

Bundy Ducks, Cabela's, and Conservation

by Barbara Jablonski



During the past several years, John Bundy and his family have donated Bundy duck decoys to the Birdathon Silent Auction. John Bundy is a storyteller. Most notably his stories come alive in the wood he carves into duck decoys, stunningly beautiful decoys known worldwide.

On August 20, the outdoor-oriented store chain Cabela's opened a theme-based store in Noblesville, the story behind which is itself a Bundy story. John tells how this all came about: Amanda Glenn of Cabela's (based in Sidney, Nebraska) heard about Bundy Ducks from her taxidermist and researched it at www.BundyDucks.com. By going to Bundy's website, Amanda learned about his decoys and his family history as artisans and conservationists. Her job was to find an appropriate local theme interesting enough to bring people into the new Noblesville Cabela's store. She found just that in John Bundy and his decorative decoys.

Bundy's duck decoys will not be for sale in Cabela's; they will just be a feature of the store. The store's deli is named "Bundy Grill." Anyone wanting to see ten times the number of decoys as those in Cabela's or to purchase Bundy duck decoys needs to visit the Bundys at 16506 Strawtown Avenue in Noblesville.



How impressive that Cabela's is honoring a local craftsman by featuring his work!

A trip to Bundy Ducks is enlightening not only for the perfection-in-wood decoys but also for the stories and history, which involve a family of nature lovers and a heritage of ten generations of artisans. John, Valerie, and Jason have a knack for knowing just which duck can be carved from a downed tree, log, or limb. They use many of the same skills in hand carving decorative wood decoys as

Continued on page 4

Birdathon 2015 Goes Over the Top

We wondered if we would be able to fund a record number of 10 grants in 2015. To do so we had to raise more money than ever, and it loomed over us as a daunting task. Well, we are pleased to announce that we went over the top! It took a combined effort to raise the \$38,680 needed for the grants — donations from generous donors, an unexpected gift from Geist Elementary students, and the graciousness of Whole Foods Market, which let us reallocate a 2013 grant. A whopping \$9,870 in carryover funds, primarily from the Silent Auction, helped to boost the total.

Birdathon Bucks Benefit Birds!

Of course, the purpose of the Birdathon is to put money to work benefitting the birds of Central Indiana. We are so proud of the following projects we are supporting in 2015!

- Once again our international project will protect high-priority wintering habitat for Cerulean Warblers and other Neotropical migrants in Colombia, administered through our esteemed partner, the American Bird Conservancy.
- Whole Foods Market will make the Eagle Creek Park Ornithology Center Interpretive Trail a reality. This self-guided trail will stimulate visitors' interest in bird life, enticing them to learn more at the Center.
- Two wild bird rehab facilities in Indiana will receive much-needed funds for their selfless efforts to save injured and abandoned native birds: For the Birds of Indiana, located in Westfield, and the Indiana Raptor Center, located in Nashville. Both have extensive outreach programs.
- Research data on native birds is so vital to planning more effective stewardship. We awarded grants to Purdue University and Ball State University. Both projects are focused on gaining a better understanding of the period of young birds shortly after they leave the nest.
- Local habitat restoration projects with partners Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and the Marion University Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab will ensure that our native birds will have places to thrive.
- Central Indiana Land Trust's BioBlitz at its Hills of Gold Core Conservation Area hosted a team of scientists who conducted a 48-hour inventory of all living organisms found on the property. Surprising results will help develop best management practices for forest-interior birds.
- Low-income students were able to participate in an environmental education field trip to the Indianapolis-based Jameson Camp.

Our Teams Give Their All for Big Day Events

Of course, it wouldn't be a Birdathon without our teams of intrepid birders, 12 in all this year. They give up 24 hours for their Big Days, helping to ensure that the birds they count will be around for the future.

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 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.



September 8: Meet your President

Speaker: Rob Ripma, President, Amos Butler Audubon

Rob Ripma, a lifelong Indiana resident, wears many hats — owner of NuttyBirder.com, partner in Sabrewing Nature Tours, and now President of Amos Butler Audubon. Rob loves working with both new and experienced birders of all ages and believes that teaching people about birds will not only increase their interest in birding but also help them better understand why we must work to protect birds and their habitats. Join us to see why Rob is the perfect fit for our organization!



October 20: Indiana's Birds of Prey

Speaker: Maggie Jaicomo, Naturalist, Eagle Creek Ornithology Center

Don't miss this chance to see some of Indiana's native raptors up close! Come and learn more about the lives of falcons, hawks, and owls. What do they eat? Where do they live? How can I identify them? And what can we do help them?

Note: This program is on the third Tuesday of the month.

ABA Field Trips

Fall Migrant Field Trip: Southeastway Park Sunday, September 20, 8 a.m.

Meet at Southeastway Park Activity Center
5624 South Carroll Road, New Palestine

Southeastway Park in New Palestine, a few miles southeast of Indianapolis, can be a concentration point for migrant songbirds. Join naturalist Scott Enochs as he leads you in search of migrating warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks. Meet at the Southeastway Park Activity Center at 8 a.m. Participants can expect the hike to last approximately two hours. The event is free, and registration is not required. For more information please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net.

