



Tis the Season for Christmas Bird Counts

Indianapolis Count

Saturday, December 20, 8 a.m.

Whether you are a first time birdwatcher or an experienced pro, your help is needed during the 115th annual National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

Nationwide, over 2,000 CBCs 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 birdwatcher. 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 CBC, please register prior to December 18 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

A pitch-in lunch for all participants will be held at the Scout Education and Program Center on the northeast corner of Fall Creek Road and North Shadeland Avenue at noon to tally our bird count and to reorganize groups to head back outside to cover additional areas if needed.

General information about the National Audubon Society and the Annual CBC can be found at www.audubon.org/bird/cbc



Dark-eyed Junco photo by Kevin Carlsen.

Eagle Creek Valley Count

Sunday, December 14, 8 a.m.

The Eagle Creek Valley count, sponsored by Amos Butler Audubon, takes place within a 15-mile-diameter circle covering the northwest side of Indianapolis, with the center being in Eagle Creek Park.

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

A pitch-in lunch for all participants will be held at the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center at noon to tally our bird count and to reorganize groups to head back outside to cover additional areas if needed.

To participate in the CBC, please register prior to December 10 so that birding teams can be formed and count plans made in advance. Reserve your spot by calling Maggie Jaicomo at (317) 327-2473 or emailing mjaicomo@indy.gov

Hamilton County Count

Saturday, December 27, 8 a.m.

Celebrate the holidays by helping Hamilton County Parks and Recreation and the National Audubon Society conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us for a day of hiking and birding. A \$5 donation is requested by the National Audubon Society to help cover production costs of the resulting report. Lunch for participants will be provided by the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department.

To pre-register or for more information call (317) 774-2500 or email amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov



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 Maggie Jaicomo at Margaret.jaicomo@gmail.com or call (260) 403-3172.

November 11: The Importance of Young Birders

Speakers: Chad Williams, Ceth Williams, and Landon Neumann



Many folks have remarked on the near absence of today's young people from bird clubs, state ornithological societies, and bird conservation organizations. Young birder clubs also challenge the broader birding community. How do organizations for "grownups"—including, if we're honest, our own Audubon Society—interact with and nurture young birder clubs? Perhaps just as important, under what circumstances are we to back off and let young birders do their own thing?

December 9: Two Months in a Tropical Rainforest

Note: Rescheduled from October 7

Speaker: Ron Weiss, certified Master Bird Bander and Assistant Professor of Biology at Marian University



Ron's research has taken him to many regions of North America as well as to the Bahama Islands, the rainforests of Costa Rica, the Páramo of the Andes Mountains, the rainforests of Ecuador, the deserts and coastal regions of Namibia and South Africa, and various regions of the tropical Pacific. Join him for an evening and learn about his research in the tropics and what impacts it has had on Indiana's birds.

2015 Programs

January 13: How Central Indiana Land Trust Helps Indiana's Birds

Speaker: Rachel Eble

Learn about the land purchases that CILTI has made in partnership with Amos Butler Audubon and how CILTI is helping to protect and preserve the birds of Central Indiana.

February 10: Recent Field Work in Hawaii and Ecuador

Speaker: Wes Homoya

March 10: Birding Adventures in Argentina

Speakers: Randy and Debbie Patrick

April 14

To be announced

May 12

To be announced

Cool Creek Park Beginning Bird Hikes

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

Wednesdays and every other Sunday
November 9, 12, 19, 23, 26; December 7, 10,
17, 21, 31; January 4, 14, 18, 21, 28; and
February 1, 11, 15, 18, 25

9-10 a.m.

Meet in the north parking lot 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 amanda.smith@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call (317) 774-2500.

Can you spot the Ring-billed-Gull-flock infiltrator
in the bottom photo?

*Cattle Egret photos taken at Eagle Creek Park on October 12
by Barb Jablonski.*



Hamilton County Parks & Recreation Program: Love is in the Air

Saturday, February 28 at 3 p.m.

Indoor presentation 3-4 p.m.

Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville

Rookery Presentation 4:15-5 p.m.

25440 Scherer Avenue, Arcadia, IN

In February, people are celebrating Valentine's Day in many different ways — like buying their sweetheart candy, taking them out to dinner, dancing, and delivering flowers. It turns out that birds are also reestablishing pair bonds with their mates around this same time, too! During this program we will explore the similarities between our traditions and those of the birds by taking a peek into their lives. Audience members will then be invited to the Rookery Preserve to see the Great Blue Herons, which should be busy working to repair their nests and courting their mates.

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

Marion 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

Every Saturday, 8 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500

2014-2015 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

Officers:

Ted Meyer, *President and Treasurer*
Leslie Warner, *Recording Secretary*

Directors:

Terry Ballenger
Cliff Chapman
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Cliff Chapman
Ted Meyer
Leslie Warner

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 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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