

Mary Ellen Gadski Receives Volunteer Award

The Amos Butler Audubon Board of Directors has named Mary Ellen Gadski as the recipient of the 2012 Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award. Mary Ellen's contributions to Amos Butler Audubon span 30 years and include serving as a board member, corresponding secretary, newsletter editor, leading advocacy campaigns, championing the conservation "telephone tree" prior to electronic mail, authoring numerous letters to decision makers, and offering her skills in writing and editing. Of course, most Audubon members may know Mary Ellen from her role as the Birdathon's International Projects Coordinator, a role she has held since the Birdathon commenced in 1987.

Mary Ellen Gadski is enthusiastic in her drive to "think globally, act locally." While "local" usually means Indianapolis for Mary Ellen herself, she knows that, for neotropical

birds, "local" refers to more than one location. Being good stewards means that we need to consider not only the habitat here in Indiana that birds use during migration and breeding, but also the areas where they spend the winter. Mary Ellen has been instrumental in evaluating and recommending suitable Birdathon habitat-protection projects in Central and South America, where Amos Butler Audubon has protected approximately 2,000 acres of land. Since 2005, she has worked closely with the American Bird Conservancy on protecting land in Colombia that benefits Cerulean Warblers, among other species. Therefore, it was fitting that Mary Ellen received a Cerulean Warbler plush hand puppet and a photo collage depicting Cerulean Warblers and the landscape being protected in Colombia for being named the Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award honoree.



Upcoming Amos Butler Audubon Programs

Learn Your Ducks

February 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center

6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis

The open water of Eagle Creek Reservoir attracts many migrating waterfowl each spring. Learn who they are, where they have been, and where they are going. Duck identification and habits will be part of this program, led by Kevin Carlsen, geared for beginning birders. Call (317) 327-BIRD to register. Fee is \$5; gate fee is waived for registrants.

Gearing Up for the Great Backyard Bird Count

February 9, 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Spades Park Library Branch

1801 Nowland Ave., Indianapolis

Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15-18, is easy. Simply watch birds for at least 15 minutes at the location of your choice on one or more of the count days. Then enter the data online. This Audubon program on February 9, led by Don Gorney, will be perfect for the birder who wants to learn or improve their identification skills. You will also learn more about the Great Backyard Bird Count and plans for the nearby Spades Park area.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center

Learn how to identify birds as we count every bird that flies by! Amos Butler Audubon will be at the Ornithology Center collecting data that will be shared worldwide on the Great Backyard Bird database. Stop in and dissect an owl pellet between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. The Ornithology Center staff will offer a live "Birds of Prey" talk at 2 p.m. Questions? Call (317) 327-BIRD. Free with gate admission.

Friday Night Hoots

February 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center

See owls up close, dissect an owl pellet, and take a hike into the night to discover the owls of Eagle Creek. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult; program meets at the Ornithology Center. Fee is \$8; gate fee is waived for registrants.

Learning Spring Warblers

March 16, 10-11:30 a.m.

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center

Warblers will be winging their way back to Indiana in mid-March, so this is a great time to hone your warbler identification skills. The class, led by Don Gorney, will present both visual and auditory techniques for identifying warblers in the field. More details will be posted on the Amos Butler Audubon website closer to the event. Registration is required — call the Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center at (317) 327-2473. Free for Amos Butler Audubon members, \$5 for non-members.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

All programs are held at the Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to the public. Information: Email Brittany Davis Swinford at bluemoosey8@yahoo.com or call (812) 340-0824.

January 8: Tracking Down Award-Worthy Wildlife Photos

Kevin Carlsen
Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center Naturalist

Trying to get that perfect shot can become quite the task when your subject matter is a warm-blooded, moving target. We have all had that moment — "Wish I had my camera!" Kevin Carlsen has been at a naturalist at Eagle Creek Park for more than a decade and has been the moving force behind the Ornithology Center. In 2010, Carlsen was named IPL Environmentalist of the Year for his dedicated work on creating the Ornithology Center. Kevin and his camera go hand in hand, capturing living, breathing wildlife and natural landscapes that many of us have yet to see. At our January meeting, Kevin will present an array of beautiful nature photos and will discuss the tricks, trials, and tribulations of photographing wildlife. Join us for this enjoyable talk with photos from a warmer, sunnier season.



