann of our chapter will be leading the walk around Ambler Flatwoods, managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust. The terrain is flat but it may be muddy, especially if there has been a recent rain; come prepared. Birds to be expected include our resident and recently landed winter visitor forest dwellers as well as some late-season migrants such as kinglets, possibly a late warbler or two, and Lindsay's personal favorite, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (a special effort will be made for them)!

Evie Kirkwood of our chapter will be leading the hike at Lydick Bog, where the terrain is slightly hilly.

Registration for the hikes is free but required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-october-big-day-hikes-with-ilpa-tickets-704875460477>. Please be sure to select the right location! Alternatively, you can email Carol Goodall at fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org and she will make a reservation for you. Space is limited.

Ambler Flatwoods is located on Meer Road/N600W, which is the first road on your right immediately after the I-94 interchange as you travel on US-20 towards Michigan City. The parking lot will be on the left-hand side of the road approximately 2 miles down (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TUkxNMGEKrvqwEU16>). The walk will begin promptly around 9:00 a.m. CST (that's 10:00 a.m. for us EST folk).

Lydick Bog is located on US-20/West Lincolnway, just over a mile west of the US-20/US-31 Bypass. The parking lot is on the south side of the road (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tsgNrguLJgzxkQCj6>). The walk will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. EST.

We hope you can join us at one of these hikes!

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

[Bruce Cates](#), *Program Chair*

Please join us for our October membership meeting on Sunday, October 8th at 2:00 p.m. at Rum Village Park's nature center in South Bend. Our program speakers will be Linda and Gene Matzat. The Matzats live on 158 acres in St. Joseph County, south of Potato Creek State Park. Linda and Gene met while attending Purdue University. Linda majored in Wildlife Science. Gene studied Agronomy and Agricultural Economics. Their combined work history has involved the Lake County Parks Dept., forestry, Indiana DNR, family farming, Purdue Extension Service, 4-H, and education.

They bought their first 80 acres in 1991, mainly because it contained protected woodlands. In 2003, they converted an abandoned pasture on their property into a prairie by planting native grasses and forbs. In 2015, their next-door neighbors offered Gene and Linda the opportunity to buy the neighbors' 80 acres. The new acreage contained more woodlands, but also included an area that previous owners had unsuccessfully tried to farm by digging a drainage ditch. That area eventually became covered with invasive wetland grasses. With the help from others, the Matzats were able to restore about 4.5 acres back to wetland by plugging the drainage ditch. They also eliminated invasive species in an area next to their new wetland of similar size and instead planted native grasses, sedges, rushes, and forbs. They are happy to share with SBEAS their story of wetland restoration and the wildlife it has attracted!

We hope you can make it to the meeting!

OCTOBER CALENDAR



- 7 Sanctuary Work Day, 9:00 AM
- 8 Board Meeting at Rum Village Nature Center, 1 PM
- 8 Membership Meeting and Program at Rum Village Nature Center, 2 PM
- 11 November *Audubon Leaves* Articles Due
- 14 October Big Day Walks at Various Locations, 9 AM Local Time (see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-october-big-day-hikes-with-ilpa-tickets-704875460477>)
- 18 Meet the Naturalist at the Sanctuary, 5:30 PM

Check www.sbeaudubon.org and our Facebook page for field trip announcements, updates, and cancellations.

MEET THE NATURALIST

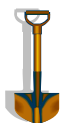
[Carol Goodall](#), *Field Trip Chair*

This month will be our final walk for this year. It is already beginning to get dark sooner and once the time changes it will be dark by 6:00 p.m. We will start this month's walk at 5:30 p.m. to give us a little time before dark.

Join me October 18th at 5:30 p.m. for a relaxing walk around our wildlife sanctuary. Hopefully we will enjoy some fall color but you never know what interesting things we might find.

Our wildlife sanctuary is located at 59395 Clover Rd., Mishawaka, Indiana.

REMINDER: SANCTUARY WORK DAY



**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 7, 2023,
9:00 A.M.**



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

[Jude Keltner](#), *Membership Chair*

We welcome the following new and returning members:

Martha Boyer, Karl Brenner, Linda Breuer, David M. Caruso, Louis Cavadini, Ross Jensen, Jason Kelley, Bobbie Jo Lanham, Dana Menting, Hannah O'Grady, Colin Rusel, Jonathan Stahr, and David Wayne Thomas.

We look forward to seeing you at an activity soon. See the calendar in this newsletter and also check our Facebook page for updates.

Should you have any questions about your membership, please email us at membership@sbeaudubon.org. If you would like to renew your South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society membership online, you can do so at www.sbeaudubon.org.

Want to recycle your Styrofoam?

**If you have excess polystyrene
(the kind used in packaging, not for food),
bring it to our meetings so our members can
transport it to a company that will
recycle it.**

WE NEED YOUR HELP

[Tai Gunter](#), *President*

We currently have two open positions on our Board in need of volunteers. Volunteering with SBEAS allows us to further our mission of conservation in our region while working alongside other passionate people who care about birds as much as you do.

The Sanctuary Chair position entails overseeing the upkeep of our wildlife sanctuary property. Responsibilities encompass various maintenance tasks, including leading sanctuary work days with other volunteers, hosting pancake breakfasts, managing the removal of invasive species, and ensuring the sanctuary's grounds remain well-maintained through snow removal and mowing. This position could be split between a couple of volunteers.

