



NATURE NEWS & NOTES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012

NOTE: THE OCT AND NOV MEMBER MTG WILL BE HELD AT DOBBS PARK

Jerry Lehman's "A Trip Down the Amazon River", October 17, 2012
The Wabash Valley Audubon Society welcomes everyone to listen to Jerry Lehman talk about his recent Amazon River adventures. Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Dobbs Memorial Park Native American Museum.

OLC Fall Foliage Hike,
Oct. 20, 2012

The Ouabache Land Conservancy land trust invites everyone to a fall foliage hike of the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve on Saturday October 20th. This hike is to celebrate the three-year anniversary of its dedication as a State nature preserve. Meet at the Preserve at 1:00 PM. Dr. Marion Jackson, the Preserve's namesake and author of 101 Trees of Indiana, will lead hikers through the tallgrass prairie and approximately 25 species of trees found on the Preserve. To get to the Jackson-Schnyder Nature Preserve, take Hwy 150 to St. Mary's Ave., drive past the St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, continue west and turn left on Bloomtown Road, go under the railroad and turn right on Concannon Ave. and just past the bridge is the roadside entrance (on the right) to the Preserve. For more information about the Ouabache Land Conservancy go to

ouabachelandconservancy.weebly.com/

Elaina Tuttle to Present
"Birds of the Boreal Forest", November 14, 2012

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society's second member meeting of the season will be held at the Dobbs Park Native American Museum beginning at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 14th. Dr. Elaina Tuttle will present "Birds of the Boreal Forest".

ISU Peregrine Falcon
Site to be Removed

Peregrine Falcons have made the twin Statesman Towers their home several years. Then, in the summer of 2012 a milestone was reached when for the first time in decades, a pair of falcons successfully hatched and fledged young in a nest-box located on the College of Business tower. However, the future remains uncertain for our campus falcons.

It's been known for years that Indiana State University has been planning to demolish the towers. ISU President Dan Bradley recently told faculty, staff and students the towers are slated for demolition next summer or fall.

Despite an estimated demolition cost of \$2 million, long term estimates show removing the buildings will assist the

university in saving money on energy and becoming more efficient with space utilization, something measured by the state, Bradley said. Currently, ISU doesn't fare well in that measure, he said.

The story of the peregrine falcon is quite a success story in terms of bringing back the falcons from the brink of extinction. Steve Lima, professor of biology at ISU, said in a Tribune-Star, May 2, 2012 article, that the hatching of peregrine eggs in this part of Indiana may be the first time this has occurred here in the past 50-60 years.

About 50 years ago, peregrine falcons were nearly wiped out by habitat loss and the use of pesticides such as DDT, according to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). By 1965, there were no peregrine nests east of the Mississippi River and western populations were reduced by 90 percent. Starting in the 1970's efforts were launched at Cornell University to save and reintroduce the species, which is no longer considered endangered but remains protected.

Fortunately, plans are now being arranged to attempt to lure the peregrine falcons to another campus location. John Castrale, IDNR, Non-game Bird Specialist told WVAS President Phil Cox that IDNR has picked out a new site on campus for a peregrine falcon nest box and will have it up soon.

Member Profile: Lucinda Berry

Lucinda Berry teaches freshman composition at Eastern Illinois University to make a living. She writes plays, visits art museums and goes to concerts – from opera to jazz to Indonesian gamelan, bikes, hikes and enjoys nature in order to have a good



life. She is impressed by people who can identify birds and their calls. Recently, she and her husband were on the Canal Bike Trail in Indianapolis transfixed by the precise and graceful movements of a Great Blue Heron who was out for dinner; and puzzled by why no one else was stopping for a look.

