



Amos Butler Audubon Thanks Don Gorney

by Ted Meyer, president

Last year Amos Butler Audubon was fortunate to have Don Gorney serving as our Director of Bird Conservation and Education. This position was made possible by a grant from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, which has now been fully expended. One outstanding achievement of the position was Don's outreach to Indianapolis-area school children, introducing about 500 kids to birds, nature, and conservation.

Prior to his staff position with Amos Butler Audubon, Don served five years on the Board of Directors of Amos Butler Audubon, mostly as President. Don's passion for birds and conservation helped the organization develop more successful programs and become better recognized in the community. He reinvigorated our Lights Out Indy program, collecting data on bird strikes and mortality during migrations. We now have many buildings participating in the Lights Out Indy program and a web site for the program. To many of us conservation-minded folks, turning out



building lights seems so easy. It isn't. Only Don's perseverance has brought us to this point.

Don helped bring quite a few grants into the organization. For example, the Wings Over Indy program was funded by Toyota through the National Audubon Society. This innovative program highlights two urban species –

Chimney Swifts and Common Nighthawks — and creates local nesting sites for them. Don conceived the program, obtained the funds, and then organized volunteers to make this happen.

The Indianapolis Birding Trail was launched this fall in conjunction with the City of Indianapolis. Don was instrumental in the planning and execution of this project. He has already led many neighborhood hikes to promote it.

Don has been the organizing force behind countless bird hikes, classes, volunteer events, and birding surveys. He has readily shared his expertise and ongoing interest in continual learning with so many in our community.

While not continuing as an employee, Don continues to be an active participant and contributes to Amos Butler Audubon in many ways. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Don for all of his service so far. His passion for the birds is a great example to us all.

Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz

Over the past half-century, the historically abundant Rusty Blackbird has endured one of the steepest population declines among North American landbirds. Within the last 15 years, scientists have learned more about this bird's breeding and wintering ecology, and this knowledge allows us to target conservation initiatives during these phases of this bird's annual cycle. However, as with many migratory species, we know very little about Rusty Blackbird ecology, distribution, and habitat use during migration. Are there hot spots where many individuals congregate? Are there stopover areas that are used predictably each year, and are these locations protected? The Rusty Blackbird Spring Migration Blitz will address these and other questions to help focus future research on and conservation of one of

North America's most vulnerable blackbirds. We need your help in this effort to conserve this fascinating songbird.

Spring 2014 kicks off the first year of this three-year Spring Migration Blitz; the Blitz window for Indiana will span March 1 through mid-April. If you'd like to contribute data to the Spring Migration Blitz effort, bird as you normally do, focusing on potential Rusty Blackbird habitat. You can seek out the best-known places for Rusty sightings or explore uncharted territory. Make sure to report ALL of your observations to eBird — we want to know both where you saw these birds and where you didn't. Check out the newly revamped website of the International Rusty Blackbird Working Group (<http://rustyblackbird.org/outreach/migrationblitz/>) for information about identification,



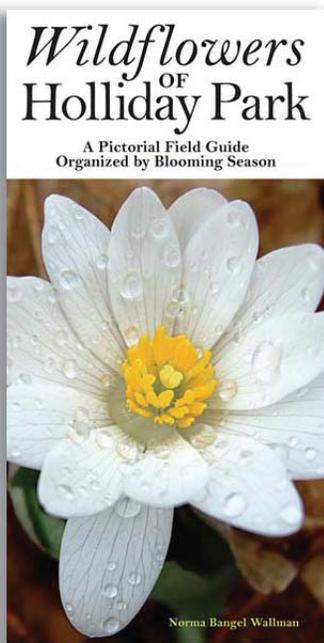
vocalizations, habitat preferences, and types of data to collect to support this initiative.

Thanks for "Getting Rusty" with us this spring! Like the Rusty Blackbird Blitz on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/rustyblackbirdspringblitz>) to follow up-to-the minute information about the Blitz!

Indiana Coordinators: Don Gorney, Amy Kearns, and Landon Neumann

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.