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 naturalist Scott Enochs in a foray to the 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 1 p.m. and carpool to Jasper-Pulaski. We will spend an hour or so exploring the property before positioning ourselves at the crane viewing platform one hour before sunset. From this vantage point we will enjoy the sight of thousands of cranes flying in to their evening roost. The event is free, and registration is not required. For more information please contact Scott at (317) 850-4801 or msenochs@comcast.net.

Fall Waterfowl ID Workshop



Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015

10 am - 12 pm

Eagle Creek Park
Ornithology Center

~

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015

Field Trip

Location and Time TBD

~

\$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

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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 and do so today.

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
6000 N. Post Road, Indianapolis**
Each Sunday in September and October 8 a.m.

Leader: Don Gorney

don@amosbutleraudubon.org

Meet at the Delaware Lake parking lot.

**Marian University EcoLab
3200 Cold Spring Road,
Indianapolis**
Wednesdays
starting September 9, 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
8:30-10 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500 or
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Cool Creek

Migration Bird Hikes

Saturdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26
8 a.m.

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

Information: (317) 774-2500 or
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Beginning Bird Hikes

Strawtown Koteewi Park

Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Avenue,
Noblesville

First Wednesday of the month
September 2 and October 7
8:30-10 a.m.

Meet at the Taylor Center of Natural History

Information: (317) 774-2574 or
www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

Bundy Ducks, Cabela's, and Conservation

Continues from page 1

did Native Americans. In fact, a plaque in the new Cabela's describes some of the carving history and process along with several beautifully displayed decoys.

A story that John likes to tell is about his family. His grandfather was Dr. Earl Brooks, a Noblesville dentist and the founder of the Willis S. Blatchley Nature Study Club of Noblesville. Brooks was a noted president of the Indiana Audubon Society and executive director of the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, which honored him by naming Brook's Hall and the Earl Brook's Conservation Award after him. Dr. Brooks called to order a meeting of the Indiana Audubon Society in 1938 at which our own Amos W. Butler Society chapter was established.

The full circle of John Bundy's stories always returns to conservation and cooperation. John describes the massive use of punt guns at the end of the 1800s and early 1900s. Punt guns were huge shotguns with large

bore diameters. They could fire so much shot at one time that as many as 50 waterfowl could be killed with one shot. The guns were so weighty that hunters could not hold them, so they were mounted to small boats called punts; thus the name. The combined method of using decoys for attracting ducks and then killing them with punt guns nearly wiped



Photo courtesy of www.BundyDucks.com website

out the duck population in eastern North America. James Michener's novel "Chesapeake" graphically describes commercial waterfowl hunting during this time.

John says, "It was a dark time when hunters like Teddy Roosevelt realized there would be no ducks or wildlife. Songbirds and shorebirds were being slaughtered by the thousands for sale in restaurants and groceries in the East. The Federal Wildlife Acts changed that and hastened the end of the decoy factories. Mason [Mason Decoy Factory] closed in Detroit in 1924, and the wildlife we have today is a result. This story brings home that sportsmen and the environmentalists, including the Audubon Society, need each other and are not enemies."

Expanding on Bundy's comments: Mason Decoy Factory in Detroit, Michigan, was probably the most famous decoy maker. It closed following passage of The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which limited the mass shooting of migrating waterfowl, taking of feathers, eggs, etc.

Unlike the decoys used in that dark time of our history, Bundy decoys are handcrafted with this heart of conservation and beauty in mind. Our Birdathon grant funds also support conservation and education. Asking for donations for the Birdathon Silent Auction is more than it appears, too — we develop friendships and relationships with our generous donors, as well as acquiring knowledge of their histories and stories.



INDIANA AUDUBON
SOCIETY, INC. FOUNDED 1898

2015 Annual IAS Fall Festival October 2-4

Please join us for a wonderful Fall Festival in the heart of Indiana, to be held at the Allison Mansion on the Marian University campus. This year Amos Butler Audubon, Marian University, and the Indiana Audubon Society are partnering to bring you an array of birding field trips to Eagle Creek, Cool Creek, Fort Ben State Park, and the Nina Mason Pulliam EcoLab grounds at Marian University. Additionally, the weekend will include a couple of friendly birding competitions, stellar speakers, and a great dinner and keynote speaker on Saturday evening.