Lucinda says:

My Wabash Valley Audubon story is a classic case of one thing leading to another! First, I went to a presentation on the Wabashiki. Phil Milliren was looking for volunteers to fight invasive species, and I thought, “I like going into the woods. Sign me up!” While having lunch that day, talk turned to the planter on Wabash WVAS was sponsoring, using native flowers instead of the typical petunias -- not that there’s anything wrong with petunias. I thought, “I’d like to know more about native species,” so I showed up to lend a hand. Phil, Brenda and Barb’s hands were all more competent than mine, but I discovered the magic of chicken manure, and got a free beer at Sonka’s as thanks for the beautification efforts.

Then, I was asked if I would agree to be nominated as an at-large board member. I didn’t even have to run a campaign! All I did was go to the picnic, which introduced me to a local park I had never been to. During the meeting part, incoming President Phil Cox asked for a volunteer to chair a committee on The Year of the River. I thought, “I always wished Terre Haute were more of a river town. Maybe things will develop if everybody gets behind the celebration!”

And finally, I’m being featured in the first newsletter profile because Marty suggested the idea, and I said it was a darned good one! I’m here to tell you, you can really go places in this organization. All you’ve got to do is volunteer!!!

Volunteer your Wabash Valley story for the next newsletter!

Owls in Architecture



It is surprising how often owls are used in architecture - either carved in stone, shown in stained glass or added as a sculpture. WVAS member, Stephanie Taylor discovered this carved owl on the abandoned former Concannon High School in West Terre Haute.

An interesting photo website titled "Owls in Architecture" shows just how popular the use of owls in architecture is around the world. Hundreds of photo's showing owls in architecture may be seen by copy and pasting the following URL: http://www.flickr.com/groups/1447063@N24/pool/with/6160195944/#photo_6160195944

If you know of additional owl or bird architecture in or near Terre Haute, please contact the WVAS newsletter editor (indth33@yahoo.com) and we will post in an upcoming newsletter and/or website.

Bird Tattoo Anyone?

Do you or someone you know have a tattoo of a bird or other animal, wild or domesticated? If so, we would like to share your story and a photo of your tattoo with our readers. Simply photograph the tattoo, tell us why you got the tattoo, its meaning and anything else you would like to tell us. Send to our editor, Marty Jones at indth33@yahoo.com



A Visit to the John James Audubon Museum

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting the John James Audubon Museum located in Henderson, Kentucky. The museum is situated within John James Audubon State Park, just south of the Ohio River and Evansville, Indiana.

The museum displays one of the world's largest collections of original Audubon art that made the wildlife artist a legend. The museum's four exhibit halls chronicle Audubon's life, including his 1810-1819 residence in Henderson. Highlights of the collection include the American Bald Eagle oil, a four-volume edition of the Birds of America, handwritten journals and the silver service Audubon sent from England to his wife, Lucy.

Within the French designed building that houses the museum you will also find a nature center, education rooms/offices and an elaborate bird watching/viewing room. I was so impressed with the feeder stations, when I returned home I built my bird feeding stations to mimic those at the museum. Of course no museum is complete without a gift shop. One of the more impressive items in the gift shop sales were several large beautifully framed Audubon prints, \$300-\$500 each. Unframed Audubon prints were available for \$25.00 and up.

Audubon State Park consists of 700 acres of primarily hilly forests that includes a lake, old-growth trees and trails. Well maintained cabins and campsites are available as well as several nearby hotels. Entrance to the park is free. If you wish to tour the museum there is a \$4.00 charge, well worth it in my opinion.

I highly recommend a visit to this park and museum, open daily 10-5. It's an easy drive from the Terre Haute area and for you birders, some of the state's best birding spots along the way, such as Gibson Lake, Patoka NWR, Eagle Slough and Wessleman Woods.



Keep Terre Haute Clean

October 13th marks the fall session of Keep Terre Haute Beautiful. The City of Terre Haute, Republic Services and TREES Inc. are teaming up, and with the help of volunteers, to help clean up some of the Terre Haute city streets. To volunteer all you have to do is meet at Spencer Ball park at 1461 8th Ave., starting at 8:00 a.m.