March 11: Wildflowers of Holliday Park

Speaker: Norma Wallman

Norma Wallman has been leading wildflower walks at Holliday Park for many years. Her hard work and dedication, plus 19 years of data, have culminated in a new field guide, *Wildflowers of Holliday Park*. Come and hear Norma speak about bringing the book to fruition, then have the author sign your copy. The book costs \$20 and will be available for purchase that evening; please bring cash or checks made out to the author (no means to process credit cards).



April 8: Raptor Rendezvous

Speakers: Indiana Raptor Center's Laura Edmonds and Patti Reynolds

Indiana Raptor Center (IRC) presents a lighthearted program that incorporates storytelling and natural history to convey important facts about birds of prey, nature, and the environment. Laura Edmonds, IRC Education Director, and Patti Reynolds, Executive Director, will bring live birds of prey for a fun show filled with great photo opportunities. A representative from the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center will also bring live raptors. Both the Indiana Raptor Center and Eagle Creek Ornithology Center are 2013 Birdathon grantees.

Amos Butler Audubon Field Trips

Waterfowl Field Trip, Bloomington

Sunday, March 16, 7:30 a.m.

Meet at Marsh parking lot, 6965 West 38th Street, Indianapolis

Join Scott Enochs as he leads a trip to Bloomington in search of migrating waterfowl. Bloomington has many waterfowl hotspots including Lake Monroe, Lake Lemon, and Stillwater Marsh. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Marsh parking lot, located at 6965 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, and carpool to Bloomington, where we will visit as many of the locations listed above as possible in search of migrating waterfowl. Participants can expect to leave the Bloomington area around 1 p.m. Please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net if you have any questions. Registration is not required, and the event is open to everyone.



Northern Pintail and Black-necked Stilt
photos by Lynn Miller

Shorebird Field Trip, Goose Pond F&WA

Saturday, April 19, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Meet at Kroger, 1930 East Main Street, Plainfield

Join Scott Enochs as he leads a field trip to Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area in search of migrating shorebirds. We will meet at the Kroger parking lot, located at 1930 East Main Street, Plainfield, where we will carpool for the 90-minute drive to Goose Pond. Goose Pond has become a premier stopover point for many species of shorebirds. It is one of the few sites in Indiana to view nesting Black-necked Stilts. Shorebirds will be our primary target for the day, but we will also seek migrating waterfowl and early warbler migrants. Participants can expect to be back in the Indianapolis area around 3 p.m. 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, which is open to everyone.

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 April, 8 a.m.

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

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

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

Beginning Bird Hikes

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26; April 9, 16, 23, 30;
Sundays, March 16, 30; April 13, 27; 8:30-10 a.m.

Birdwatching is enjoyed by over 50 million Americans! Many people watch birds at their feeders, but many of us stroll the trails hoping to catch a glimpse of them. Some of the most beautiful birds in the world live or migrate through central Indiana, and most of them don't frequent feeders. From American Robins to Scarlet Tanagers, we will try to find them all. Tips on binoculars, field guides, gear, and identification will keep the conversation lively as we look. You may begin anytime during the season and come as often as you like. Don't forget your binoculars!

Saturday Spring Migration Bird Hikes

April 19 and 26; May 3, 17, 24, 31; 8-10 a.m.

Catch a peek at some beautiful birds as they return this spring. The hikes are led by well-known birder, Keith Starling. Hurry, some birds will not stay around long. After the hike, stop by the Nature Center's Wildlife Viewing Area for coffee and doughnuts.

For more information, contact Amanda Smith at amandasmith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville

Wednesdays, March 5 and April 2, 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 Road 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.

Hamilton County Parks Sponsored Events

American Woodcock Walk

Saturday, March 8

Indoor Program portion at 6 p.m.

Outdoor Program portion 6:30 p.m.

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History

12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Unusual, weird, romantic, and unique are all words used to describe the American Woodcock. Come experience this rite of spring for yourself at Strawtown Koteewi Park as male Woodcocks perform their aerial courtship displays for the females in the prairie at dusk! An indoor presentation will take place inside the Taylor Center for those interested in knowing more about the life history of this bird. Those interested only in seeing the aerial display should meet the group inside the Taylor Center and will be led by a Naturalist outside.

Information: (317) 774-2574

Rookery Preserve

25440 Scherer Ave., Arcadia

Saturday, March 8, 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 20, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 22, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9, 11 a.m.