Keynote speaker
world traveler
Dan Marsh,
Director of
Education at the
Cincinnati Zoo

Our speakers will include Jim McCormac, author of *Birds of Ohio*, who will speak Friday evening on "The Fall and Rise of Indiana's Prairies," with a professional photographic presentation of the massive prairie restoration efforts at Kankakee Sands. Our Saturday evening keynote speaker will be world traveler Dan Marsh, Director of Education at the Cincinnati Zoo. After a catered dinner, Dan will speak on "Conservation Wins; A History of the Conservation Movement in the US and Around the World." His engaging talk will focus on examples of what is working in the realm of conservation and celebrate what has been accomplished in a very short period of time. Additional speakers will include some of our very own Hoosier birders, who will cover such topics as "Celebrating the 10-Year Anniversary of Indiana DNR Management of Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, 2005-2015: Working with Partners and Stakeholders" (Lee Sterrenburg); 10 years of bird surveys conducted at the Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment (HEE) (Kamal Islam and Jeff Riegel); the highlights and history of Amos Butler Audubon's annual Birdathon (Donna McCarty); "Jens Jensen Restoration and the Effects of Honeysuckle Removal on Bird Populations" (David Benson); "Bird Banding History and Results at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary" (Amy and Carl Wilms); and "Bats of the World" (featuring live bats from the Organization for Bat Conservation in Michigan).

Reduced Rates Available for ABA Members

Early registration has begun and is available for Amos Butler and Indiana Audubon members at the reduced rate of \$25. Registration after September 6 will be \$45. A block of hotel rooms will be available near the venue at a special rate.

Go to www.indianaaudubon.org to register and see the full itinerary today!

Bald Eagle Spotted at Monroe Lake is One of Oldest on Record

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife
Press release: June 1, 2015



Eagle #C43, one of the original eagles released at Monroe Reservoir.
Photos by Teresa Bass

It's not uncommon to see bald eagles around Monroe Lake these days, but the one Cassie Hudson and her friends recently saw was a rare find. Hudson, a biologist with the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, was on a boat ride with her husband, Brandon, and friends Eric and Teresa Bass when she caught a glimpse of a bald eagle along the shoreline. "We slowly cruised over, shut off the engine and quietly floated," Hudson said. Before they got too close, Teresa Bass put a telephoto lens on her camera and began taking photographs.

Hudson later shared the photos with coworker Amy Kearns and former DNR employee John Castrale, who used an orange color band on one wing and metal leg bands to identify the eagle as C43 — one of the original eagles released at Monroe when the Indiana DNR began its bald eagle restoration program in the late 1980s. "I was kind of shocked," said Castrale, who supervised the DNR's release of bald eagles, peregrine falcons and ospreys before retiring last year. "It felt like a team effort," Hudson said. "Me spotting the eagle, Teresa having a nice camera with a long lens to get a picture, and then coordinating with John and Amy to document a part of this bird's history."

Bass' long lens provided another surprise — a brood patch on C43's front. "That indicates she's still raising young," Castrale said. DNR records show that C43 was taken from a nest in Whitestone Harbor in southeastern Alaska on July 22, 1988. "That makes her nearly 27 years old," Castrale said. "Most birds don't live that long." In fact, the Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland has documented only six banded bald eagles that have lived longer. The lab's longevity record for a bald eagle is 33 years, 5 months. "A few years ago we had one show up that may have been 23 years old," Castrale said. "I figured that was the last hacked bird I'd hear about, so this surprised me."

The terms "hacked" and "hacking" are borrowed from the sport of falconry and describe the process in reintroduction programs of releasing a juvenile bald eagle from a "hack" — a human-built elevated platform. The goal is to have the eagle imprint on the hack site and return as an adult to nest.

Gray-cheeked Thrush Migration Through Indiana

By Mary Ellen Gadski

My friend Barb Scott in Toronto sent me a link to an item in a Bird Studies Canada's newsletter, knowing it would spark my interest. This spring the Colombian non-profit organization SELVA, which undertakes rigorous scientific research programs related to conservation in the Neotropics, had attached radio transmitters to 36 Gray-cheeked Thrushes to track their migration. Motus Wildlife Tracking Systems have detected a remarkable number of these birds—14—at various tracking sites, most traveling through a narrow corridor in Indiana. The thrushes covered more than 3,000 kilometers between the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Mountains in northeast Colombia and southern Indiana, with most taking around 15 days for the trip.

One amazing bird, however, stunned the scientists, flying 3,250 km in just 3.3 days! They posit that this particular bird flew non-stop with perhaps a rest of one or two hours. It probably flew over the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico in one flight with a stop inland from the Gulf.

Several birds were detected at more than one tower. The most impressive among these was a GCTH that first flew 3,400 km to Indiana and then continued an additional 2,000 km to Hudson Bay. (See the accompanying map of North America with two of the incredible journeys outlined.) The second tower is the only tower on the immense western shore of Hudson Bay. Its location, close to the limit of the boreal forest, is in the heart of the thrush's remote breeding area. SELVA scientists believe that this represents the first direct evidence of the connection between the boreal breeding grounds of this species and a site in South America. Clearly, it is groundbreaking research.

We have all read amazing facts about birds' intercontinental migrations. However, these recent findings about the GCTH's routes through Indiana bring it close to home and encourage our Birdathon efforts to fund habitat conservation projects in Latin America.



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Membership benefits:

- 100% of your dues support Amos Butler Audubon educational programs and urban conservation projects
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One-year chapter supporter \$20

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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

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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*

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