February 12: Donna and Barb's Excellent Adventure in the Galapagos

Audubon Birdathon Chair Donna McCarty and Birdathon Silent Auction Coordinator Barbara Jablonski

Donna and Barb will give a presentation about their 2011 National Geographic/Linblad adventure to the Galapagos. The series of volcanic islands known collectively as the Galapagos are approximately 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador and are so remote that many species found there are unique and endemic. The islands are best known from Charles Darwin's book, "On the Origin of Species,"

written after his 1835 visit there. Except for the magnificent Giant Tortoises, the birds and other wildlife have almost never been hunted by humans and therefore exhibit no fear of tourists traipsing among them. Nesting birds along the trails go on about their business as though people are invisible. Some even walk between your legs! The beautiful fish, which can be viewed while snorkeling, are an extra bonus.

Part of the presentation will be a 30-minute video, shot by a professional videographer aboard the Linblad *Endeavor*, featuring Donna, Barb, and their spouses in several scenes.



March 12: Wild Nature at Our Urban Doorstep

Tom Swinford, Regional Ecologist,
Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Tom Swinford, longtime ecologist for IDNR Nature Preserves, will present on the natural history of Marion County. Highlighted will be the eight state nature preserves of Marion County — the highest quality natural areas remaining within Indianapolis city limits. This includes the sizable preserves of Ft. Harrison and Eagle Creek that form the core of two of Indiana's designated Important Bird Areas. Tom is recognized as an authority on the landscapes, flora, and fauna of central Indiana. Join us as we learn the story of Marion County and what the prospects are for the fascinating and rare animals that call it home.

Audubon Field Trips

Eagle Watching in West-Central Indiana Saturday, January 26, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet at Meijer Grocery, 10841 E US 36, Avon, at 6 a.m.

How would you like to see 30-60 Bald Eagles in one hour? It's possible at the right location. Marty Williams and Don Gorney will lead us on this venture to west-central Indiana in search of Bald Eagles, other raptors, and waterfowl. We also will view Bald Eagles at a few known nest sites. If we are lucky, we may see a Golden Eagle. The early departure time from Indianapolis is necessary so we can see the eagles leaving their overnight roost at dawn. We will stop for fast food for lunch. Expect to be back in Indianapolis by 3 p.m. Meet in the northwest corner of the Meijer Grocery parking lot (opposite Chick-Fil-A) at 10841 E. US 36 in Avon. Most people can reach this location by taking Exit 13 off I-465 (Rockville Rd/ US 36) and driving west on US 36. The Marion County/Hendricks County line is at Raceway Road. Turn left (south) onto Raceway Road and then turn into the Meijer parking lot on the right. We will carpool to the maximum extent possible. Dress for cold weather and bring drinks and snacks. Questions? Contact Don Gorney at (317) 501-4212 or Marty Williams at (317) 366-6126.

Eagle Watching in North-Central Indiana Saturday, February 2, 12:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Meet at Walmart, 8300 East 96th St., Fishers, at 12:30 p.m.

This trip is held in conjunction with the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services Eagle Watch. Meet in the southwest corner of the Walmart parking lot (opposite Wendy's), located at 8300 E. 96th St., Fishers, at 12:30 p.m. We will carpool to the maximum extent possible as this will be a well attended event that will move among locations by caravan. Our first stop will be at Salamonie Lake's nature center, where we will position our cars for the caravan and check out the feeders for winter finches and Wild Turkey. At 3 p.m. we will attend a presentation about Bald Eagles in Indiana. After the presentation, we will travel by caravan to view a Bald Eagle nest and then continue to a location along the Mississinewa River to view eagles coming to roost at dusk. Expect to see at least 30 Bald Eagles with the possibility of viewing many more. A few eagles will likely pass immediately overhead for spectacular views. You must register for this trip by January 25 by contacting Marty Williams at martburger@mac.com or by calling (317) 366-6126 and providing your name and the number in your party.

