

## Birdathon Funds Yield Unexpected Collateral Benefits



*Niceforo Wren photo courtesy of ProAves.*

By Bill Murphy

One of the world's rarest birds has been observed in a shade-grown coffee farm in the Cerulean Warbler Corridor in Colombia. The critically endangered Niceforo's Wren — a 6-inch long, olive brown-and-white bird found only in north central Colombia — has a known population of only about 75 individuals. Two pairs have been seen on the farm, an outstanding observation for such a rare bird. One pair was observed coming and going from dense foliage in a hedgerow alongside the farm, a strong indication of nesting, and the other pair was seen carrying nest-building material, also a strong indication of nesting.

Niceforo's Wren prefers to nest in dry forests, but on occasion it nests in shade-grown coffee plantations. Shade-grown coffee is not grown on clear-cut forest land, as is most coffee, but rather on plantations on which a number of native trees have been left standing. The trees provide a bird-friendly environment and shade the coffee bushes — hence the term "shade-grown coffee."

The population of Niceforo's Wren is shrinking because of habitat loss caused by excessive sheep and goat grazing, burning of forests for agriculture, and cutting of forests for firewood. In 2009, the Niceforo's Wren Natural Bird Reserve was established to preserve 3,500 acres of tropical dry forest near Zapatoca (state of Santander), Colombia. The reserve is managed by Fundación ProAves, a leading Colombian environmental group that has partnered with the American Bird Conservancy to help create bird reserves throughout Central and South America.

Since 2008, funds raised from our chapter's Birdathons have been supporting the conservation of habitat in the Cerulean Warbler Corridor. This year we will continue to enable conservation easements on an additional five tracts of land. A portion of our funding will be used to attain the Smithsonian's bird-friendly certification for the coffee grown on the farm. The certification is considered to be the "gold standard" because of its stringent environmental standards (such as requiring a minimum of 40% shade cover and a diversity of native species of trees). The Smithsonian also requires that the coffee beans meet USDA organic certification.

Please see the enclosed flyer to make a donation to the Birdathon and to help preserve habitat for both migratory birds and rare endemics like the Niceforo's Wren. And if you are interested in sampling some terrific shade-grown coffee, please read the accompanying sidebar.

### Coffee Anyone?

At our May 14 program meeting, we will be selling shade-grown coffee from the 37-acre coffee farm in the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. If you ever needed an incentive to try a coffee that supports conservation, the article on the exciting recent sightings of the rare Niceforo's Wren should prompt you to buy a bag or two. The funds raised from the sales of this coffee go directly towards paying for the operating costs of the reserve. Local residents are also benefitting from coffee sales; approximately 75 local women have found employment in the coffee production facility.

Reports on this product from our coffee-drinking chapter members have been very positive! Many connoisseurs consider it a better-tasting coffee because the beans ripen more slowly in shade, resulting in a richer flavor.

The bags of 100% Arabica coffee are sold in two forms: 12 ounces of whole beans for \$9, and 17.6 ounces of ground coffee for \$12. These prices compare favorably with premium coffee sold at coffee shops and include the shipping and handling costs to import it to Indy. Due to the small scale of the production facilities, there is currently no decaffeinated coffee offered, only regular.

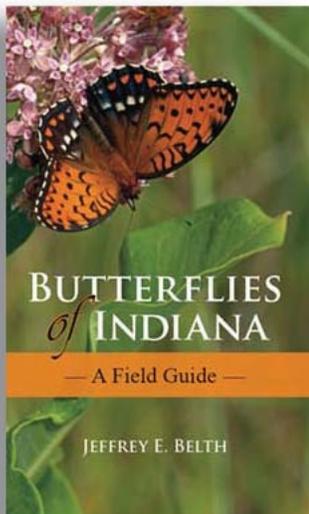
If you are planning to attend the May 14 program and would like to pre-order a bag or two, please contact:

Mary Ellen Gadski,  
International Projects  
Coordinator for the  
Birdathon  
[gadski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gadski@sbcglobal.net)



## Upcoming Audubon Program

The program is free and open to the public. Information: Email Brittany Davis Swinford at [bluemoosey8@yahoo.com](mailto:bluemoosey8@yahoo.com) or call (812) 340-0824.



**Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Butterflies of Indiana**

**Holliday Park  
Nature Center  
6363 Spring Mill Road,  
Indianapolis**

**Jeff and Sandy Belth**

Jeff Belth, author of *Butterflies of Indiana*, and Sandy Belth, naturalist with Monroe County Parks, will present on the natural history, identification, and conservation of our native butterfly species. After studying and photographing butterflies for more than 25 years, Jeff has a great knowledge of these jewels of the sky. His new field guide features 149 species of butterflies and their close relatives, the skippers. Copies of the new field guide will be available for purchase at the presentation. Jeff will be glad to autograph purchased copies.

