

## Go Count on a Christmas Bird Count!



*Carolina Wren photo by Barb Jablonski.*

### Indianapolis Count

**Saturday, December 19, 8 a.m.**

Whether you are a first-time birdwatcher or an experienced pro, your help is needed during the 116th annual National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC), scheduled for Saturday, December 19.

Nationwide, more than 2,000 CBCs are conducted during the holiday season. Data from these counts have contributed enormously to conservation for more than 100 years. The National Audubon Society 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 CBC, sponsored by Amos Butler Audubon, takes place within a 15-mile-diameter circle that encompasses the northeast side of Indianapolis, with the center being located in Fort Harrison State Park.

If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a team that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. Alternatively, if your home is within the boundaries of the Count Circle, you can make advance arrangements with the Compiler to count and report the birds that visit your feeders.

The most exciting news is that CBC is a free program! To participate in the Indianapolis (ININ) Christmas Bird Count, please register prior to December 16 so our final count plans can be made. Starting locations for each team and our group lunch venue will be finalized and shared with all registered participants prior to count day. Reserve your spot by contacting the ININ CBC Compiler, John Schaust, at (317) 208-4021 or [schaust@gmail.com](mailto:schaust@gmail.com)

General information about the National Audubon Society and its Annual Christmas Bird Count can be found at [www.audubon.org/bird/cbc](http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc)

### Eagle Creek Valley Count

**Sunday, December 20, 8 a.m. - Noon**  
**Eagle Creek Ornithology Center**

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 15 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](mailto:mjaicomo@indy.gov)



*Tufted Titmouse photo by Barb Jablonski.*

### Hamilton County Count

**Saturday, January 2, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Cool Creek Nature Center**

Celebrate the holidays by helping the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department and the National Audubon Society conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count. Join us for a day of hiking and birding! Lunch for participants will be provided by the Department. Adults and older children are welcome. For details or to preregister call the Cool Creek Nature Center at (317) 774-2500.

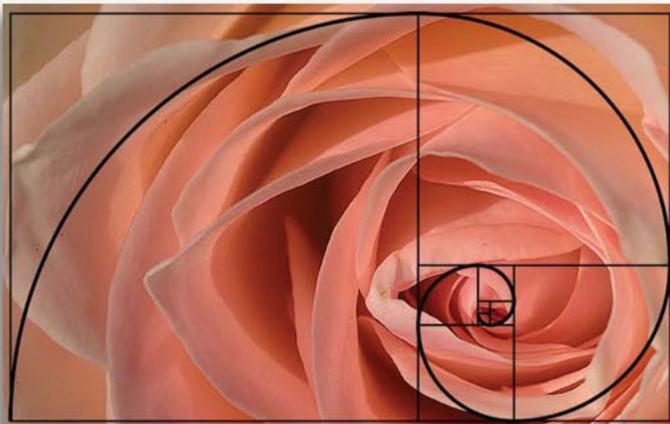
### Johnson County Count

**Sunday, December 20**

For information call Mike Clay at (317) 682-8884.

# 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](mailto:Margaret.jaicomo@gmail.com) or call (260) 403-3172.



## November 10: Patterns in Nature

Speaker: Stephanie Morrissette

From forests to oceans to the cosmos, patterns in nature are evident everywhere but often are overlooked. Please join us for a program that explores Fibonacci sequences, Golden Ratios, and fractals, along with other interesting aspects of natural phenomena.

Stephanie Morrissette received a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Management and an M.S. in Dendrochronology (the study of trees) from Ball State University. She has worked as an interpretive naturalist at locations throughout Indiana and currently is Director of the Whitestown Parks and Recreation Department.

## ABA Field Trips

### Sandhill Crane Field Trip: Jasper-Pulaski FWA Saturday, November 7, 1 p.m.

Meet at Dick's Sporting Goods  
6030 West 86th Street, Indianapolis

Join Scott Enochs as he leads you to Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area to view migrating Sandhill Cranes. Jasper-Pulaski has been a staging location for migrating Sandhills for many years. We will meet at Dick's Sporting Goods at 6030 West 86th Street at 1 p.m. and then carpool to Jasper-Pulaski. After spending an hour or so exploring the property, we will position ourselves on the crane-viewing platform an hour before sunset. From this vantage point we will enjoy the sight and sounds thousands of Sandhill Cranes flying in to their evening roost. This event is free, and registration is not required. Please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or [msenochs@comcast.net](mailto:msenochs@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



## December 8: Insects in Winter

Speaker: John Thieme

How insects overwinter here in Indiana is critical to their overall success. Come discover the many fascinating ways that our six-legged friends endure our harsh winters. Local entomologist John Thieme's fast-moving PowerPoint presentation will help us better understand how these cold-blooded creatures, so critical to many of our birds, are able to survive. John Thieme earned his entomology degree at Purdue University and worked there for two years doing field research. Over the years he has worked in the Midwest, on the West Coast, and in the New England states, where he was involved with their agricultural, horticultural, and public health and structural pest control divisions.