Flight of the Timberdoodle

Sunday, March 17, 7-8:30 p.m. Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve 10410 Hague Road, Fishers

Timberdoodle is a fanciful, albeit obsolete, name for the American Woodcock. Just like early pioneers were, people continue to be mesmerized by the aerial flight and sounds of male American Woodcocks as they ascend and descend over prairie areas in hopes of impressing nearby females. We will briefly bird the prairie area and nearby woods until shortly before dusk. The woodcocks will begin calling at dusk and then take flight. Bring a flashlight to help you get back to your car. Questions? Contact co-leaders Marty Williams at martburger@mac.com or (317) 366-6126 or call Don Gorney at (317) 501-4212.

Regularly Scheduled Bird Hikes

Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center 6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis Every Sunday year-round, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Ornithology Center. Information: (317) 327-2473

Marian University EcoLab 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis Every Wednesday, 8 a.m.

Leader: David Benson (dbenson@marion.edu)

Meet at the St. Francis Colonnade.

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel Wednesday and every other Sunday, 9-10 a.m. January 6, 9, 16, 20, 23, 30, February 3, 13, 17, 20, 27

Meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park, past the Nature Center. Information: (317) 774-2500

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville 9-10 a.m., January 2 and February 6

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History. Information: (317) 984-5556

Cool Creek Nature Center Bird Programs

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel (317) 774-2500, cool.naturecenter@hamilton- county.in.gov

Population Decline of the American Kestrel Saturday, January 26, 1 p.m.

Launched in response to kestrel population declines across much of North America, The Peregrine Fund's American Kestrel Partnership is a network of citizen and professional scientists working to collaboratively advance knowledge of kestrel demographics and conservation. This program will include information about the history of the American Kestrel, details and data related to their population decline, and instructions on how to help kestrels by installing and maintaining nests boxes.

Valentine's Day in the Animal World! Saturday, February 9, 2 p.m. (Indoor presenta- tion 2-3 p.m., Rookery Preserve 3:15-4 p.m.)

Taylor Center of Natural History 12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville

Valentine's Day actually will be celebrated during the week after this activity, and although most wildlife won't be out ordering flowers for their sweethearts, they will be sharing some of our romantic traditions! It turns out that this time of year is when many species are reestablishing pair bonds. Join a park naturalist as we explore the subject indoors. Audience members will then be invited to visit the Rookery Preserve to see Great Blue Herons hard at work at repairing their nests and courting their mates.

2012-2013 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

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Membership benefits:

■ 100% of your dues support Amos Butler Audubon educational programs and urban conservation projects

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■ Workshops and entertaining monthly program meetings

One-year chapter supporter \$20

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Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon

E-mail questions to:
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5945 Ralston Ave.
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I do do not want Amos Butler Audubon to share my name with the National Audubon Society. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. C3ZH000Z

E-Mail Address, Anyone?

Join with hundreds of other members who have who have gone green by signing up for the electronic *LifeLines* newsletter and meeting reminders. Send your request, including your name, to Martyn Roberts at info@amosbutleraudubon.org. This shift towards electronic communication continues to save Amos Butler Audubon hundreds of dollars in printing and mailing costs annually.

Are You a Chapter Supporter?

The expiration date of your Chapter Supporter membership is printed on the mailing label on the paper copy of your *Lifelines*, to the right of your name; "N/A" denotes that you have not paid Chapter Supporter dues. To determine the expiration date of your National Audubon Society membership, refer to the address label on your *Audubon* magazine.

If you receive *LifeLines* electronically or if you have any other membership questions, please contact Martyn Roberts at info@amosbutleraudubon.org or call (317) 251-2908.

This fall's early arrival of White-winged Crossbills at Eagle Creek Park excited many birders. Photos by Kevin Carlsen.



Our mission: To promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the birds of central Indiana
Visit our web site: www.amosbutleraudubon.org
e-mail: info@amosbutleraudubon.org

Amos Butler Audubon • P.O. Box 80024 • Indianapolis, IN 46280