## 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

**Fort Harrison State Park  
5753 Glenn Road, Indianapolis  
Each Sunday in April and May, 8 a.m.**

**Leader: Don Gorney**

[don@amosbutleraudubon.org](mailto:don@amosbutleraudubon.org)

Meet at the Delaware Lake parking lot.

**Cool Creek Park  
2000 East 151st Street, Carmel  
Wednesday and every other Sunday  
8:30-10 a.m.**

**May 5, 8, 15, 19, 22, 29**

**June 2, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30**

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  
8:30-10 a.m., May 1, June 5**

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Information: (317) 984-5556

## Programs and Activities

**Earth Day Indiana  
White River State Park**

**801 W. Washington St., Indianapolis  
Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Join Amos Butler Audubon and over 125 other sponsors at the state's largest Earth Day celebration. There will be many activities for children, including decorating a T-shirt, seeing live animals up close, building a bird feeder, planting a seed, and singing fun songs. Bring the whole family, including the dog, for this fun event. See [www.earthdayindiana.org](http://www.earthdayindiana.org) for additional details.

**Audubon May Bird Count**

**Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m.**

**Eagle Creek Park and throughout  
Marion County**

Help Amos Butler Audubon count the birds in Marion County to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. Birders of all levels are welcome. Newer birders will be paired with more experienced ones. To allow us to organize the count and teams, pre-registration is required — contact Don Gorney at (317) 501-4212 or email [don@amosbutleraudubon.org](mailto:don@amosbutleraudubon.org). Be sure to let Don know if you want to bird a particular location or part of the county.

## Cool Creek Nature Center Bird Programs

**2000 East 151st Street, Carmel**

(317) 774-2500, [cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cool.naturecenter@hamiltoncounty.in.gov)

**Spring Migration Bird Hikes**

**Saturdays, May 4, 18, 25, 8-10 a.m.**

Meet in the north parking lot of Cool Creek Park.

Catch a glimpse at some beautiful birds as they return this spring. These 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. Don't forget your binoculars!

**Audubon May Bird Count**

**Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m.**

**Cool Creek Park and throughout Hamilton County**

Volunteer to help the HCP&R and the Indiana Audubon Society as we count birds throughout our county. This annual count takes place on International Migratory Bird Day. The results are a valuable tool in tracking bird populations throughout the U.S. Birdwatchers of different skill levels will be paired together and assigned to various areas of the county. After the morning festivities, an optional lunch will be provided in the Cool Creek Nature Center.

Pre-registration required: Call (317) 748-4140 or email [robert.ripma@nuttybirder.com](mailto:robert.ripma@nuttybirder.com)

## April Bird Hikes

**Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab  
at Marian University  
3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis  
Every Wednesday in April, 8 a.m.**

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

## Earth Day at the JCC

**Jewish Community Center  
6701 Hoover Road, Indianapolis  
Sunday, April 21, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Join Amos Butler Audubon and many other activity providers for the JCC's second Earth Day celebration. This will be a very entertaining event for children. Follow signs for parking. This event is free.

## ABA Volunteer Day

The purpose of the Volunteer Days program is to restore habitat for birds and other wildlife and to promote bird/environmental education. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the events below or in being included on our volunteer e-mail list, please contact Don Gorney at don@amosbutleraudubon.org.

**Eagle Creek Park Workday  
Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis  
Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Final details are yet to be determined. Check the website or Facebook for updated information closer to the event, which is being co-sponsored by Indy Parks. We expect the workday to take place on the park's west side. Projects will include removal of non-native shrubs, trees, and plants and removal of litter and other material. Gloves, work tools, water, and snacks will be provided.



## Whole Foods Market Gives a Big Boost To Lights Out Indy

By Don Gorney

Whole Foods Market has made a considerable donation — \$5,048.38! — to Amos Butler Audubon's (ABA) Lights Out Indy initiative. This peculiar sum represents 5% of the April 3 sales of Whole Foods Market's Indianapolis and Carmel locations. Whole Foods Market earmarked the money to ABA through their Community Support Day program. This was a terrific opportunity for ABA to raise awareness of the fact that excess urban lighting at night poses a significant threat to migrating birds. On the day of the event, ABA representatives Art and Lora Jeffries, Sarah and Martyn Roberts, Polly Nicely, Debra Lloyd, Don and Donna McCarty and myself were on hand at each store during the lunch and dinner periods to educate customers about Lights Out Indy and to answer questions. Whole Foods Market provided Lights Out Indy with incredible exposure through signage at the store (including at each register), Facebook posts, and tweets via Twitter. Their selection of ABA as the beneficiary for the event was exhilarating. Andrew McConnell, Marketing & Community Relations Specialist for Whole Foods Market, said, "It was wonderful to have representatives from Amos Butler Audubon at our stores. They were great representatives and were very engaging with our customers... The CSD [Community Support Day] this quarter was awesome! We broke a collective record for our stores and an individual record for the 86th St. store."