If you have questions about the event, please call (812) 232-9467.

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society (WVAS) would like to welcome some new members and invite them to attend our meetings and functions.

Lucinda Berry

Jeffery Marks

Joy Whitlock

Martha Gerringer

Deborah Long

David Duncan

James Owen

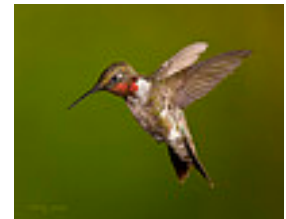
Harold Lough

Dean Reid

We are lucky in the Wabash Valley area to have an active local chapter. When you join the National Audubon Society membership is automatically included in the local chapter, WVAS. However, all meetings and functions are always open to the public.

Hummingbird Question and Answer

Question: When should hummingbird feeders be brought in? Will bees and wasps taking nectar from the feeder keep birds away?



Answer: Bring the feeders in well after the last hummingbird has departed. This is usually early October but there are November and even December records for hummingbirds in this part of the country. Insects generally will not discourage birds from using these feeders.

Question: Where do our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds go in the winter? Do they feed along the way or fatten up here and fly straight through?

Answer: Most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds winter in Mexico and Central America, with a few going only as far as Texas or Louisiana. All of these migrants feed along the way to the Gulf Coast, building fat reserves to fuel their flight across the Gulf to their wintering locations.

Question: How much does a Hummingbird weigh?

Answer: Ruby-throated Hummingbirds weigh in at just over 1/10 of an ounce. You could mail about seven of these guys for one first class stamp (if you could get them into the envelope).

Webmaster Needed

We could use a webmaster to help manage our site www.wabashvalleyaudubon.org
Contact a board member if you are interested.

A Reminder To Our Readers:

The newsletter, Nature News & Notes, is published five times a year—September, October/November, December/January, February/March, April/May. The Wabash Valley Audubon Society meets from September through the month of May.

Events

All events are open to the public. If you have a topic you would like to present please contact WVAS. If additional information is needed contact one of the officers listed below:

WVAS OFFICERS

President:

Phil Cox,
philwcox@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Carissa Lovette,
carissalovette@terrehaute.in.gov

Secretary:

Ellen Lunsford
mabel819@aol.com

Treasurer:

Phil Milliren
philiren@msn.com

Conservation:

Phil Cox

Education:

Carissa Lovette

Board member:

Helen Vermillion,
Joe Dickson,
Shelley Arvin,
Nicholas Brown
Lucinda Berry

Social Chair:

Margaret Tamar,

Membership Chair

Brenda Milliren,
breniren@msn.com

Memorial Fund:

Open

Bird Count Compiler:

Peter Scott,
psscott@indstate.edu

Newsletter Editor:

Marty Jones,
indth33@yahoo.com

Oct

17 WVAS Member Mtg., Jerry Lehman, "A Trip Down the Amazon" See cover page for more information

20 Dobbs Park Bird ID, 10 a.m. to noon. If additional information is needed, contact Carissa Lovette, 812-877-1095.

20 Jackson Schnyder Fall Foilage Hike, 1 p.m. See cover page for more information.

27 Join WVAS from 9am to noon as we remove invasive plants at Dobbs Park. Meet at the Nature Center. Bring gloves and work shoes/ clothes.

Nov

1 Goose Pond OLLI Field Trip led by WVAS/Marty Jones and Lee Sterrenburg. See OLLI website:
<http://www.indstate.edu/olli/>

1 WVAS Board Mtg, 7 pm at Grand Traverse Pie Company, 3rd and Cherry Street.

14 WVAS Dobbs Nature Center, Elaina Tuttle, 7 pm. "Birds of the Boreal Forest". See cover page for more information

17 Dobbs Park Bird ID, 10 a.m. to noon. If additional information is needed, contact Carissa Lovette, 812-877-1095.

Dec

1 Greening the Statehouse, http://www.hecweb.org/news-events/calendar-of-events/?event_id=340

12 Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count. To participate, contact Lee Sterrenburg, email: sterren@indiana.edu

15 Dobbs Park Bird ID, 10 a.m. to noon. If additional information is needed, contact Carissa Lovette, 812-877-1095.

19 WVAS Photo Night, We will meet in the lower level of the Vigo County Public Library, 7th & Poplar Street in Terre Haute. See the next NNN for details.