Saturday, April 12, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22, 2 p.m.

Join a Naturalist at the Great Blue Heron rookery in Hamilton County. We will meet and stay at the Stoops Observation Deck and discuss details about the park. We will spend the majority of the time watching and talking about the Great Blue Herons, which should be busily courting and tending their nests. You are encouraged to bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and photography equipment. Some equipment will be available to borrow.

For more information, contact Amanda Smith at amandasmith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Birding 101

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Meet in the Nature Center

Saturday, April 5, 1 p.m.

Birdwatching is the fastest growing outdoor activity in the United States, with over 50 million Americans participating. If you want to know more about this hobby, you'll want to join us for this presentation. We'll explain what equipment is needed, shed some light on why so many people are so passionate about watching birds, and talk about some of the breathtaking migratory birds that will be heading our way soon!

For more information, contact Amanda Smith at amandasmith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Remembering Mary Lu Spencer

by Ruth Johnson

Mary Lu Spencer, long-time member of Amos Butler Audubon, died June 30 at the age of 89. Mary Lu spent her childhood in Charlestown, Indiana, and later moved to Indianapolis, where she graduated from Shortridge High School and Butler University. Her love of nature and pleasure in being outside led her to gardening, stargazing, and then to birding. She really enjoyed the weekly bird walks with Bud Starling and especially appreciated all of the bird calls she learned from him. Thanks to Bud, she still knew what birds were out there when her aging eyes made it more difficult for her to identify them. More recently she participated in Larry Peavler's Spring Birding workshop, and she was a faithful contributor to the Birdathon.



Mary Lu spent happy hours searching out birds at Eagle Creek, Ft. Harrison, Sanibel Island, and many other spots. She kept her binoculars handy, whether enjoying her backyard feeders, checking out local birding havens, or vacationing around the U.S. and Canada. One of her favorite birding destinations was Point Pelee National Park. Last year her family dedicated a bench there in her honor. In May, shortly before she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, she made the trip to Point Pelee with her two daughters and one granddaughter. Mary Lu and family walked along the Woodland Nature Trail, where not far from the Visitors Centre they located her bench. She was very pleased to relax on the bench and watch the orioles flitting through the trees.

Mary Lu was a member of the Butler Alumnae Literary Club, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, National Puzzlers' League, and Daughters of the American Revolution. She served as elder, deacon, and Sunday school teacher at Northminster Presbyterian Church. Mary Lu and husband Herb had celebrated 64 years of marriage before his death in 2011. Daughters Ruth and Julia, two sons-in-law, six grandchildren, and a great-grandson miss her very much.

Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing her will remember her as a very gracious lady.

Lured into Glass

By Jayne Marek

Secret messages in skyscraper windows flicker
Like passing wings as the days decline
Or open into sun. At a breathless
Height, metal edges hum,
Leafless and slim, offering
Illusory rest. Winds circulate
Pigeons, starlings, the junk birds
That city-dwellers hate, House
Sparrows pecking for meager food,
And their kin, buntings, warblers,
Flycatchers, siskins, towhees, swifts,
Finches and lovely robins.

But a cloud slides swiftly with long
Wings and startles a flock into a burst
Of feathers beating escape. Or
In the night, false stars dot the sills
And dust-clumps that reflect street lamps,
Beckon like a sky, an open bowl
Of invisible stone. The sharp stop,
The slide, the fall, all the beautiful
Dead at the buildings' feet, come dawn.



In Appreciation of Donations Made to Amos Butler Audubon:

In memory of Bill Brink
by Chris Carlson

In honor of Carole Gall for her extraordinary efforts to support Scott Blanchard in his long illness by sharing birds, love and hope
by Alice Clayton

In memory of Steve Housefield
by Karen Bower

In memory of Betty Kulczak
by Douglas and Teresa Sherow

In honor of Sarah and Martyn Roberts
by Nancy Bonner

For Amos Butler Audubon from TJ Cole, who collected money for Amos Butler Audubon at his 7th birthday party. Thank you and Happy Birthday, TJ!



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.

2014 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

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Bradley Shoger
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Martyn Roberts, *Membership*

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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

Name _____

Address _____

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E-mail (please include) _____

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 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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