On behalf of Amos Butler Audubon, I would like to thank Whole Foods Market for their generous donation.



*Red-shouldered Hawk with partial fish carcass. Photos by Ryan Sanderson.*

Cerulean Warbler by Greg Lavaty courtesy ProAves. Kids with binoculars by Don Gorney. Chimney Swift by Dan Kaiser.



# AMOS BUTLER AUDUBON BIRDATHON 2013

## Continuing Our Mission, Locally and Globally

Now in its 27th year, the Amos Butler Audubon Birdathon has been raising funds for special projects, both local and global, through its annual fundraiser. We are enthusiastic about sponsoring a variety of projects this year, all of which will help fulfill our mission "to promote the stewardship and enjoyment of the birds of Central Indiana." These projects will preserve or enhance habitat, gather important research data, or provide an enriching educational experience.

**We are committed to funding these projects to benefit the birds of Central Indiana:**

- **The purchase and protection of prime Cerulean Warbler habitat** in Colombia through our partner, the **American Bird Conservancy**. The Cerulean Warbler Corridor also provides habitat for 27 other neotropical migrants.
- **Habitat restoration at Marian University's Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab:** Thousands of volunteers have participated in restoration and conservation work. **Keep Indianapolis Beautiful** will also be implementing a habitat restoration project along Fall Creek in Barton Park.

- **Two Ball State research projects** focusing on the Cerulean Warbler, complementing our efforts to save its winter habitat in Colombia.
- **The Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center:** Remodeling of the outdoor raptor cages will enable the display of three bird of prey species.
- Educational programs for school children to encourage their appreciation of birds at **Garfield Park and the Jameson Camp**, inspiring them to become future conservation champions.
- **Indiana Raptor Center** will be able to save more birds with the purchase of equipment for intensive-care raptor rehabilitation.
- **Amos Butler Audubon** will pursue several projects including the new Wings Over Indy Chimney Swift tower at Holliday Park, the continuation of the Eagle Creek Park bird survey, and educational efforts promoting greater appreciation and awareness of birds (with a specific focus on underserved youth).

### Birdathon Teams Will Be on a Species Quest

Birdathon teams will be scouring the state during May to count the maximum number of species possible in a 24-hour period and asking donors to sponsor their efforts. If you don't know a team member, you could choose to make a donation directly to the Birdathon. Either way, your dollars will go far to ensure the future of our Indiana birds.

**Make a Difference, Make a Pledge!**

START PROTECTING OUR BIRDS TODAY! CUT HERE AND MAIL YOUR PLEDGE OR GO TO [WWW.AMOSBUTLERAUDUBON.ORG](http://WWW.AMOSBUTLERAUDUBON.ORG)

## AMOS BUTLER AUDUBON BIRDATHON 2013 PLEDGE

▶ \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

▶ \_\_\_\_\_  
Address

▶ \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
City

▶ \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I'LL SUPPORT YOU WITH MY PLEDGE OF \_\_\_10¢ \_\_\_25¢ \_\_\_50¢ \_\_\_\$1 OR \_\_\_\_\_ per species up to a total gift of \_\_\_\_\_ for this team;

DNR  EcoLab  Bud & Carl's Legacy  Cool Ponds  
 Carbon Neutral  Community Hospital  Noddy Little Gulls  
 Walmart  Team Bishop  Lights Out/Wings Over Indy  
 Wild Birds Unlimited  UIndy  Team with highest count  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed, payable to Amos Butler Audubon.  
*Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law.*

**Thank you for sponsoring the Amos Butler Audubon Birdathon 2013. Every urgently needed dollar you give will go toward:**

- Protection of Cerulean Warbler habitat in Colombia
- Habitat restoration at the Marian University EcoLab and Barton Park
- Ball State research projects on the Cerulean Warbler
- Eagle Creek Park's Ornithology Center and bird survey
- Raptor rehabilitation
- Educational opportunities for students to learn about birds
- A Chimney Swift tower in Holliday Park

Return by May 31 to: Donna McCarty, Birdathon Chair, 7492 Runningbrook Ct, Indianapolis, IN 46254-9770

## 2013-2014 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

### Officers:

Ted Meyer, *Interim President*  
Amanda Smith, *Recording Secretary*

### Directors:

Terry Ballenger  
Cliff Chapman, *Conservation Chair*  
Brittany Davis, *Program Chair*  
John Schaust  
Bradley Shoger  
Scott Enochs, *Field Trip Chair*  
Leslie Warner  
Michael White

### Committee Chairs:

Donna McCarty, *Birdathon*  
Martyn Roberts, *Membership Chair*

### Staff:

Don Gorney  
*Director of Bird Conservation and Education*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 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**

**Amos Butler Audubon**  
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