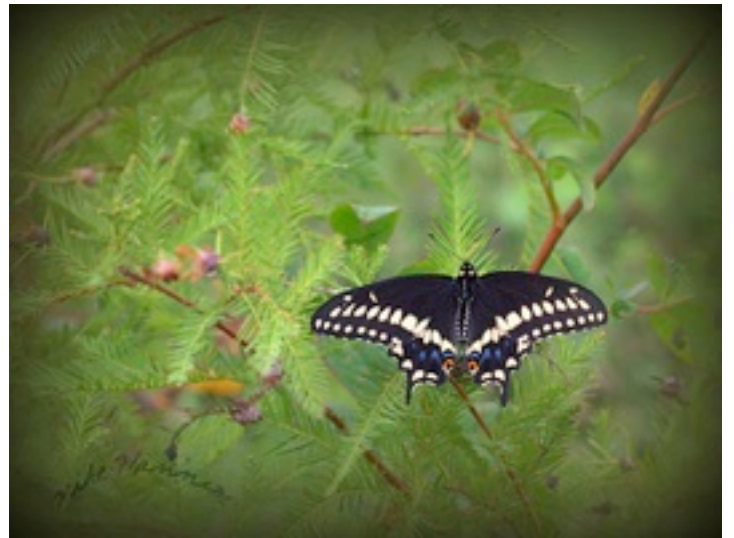
Recent Photo's! Thanks to Everyone for Sharing Amazing Wildlife!

Marty Jones found this Cape May Warbler in Brazil, Indiana on September 20th. There were many Cape May and other jewels of the avian world seen in our area as they migrated south for the winter.

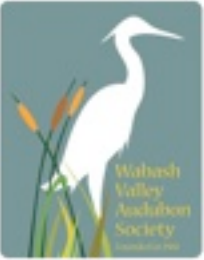


"The Best Fisherman on the Lake", This Great Egret . was photographed at Dobbs Park by Joe Dickson. The Egret is shown trying to swallow a large Sunfish. Joe said, "the bird couldn't get it down, so a raccoon most likely had a good supper that night".

A beautiful photo by Mike Hannum showing a Black Swallowtail Butterfly at JI Case/Hawthorne Park in Terre Haute.



This Bobcat Skull was found by Greg Givens on his property in Greene County, Indiana, September 2012. Despite the demise of this bobcat, their overall population is alive and well in our area.



Wabash Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2338
Terre Haute IN 47802-2338

Audubon Help Needed

NOTICE

Wabash Valley Audubon currently has openings for the following positions: board member, newsletter editor, memorial fund. Some of the most valuable gifts that an organization can receive have no price tag on them. Only an hour or two of volunteer work each month can really make a difference. To learn more contact Marty Jones, 317-696-6246, **Chapter Members** if you are a chapter only member, your membership renewal is due!

Newsletter photo sources: Google Images & Flickr

JOIN AUDUBON Wabash Valley Audubon Society Code No. C1ZH050Z

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____

National Member.....\$20
Includes Audubon Magazine, Nature News & Notes, National & Chapter Membership.
—Make Check Payable to: National Audubon Society

Chapter Member.....\$15
Includes Chapter Membership and on-line access to NNN.
OR:
Additional Contribution:

\$ _____—Make Check Payable to: Wabash Valley Audubon Society
Mail to: Wabash Valley Audubon Society P.O. Box 2338 Terre Haute, IN 47802-2338