



'Tis the Season for Christmas Bird Counts

Indianapolis CBC

Saturday, December 14, 8 a.m.-noon

Whether you are a first-time birdwatcher or an experienced pro, your help is needed during the 114th annual National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Nationwide, over 2,000 Christmas Bird Counts are conducted during the holiday season. They have provided an enormous contribution to conservation for over 100 years. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action.

The Indianapolis count, sponsored by Amos Butler Audubon, takes place within a 15-mile-diameter circle covering the northeast side of Indianapolis, with the center being in Fort Harrison State Park.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birder. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of the Count Circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder once you have arranged to do so with the Count Compiler.

The most exciting news is that the CBC is a free program! To participate in the Christmas Bird Count, please register prior to December 11 so that birding teams can be formed and count plans made in advance of the count. Reserve your spot by calling John Schaust at (317) 208-4021 or emailing schaust@gmail.com

Amos Butler Audubon has again joined with the Crossroads Council of the Boy Scouts of America to host this year's CBC at the Scout Education and Program Center on the northeast corner of Fall Creek Road and North Shadeland Avenue. A pitch-in lunch will be held at the Scout Center at noon to go over list of birds seen. Some groups may head back outside in the afternoon to cover additional areas. A Bird Study Merit Badge class also will be held there on the morning of the CBC. Scouts can learn more about the CBC or reserve their spot by calling Brian Cunningham at (317) 753-8154 or emailing forester3991@yahoo.com.



Eastern Bluebird photo by Donna McCarty

Eagle Creek Park CBC

Sunday, December 15, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bundle up and join us in this one-day bird survey of Eagle Creek Valley. We will meet at the Ornithology Center at 8:00 a.m. and go birdwatching in our assigned units. There will be a pitch-in lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Ornithology Center. Some birders will continue after lunch, until 2:00 p.m. There is no fee this year for participating in the count. If you have any questions, please call Kevin or Brittany at (317) 327-7580.

Hamilton County CBC

Saturday, December 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays by helping the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department (HCPRD) and the National Audubon Society conduct the annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us for a day of hiking and birding. Lunch for participants will be provided by the HCPRD. Call the Cool Creek Nature Center at (317) 774-2500 or email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov to pre-register and to receive more details.



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.

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. They are free and open to the public. Information: Email Brittany Davis Swinford at bluemoosey8@yahoo.com or call (812) 340-0824.

November 12: Bird Safari in Africa



Presenters: Ros Smith, research scientist, Eli Lilly, and Maurice Scheetz, retired research scientist, Eli Lilly

From the Malachite Kingfisher of the Okavanga Delta of Botswana to the Ground Hornbill of the grasslands of the Serengeti to the Jackass Penguin in the waters off Cape Town, Africa boasts an amazing diversity of bird life. Habitats ranging from the deserts of Namibia to the rainforests of Tanzania are home to birds uniquely adapted to their environments. While on safari looking at larger animals, Ros and Maurice — traveling by foot, canoe, and jeep — identified more than 280 species of birds during two month-long trips to Africa (2006 and 2011). Come join them as they share encounters and photographic highlights of their African bird safari.

December 10: Lake Erie Pelagic Birding Trips



Presenter: Rob Ripma, birder and photographer

When most birders think of pelagic birding trips, they envision going miles out into the ocean and possibly becoming terribly seasick. Happily, in recent years there has been a huge increase in the number of pelagic trips held on Lake Erie and other Great Lakes, and the species that are routinely seen are pretty amazing! At tonight's meeting, Rob will present about the Lake Erie pelagic trips that he has been leading for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (Ohio) for the last several years.

January 14, 2014: 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, 2014 The Secret Love Life of Birds



Presenter:
John Schaut,
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.

Birding 101

Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Saturday, November 16, 2 p.m.

Birdwatching is the fastest growing outdoor activity in United States, with more than 51 million Americans participating! If you want to know more about this hobby, you'll want to join us for this presentation. We'll explain why winter is actually a great time to start 'birding', what equipment is needed, and hopefully will shed some light on why so many people are so passionate about watching birds!



Barred Owl photo by Donna McCarty

Owl Prowl

Strawtown Koteewi Park

12308 Strawtown Ave., Noblesville

Friday, November 23, 5:30 p.m.

Join park staff to learn about native Indiana owls and their amazing nocturnal adaptations. After our indoor program, we will go outside for a short hike to call for wild owls. Please dress for an evening outside in cold weather.

Pre-registration required. Call (317) 774-2574 or e-mail taylor.center@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



First-winter tundra Peregrine Falcon photo by Barb Jablonski

Peregrine Falcon Sighting at Eagle Creek Park

by Paul Jablonski

On the Sunday, October 13, Eagle Creek bird walk, a Peregrine Falcon was observed harassing a flock of gulls. This was at the north end, halfway between the east and west banks of Eagle Creek and a half mile west of the 71st Street gate entrance. The falcon was seen between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. and was observed by all participants on the morning bird walk. The Peregrine made multiple passes through gulls and other shorebirds, which took flight from their resting places on a sandbar. Experts in our group said that the bird was a young one. It had green and black bands on the left leg and a silver band on the right leg. After five minutes of harassing the gulls, the falcon landed on the sandbar without having made a kill. It then proceeded to wade in approximately three inches of water, looking for and pecking at items in the water. We did not see the bird take flight again as we continued the morning bird walk.

According to Amos Butler Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation, Don Gorney, it is not possible to determine the origin of the falcon other than to say that it had not been banded in Indiana. In the eastern United States, two types of bands are used — black over red and black over green. Indiana Department of Natural Resources biologist John Castrale reported that he does not have any black/green bands, so it could not have been banded in the state recently.

Without the number/letter combo from the bands, it is impossible to determine origin of the falcon other than to say that it is from one of the eastern states or Ontario where researchers are still banding Peregrine Falcons.

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 11/6 and 12/4)

and every other Sunday

in November 8:30-10 a.m.

in December 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

November 6 and December 4

8:30-10 a.m.

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Information: (317) 774-2574

2013-2014 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
- *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
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E-mail questions to:
info@amosbutleraudubon.org

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.



*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