

Bill Murphy Honored with the 2013 Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award



2013 Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award recipient, Bill Murphy.

The Board of Directors has named Bill Murphy as the 2013 Donna McCarty Volunteer Service Award recipient. Bill's contributions to Amos Butler Audubon span more than 12 years and include serving on the board of directors, championing the production of the

Brock's Birds of Indiana CD, overseeing website administration, leading out-of-state field trips, and offering his skills in writing and editing. Of course, most Audubon members may know Bill best for his role as editor of this very newsletter, *Lifelines*. Note Bill's name and contact information in the masthead.

Upon retirement in 2007 after 37 years of federal service, Bill returned to one of his first loves, insects. Snail-killing flies, to be exact. Bill serves as Research Collaborator with the Smithsonian Institution and has become one of the world's leading authorities on snail-killing flies. His passion for knowledge and science has led him to discover new species, author or co-author more than 50 scientific publications (including the *Birder's Guide to Trinidad and Tobago*), and review the insect collections of major museums in the USA and Canada for accuracy. Bill's incredible generosity is reflected in such actions as naming a newly discovered snail-killing fly, *Dictya behrmani*, found in Brown County, Indiana, after Jill Behrman, a young Bloomington woman who was abducted and killed while bike riding. Bill met Jill's father while staying at Jill's House, a temporary housing facility in Bloomington that the Behrmans co-founded for people undergoing medical treatment at local health facilities.

Given Bill's authority in the world of snail-killing flies, it was fitting that he received a framed collage depicting an enlarged image of a snail-killing fly and a photograph of Bill collecting snail-killing flies in the field (taken during a lunch break while he was leading a Kirtland's Warbler foray for Amos Butler Audubon). Amos Butler Audubon is indebted to Bill for his service.

First Prosecution of Wind Company for Killing Birds

(Washington, DC, November 22, 2013)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) today announced a settlement on the prosecution of Duke Energy's wind developments in Wyoming in connection with the deaths of 14 Golden Eagles and 149 other protected birds, amounting to \$1 million in fines and mitigation actions. This is the first prosecution of a wind company in connection with bird mortality.

"This is a welcome action by DOJ and one that we have long anticipated," said Dr. George Fenwick, President of American Bird Conservancy (ABC), one of the nation's leading bird conservation

groups and a longtime advocate for stronger federal management of the wind industry. "Wind energy is not green if it is killing hundreds of thousands of birds. We are pro-wind and pro-alternative energy, but development needs to be Bird Smart. The unfortunate reality is that the flagrant violations of the law seen in this case are widespread."

"Today's enforcement action is the first and only time a line in the sand has been drawn by the government," said Dr. Michael Hutchins, Coordinator of ABC's National Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign. "The boundaries for the

wind industry are voluntary, meaning that companies have been able to pay lip service to bird protection laws and then largely do what they want. Poorly sited wind projects exist or are being planned that clearly ignore the advice of federal and state biologists who have few, if any, means of preventing them from going ahead."

ABC has called for the prosecution of wind companies over violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act on numerous occasions, including requests to Congress and officials of both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and DOJ.

Upcoming Audubon Programs

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

January 14: Birding Through the Eyes of a Photographer



Henslow's Sparrow, American Avocet, and Pine Warbler photos by Ryan Sanderson

Presenter: Ryan Sanderson

We've all seen Ryan in the field, especially at a rare-bird sighting. He's the guy with the bazooka lens attached to his camera. Ryan, a recent IU Medical School graduate, spends all of his "extra time" chasing the perfect photo. Join us for this presentation filled with exquisite photos, stories from the field, and an exciting bird ID quiz!

February 11: The Secret Love Life of Birds



**Presenter:
John Schaust,
Chief Naturalist
for Wild Birds
Unlimited**

Gear up for Valentine's Day with this insightful presentation. John, an ABA board member, will entertain us with his famous talk on the love life of birds. When it comes to rivalry, competition, deception, fidelity, and cheating, birds can make the "Real Housewives of New Jersey" look tame by comparison.

Audubon Workshops



Male and female American Wigeon photo by Lynn Miller.

Learn Your Male Ducks

**Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center
6515 Delong Road, Indianapolis**

Saturday, February 22, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

It's Duck Time at Eagle Creek Park! Join Kevin Carlsen to learn to identify the male ducks that are seen at Eagle Creek Park during the year. After Kevin's duck class, you will be able to ID male ducks in a flash! The program will include a classroom presentation. Afterwards we will take a look at the ducks in the Bird Sanctuary. You must register for this class by calling the Ornithology Center at (317) 327-2473. The class fee is \$5.