The Red Barn Sale Chair position involves coordinating the logistics of our annual "Red Barn" rummage sale. This annual event raises money for the Society through the sale of donations from our membership. Duties include volunteer coordination, overseeing donation management in the lead-up to the sale, and managing the sale's operations on the designated day.

Each of these positions is well supported by the rest of our Board and other volunteers that have helped out over the years. They offer a unique opportunity to help out the Society and work with others who share your passion for birds. If you have any questions about the positions or you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at tai.gunter@sbeaudubon.org.

**For those of you not on Facebook, to view pictures
of our recent events, you may visit our Facebook
page via the internet at
[https://www.facebook.com/
SouthBendElkhartAudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBendElkhartAudubon/).**

**For those of you on Facebook please like our page:
South Bend Elkhart Audubon.**

Follow us on Instagram [@sbeaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/sbeaudubon).

SANCTUARY REPORT

[Doug and Heidi Gray](#), *Outgoing Sanctuary Co-Chairs*

Our work day on September 2nd was a pleasant morning of preparing the Sanctuary for the Labor Day Pancake Breakfast. Tasks that day included cleaning the Summer Quarters and other facilities, weed whacking around the buildings, removing trees that had fallen over trails, attempting to repair the John Deere mower, and trimming trails. Many thanks go to Alice and John, Jude and Dale, Nancy, Merrilee, Bruce, Bradley, and Tai for coming out to get it all done. The Labor Day Pancake Breakfast on September 4th got off to a slow start, but cars slowly trickled in. And then, wham! We were slammed, as they say. More tables and chairs were put into service. More supplies were purchased (thank you, Joel!). We had a total of 108 people for pancakes, not a record, but a pretty good turnout. Thank you to all that came! And thank you to our cooks: John, Dennis, and Doug. Thank you to our servers: Nancy, Lori, Andrea, Bruce, Alice, Dennis, John (yes, they helped cook, too), and Heidi. The John Deere mower was loaded up that day and taken the next day to the Union John Deere dealership since they had a faster estimated turnaround for repairs. The repairs are done and ready for the next mowing day.

Doug and Heidi would like to say a big “Thank You” to all of those that have come out over the years for work days and those that helped with pancake breakfasts. We have enjoyed the camaraderie and the immense help with tasks you all have shared. We couldn’t have done it without all of you!

**SCENES FROM A SOUTH BEND-ELKHART AUDUBON SOCIETY PANCAKE BREAKFAST...
JOIN US AT THE NEXT ONE!**



Photos courtesy of Lori Wood



Bruce Cates *almost* has the wing span of a Bald Eagle! Photo courtesy of Laura Fuderer.

PHOTO QUIZ!

There were eight correct responses to the September photo quiz. The winner was James Milliken, who correctly identified the bird in the September *Audubon Leaves* as a Great Egret. James was awarded a \$20 gift card to the South Bend Farmer's Market. Congratulations, James! Read about the Great Egret in the article to the right.



© Eric Isley

The October *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 Leaves@sbeaudubon.org 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!

GREAT EGRET (*ARDEA ALBA*)

[Lindsay Grossmann](#)

The only large white heron to be seen locally, the Great Egret, has a remarkable comeback story. Initially hunted to near extinction for the making of fashion accessories in the late 1800s, specifically the long feathery plumes that grow on the male's back during the breeding season being used to adorn ladies' hats, this species sparked a conservation movement to protect them. Interestingly, this effort resulted in the formation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and eventually the National Audubon Society, of which we are a chapter! Today their numbers are stable, even increasing as they expand their range. Places like Potato Creek State Park and Boot Lake Nature Preserve get an occasional bird, but they are more common in northwest Indiana. They have similar habitat preferences to their more common and slightly larger cousin, the Great Blue Heron. Speaking of which, there is a color morph of the Great Blue, known as the Great White Heron, but it is restricted geographically to Florida and has other distinguishing differences.

Great Egrets use their large, dagger-like, yellow bills to hunt fish, frogs, aquatic insects, and small aquatic mammals and birds in marshes. They wade in the water, often belly deep, and stealth-stalk their prey. They are also highly mobile and you may spot them flying with their long black legs trailing behind them and their neck held in the classic "S" shape all herons adopt in flight. Keep your eyes out for this graceful bird!

Source:

Cornell University, All About Birds, accessed online 11 September 2023. https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Egret/.

NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OR CHAPTER ONLY

(For a renewal, only include your address if it has changed)

NAME: _____
FULL ADDRESS: _____

____ I want to join or renew my membership in National Audubon Society. I will receive the AUDUBON magazine plus membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society. Make check payable to National Audubon Society for \$20.00.

____ I want to join or renew my membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society only. Make check payable to South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society for \$20.00 (all the money goes to our local Society). I will not receive the AUDUBON magazine.

All memberships will receive the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter, *Audubon Leaves*. Please send the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter by:

____ mail ____ email email address _____

Can we contact you via email when necessary (such as to notify you of meeting cancellations)? ____ yes ____ no

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: SBEAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PO BOX 581, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546.

Audubon Leaves

South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society
Membership Chair - Jude Keltner
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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 November issue is **October 11th**. Send comments or articles to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 State Road 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554;

or email to: Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

GO PAPERLESS!

E-subscribe to the *Audubon Leaves* at
Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

Include your present mailing address,
and put "Leaves" in the subject line.

We'll do the rest!

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



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1%
FOR THE
PLANET