### Raptors in the Goose Pond FWA area Saturday, December 5, 12:30 p.m.

Meet at Kroger, 1930 East Main Street, Plainfield

Join Scott Enochs as he leads you to Greene County near Linton in search of migrating and overwintering raptors (hawks and owls). Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area and surrounding areas in Greene County have become a prime wintering and migratory stopover point for raptors such as Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Golden Eagle, and Short-eared Owl. We will meet at the Kroger store at 1930 East Main Street, Plainfield, at 12:30 p.m. and then carpool to Goose Pond. We will spend the afternoon and evening finding as many birds of prey as possible. We will remain in the area through sunset in hopes of seeing Short-eared Owls emerging from their daytime roosts on the ground. The event is free, and registration is not required. Please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or [msenochs@comcast.net](mailto:msenochs@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

# Cool Creek Park Programs

## Love is in the Air

Saturday, February 27, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

Cool Creek Nature Center  
2000 East 151st Street, Carmel

In February, people are celebrating Valentine's Day in many different ways, like buying their sweetheart candy, taking them out to dinner, dancing, or having flowers delivered. It turns out that birds are also reestablishing pair bonds with their mates around this time, too! During this program we will explore the similarities between our traditions and the birds' traditions by taking a peek into their lives. Free. Best for families with older children. Pre-registration is not required. For details call the Cool Creek Nature Center at (317) 774-2500.

## Birding 101

Tuesday, January 30, 3 - 4 p.m.

Cool Creek Nature Center

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, join us for this presentation. We'll explain why winter is actually a great time to start 'birding' and what equipment is needed. We hope to shed some light on why so many people are so passionate about watching birds! Adults and older children are welcome. Free. Preregistration is not required. For details call the Cool Creek Nature Center at (317) 774-2500.

# 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  
Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

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

Beginning Bird Hikes  
Cool Creek Park

2000 East 151st Street, Carmel  
Wednesday and every other Sunday  
November 1, 15, 18, 25, 29; December 9, 13, 16,  
23, 27, 30; January 3, 13, 17, 20, 27, 31;  
February 10, 14, 17, 24, 28  
9 - 10 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500 or [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com)

Strawtown Koteewi Park  
Taylor Center of Natural History  
12308 Strawtown Avenue, Noblesville  
First Wednesday of the month  
November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3  
8:30 - 10 a.m.

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Information: (317) 774-2574 or [www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com](http://www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com)



Our winter visitors, Dark-eyed Juncos, are now with us for the season. Photo by Kevin Carlsen.



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 Birdathon update. 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](http://www.facebook.com/amosbutler) and do so today.

## 2015-16 Amos Butler Audubon Board, Officers, and Committee Chairs

### Officers:

Rob Ripma, *President, Communications Chair*  
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Jeanette Frazier, *Recording Secretary*

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### Committee Chairs:

Donna McCarty, *Birdathon*  
Bill Murphy, *Newsletter Editor*

### Executive Committee:

Rob Ripma  
Jeanette Frazier  
Ted Meyer

## E-Mail Address, Anyone?

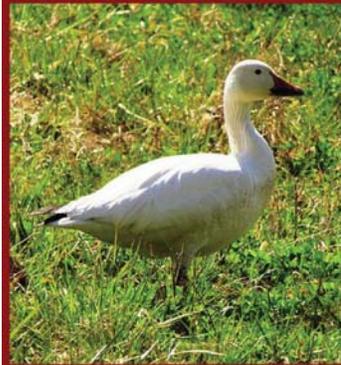
Join with hundreds of other members who have who have gone green by signing up for the electronic *LifeLines* newsletter and meeting reminders. Send your request, including your name, to Martyn Roberts at [info@amosbutleraudubon.org](mailto:info@amosbutleraudubon.org). This shift towards electronic communication 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](mailto:info@amosbutleraudubon.org) or call (317) 251-2908.

# Fall Waterfowl ID Workshop



Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015

10 am - 12 pm

Eagle Creek Park  
Ornithology Center

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Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015

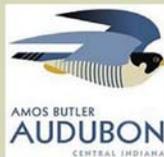
Field Trip

Location and Time TBD

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**\$10 per participant**

Join waterfowl expert Landon Neumann and the Amos Butler Audubon Society for a two weekend workshop on Waterfowl Identification. The field trip portion may require some travel for an optimal location.



Make out and Mail checks to: Amos Butler Audubon

PO Box 80024, Indianapolis, IN 46280

Questions? Contact Jessica Helmbold @

443-449-8512 ~ [jh\\_beagle@hotmail.com](mailto:jh_beagle@hotmail.com)



*Our mission: To promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the birds of central Indiana*  
**Visit our website: [www.amosbutleraudubon.org](http://www.amosbutleraudubon.org)**  
**e-mail: [info@amosbutleraudubon.org](mailto:info@amosbutleraudubon.org)**

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