Learn Your Female Ducks

**Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center
Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 12 noon**

Identifying female ducks can be challenging because the females of most species are not distinctive. Even advanced birders seem to find identifying female ducks a chore. Join Don Gorney to learn important field marks that will turn you into a female duck enthusiast. The program will include a classroom presentation and a brief outing to view female ducks in the Bird Sanctuary. The program is free with gate admission, but you must call the Ornithology Center at (317) 327-2473 to register.



Sandhill Cranes photo by Dan Kaiser.

Goose Pond Sandhill Crane Field Trip

Saturday, February 22, 12:30 p.m.
Kroger parking lot 1930 East Main Street, Plainfield

Join Scott Enochs as he leads a trip to Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area near Linton, Indiana, in search of gathering Sandhill Cranes. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. in the Kroger parking lot at 1930 East Main Street in Plainfield, where we will carpool for the 90-minute drive to Goose Pond. Goose Pond has become a staging (gathering) area for large numbers of Sandhill Cranes, which rest and feed there during their migration north to their breeding grounds. During the afternoon we will search Goose Pond and surrounding areas for migrating waterfowl and wintering raptors. At sunset we will position ourselves to view the cranes, potentially numbering 10,000-15,000, as they fly into their evening roost. With any luck we will also see Short-eared Owls foraging at dusk, and Whooping Cranes are always a possibility. Any trip to Goose Pond has the potential to be a memorable event. Please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or email him at msenochs@comcast.net if you have any questions. Registration is not required for this event, and it is open to everyone.



Did you read about the ground-dwelling, nocturnal parrot? How about Eagle Creek Park being accepted into the Saving Important Bird Areas program by the National Audubon Society?

Or maybe you caught the latest bird profile in our 75 Species series to celebrate our 75th anniversary. If you have "liked" the Amos Butler Audubon Facebook page, then you may have seen those posts. Facebook provides an entertaining and interactive way for our organization to get information to our members. If you have not "liked" our Facebook page yet, please visit www.facebook.com/amosbutler and do so today.

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 through
November 20, 8 a.m.**

Leader: David Benson
(dbenson@marion.edu)
Meet at the St. Francis Colonnade.

Cool Creek Park
2000 East 151st Street, Carmel
Beginning Bird Hikes
Wednesdays (except 2/5)
and every other Sunday 9-10 a.m.

Meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park, past the Nature Center

Birds are fascinating, and watching them can be an awe-inspiring experience. Catching a glimpse of these gorgeous creatures, however, can be frustrating, and learning how to identify all of them can be overwhelming! Join our Naturalist staff and other guest leaders (when available) Sunday and Wednesday mornings, and we will learn together. This will be a great opportunity for birdwatchers of all levels. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Pre-registration is not required. Don't forget your binoculars! For more information, contact Amanda Smith at amandasmith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Strawtown Koteewi Park
Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville
First Wednesday of the month
January 8 and February 5, 8:30-10 a.m.
Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History
Information: (317) 774-2574

Johnson County Park Bird Hikes
Last Sunday of each month, 8 a.m.
Meet at the McClain Cabin on the corner of Schoolhouse and Cabin Street

Lace up your sneakers and come take a peek at our feathered friends. Join Johnson County Parks and Rec naturalists on the last Sunday of each month for an informal bird walk at Johnson County Park, located just north of Camp Atterbury. Take 31 S to 252 W and turn left onto Schoolhouse Road. Bring binoculars or borrow ours. Free, open to all ages, no pets. For more information, call (812) 526-6809 or email jerwin@co.johnson.in.us.

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Amos Butler Audubon Chapter Supporter Membership

Membership benefits:

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

■ *Audubon LifeLines*, the chapter newsletter

■ Workshops and entertaining monthly program meetings

One-year chapter supporter \$20

Two-year chapter supporter \$35

One-year student memberships are free. Chapter supporter can be combined with National Audubon membership for a total of \$40.

National Audubon Society Membership Introductory Offer \$20 for first-time members only. Includes *Audubon* magazine

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Make checks payable to: Amos Butler Audubon

Mail to: Martyn Roberts, Membership Chair
Amos Butler Audubon

E-mail questions to:
info@amosbutleraudubon.org

5945 Ralston Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

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.



*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**

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