



Stockbridge Audubon

www.stockbridgeaudubon.org

Representing Northeast Indiana

P.O. Box 13131, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46864

Annual Meeting at University of St. Francis “Backyard Habitats”

Date: May 16, 2010

Time: 2:00 PM

**Location: Achatz Hall
University of St. Francis,
Fort Wayne**

**Speaker: Chuck Brinkman,
Indiana Wildlife Federation**

Chuck took the Wildlife Habitat training from Indiana Wildlife Federation in 2004. He has been a member of Indiana Wildlife Federation for a number of years and on the board since 2007. His backyard has been Wildlife Certified since 2001. He lives in Zionsville which was the second Habitat Certified town by National Wildlife in the United States.

Chuck spends a lot of time on water quality issues. He serves on the Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance as well as the Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation.

His main interests are kayak, solo canoe, or wade fly fishing on Indiana creeks for smallmouth bass. Chuck also fly fishes for other species such as carp, bluegill, bass, trout and steelhead. He has hooked muskie by absolute mistake.

When Chuck worked....he spent 31 years with IBM as an engineer and consultant. He has a BS in math from Dayton and an MS in math from Purdue.

The Next Board Meeting

The next Stockbridge Audubon Board Meeting will be on May 11 at 7:00 PM, in Achatz Hall, at the Univ. of St Francis, in Ft. Wayne. All members are welcome to attend any board meeting, and to participate in the business of your local Audubon Society. More information can be obtained by calling any one of the officers listed on the back page of the newsletter.

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BIRD NOTES

By Jim Haw

February 1-April 10, 2010

Spring migration was late overall with unimpressive numbers of migrants. Eight Tundra Swans were at Pigeon River FWA Mar. 30 (Jim Haw).

A male Surf Scoter that graced Salamonie Reservoir Apr. 1 (Haw, Sandy Schacht) was joined by a female Apr. 6 (Haw, Schacht, Marisa Windell). The first Horned Grebe of the spring was on the Ft. Wayne sewage treatment terminal pond Feb. 21 (Haw). Eared Grebes appeared at Eagle Marsh Mar. 18 (Ed Powers) and Cedarville Reservoir Mar. 20 (Haw, Schacht).

Northern Harriers were essentially absent through the winter; one in Allen County Feb. 8 (Powers) was thus notable. A Merlin in Allen Co. Mar. 6 (John Winebrenner) was a rare record. Bald Eagles continued to increase, with new nests reported from Allen and Huntington Counties. A Virginia Rail at Salamonie Apr. 1 (Haw, Schacht) tied the early arrival date for the species.

The first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the spring was early at Franke Park, Ft. Wayne, Mar. 8 (Jerry Brown), while the first Eastern Phoebe was at Fox Island Mar. 11 (Rodger Rang). A Northern Shrike visited Pigeon River Feb. 4 (Haw). A Barn Swallow at Eagle Marsh Mar. 27 (Stockbridge field trip) was northeast Indiana's earliest record by 10 days. A very early Yellow-throated Vireo was in Franke Park Apr. 5 (Brown), and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Franke Apr. 6 (Brown, Doug Rood) was rather early. A Black and White Warbler at Fox Island Apr. 3 (Stockbridge field trip) was also quite early. Since very few boreal irruptive birds came south this winter, a Red-breasted Nuthatch Feb. 2 (Haw) and a Purple Finch Mar. 23 (Lynnanne Fager), both at Salamonie, were of note.

Presidential Words By Gary Tieben

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be near the height of the warbler migration. Spring migration is the best time to see many of our small birds. You'll get your best views before the tree leaves become full sized. Take advantage of the spring to get outside, walk and enjoy nature. A good way to do that and to

see the spring birds is to join an upcoming Stockbridge Field Trip. The dates of all of the spring trips were listed in the February newsletter. If you have misplaced or recycled that issue, the list is available at the Stockbridge Audubon website <http://stockbridgeaudubon.org>. I encourage you to attend one or more of the upcoming trips.

STOCKBRIDGE LIVES....

Many of you know that our chapter takes its name from Charles Stockbridge, who was a letter carrier in Fort Wayne in the early 20th Century. He was also an accomplished amateur ornithologist. After his death, his mounted bird specimens eventually went to Earlham College.

In April, Cynthia and Ed Powers were in Richmond, IN and visited the Joseph Moore Museum on the Earlham campus. Near the front door was a glass case with a mounted Whooping Crane. And the label credited Charles Stockbridge!

Mr. Stockbridge died in 1934, but it's good to know that his legacy survives. More information about him is on our website.



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED.....SOME GOOD NEWS!

It's been 25 years since eagles were reintroduced into Indiana at Monroe Reservoir. Lately there have been many sightings in the Fort Wayne area. How do you know if you've seen an eagle? If you see a white head and tail, that's it! But remember, they have to be 4 years old to have that. Another clue is that the wings are held horizontally, not in a "V" as a turkey vulture. Recently, Indiana DNR biologist John Castrale did a helicopter survey of eagle nests all over the state. This list only includes those in nearby counties. So if you've seen one, you're not nuts!



Eagle Nest Survey 4/12/2010 (North and Central Indiana) from the IN-BIRD listserve. I=incubating; B=brooding; C=chicks; E=eggs

Adams, Limberlost Creek near Geneva: 0, empty nest
Allen, St. Joseph River at IPFW: 0, empty nest
Allen, Cedar Creek: 2,
Carroll, Wabash River near Lockport: 0, empty nest
Carroll, Wabash River VanGundy Island: 2, I/B
Carroll, Wabash River near Delphi: 0, empty nest
Carroll, Wabash River second nest near Delphi: 1, B
Carroll, Tippecanoe River near Delphi: 1, 3C
Cass, Eel River near Logansport: 2, I/B
Cass, Wabash River near Logansport: I, 2C
Hamilton, White River - West Fork near Noblesville: 1, B
Huntington, Wabash River near Huntington: both old nests empty, new nest 1, I/B
Huntington, Salamonie Reservoir east: 0, nest empty
Huntington, Salamonie Reservoir west: 1, I
Marion, White River - West Fork south Indy: 1, 1+C
Marion, White River - West Fork second nest south Indy: 2, 2C
Marion, Eagle Creek: Canada Goose in the nest
Miami, Wabash River near Peru: nest empty, 2 immature eagles nearby
Miami, interstate borrow pit near Peru: 1, I/B
Tippecanoe, Tippecanoe River Prophetstown: 2, 2C
Tippecanoe, Wabash River near Delp: 0, nest empty
Tippecanoe, Wildcat Creek near Lafayette: 0, nest empty
Wabash, Wabash River near Lagro: 1, I/B
White, Lake Freeman: 0, nest gone
White, Tippecanoe River near Buffalo: 0, nest empty



FamilyFest Sponsored by Parkview Health Participant Information

What is RiverFest?

The entire community is invited to the IPFW campus for RiverFest 2010—a day of festivity and celebration for one of Fort Wayne’s most prominent natural resources, our rivers. Families and nature, history, sports, arts and music enthusiasts can enjoy activities from early morning to late at night. This event will stimulate interest in preserving our city’s rivers and supporting initiatives of the Fort Wayne Friends of the River.

- 4K RiverWalk/Run- starting early and designed for families
- Plein Air Art Competition on the IPFW Venderly Bridge
- Fine Arts and Crafts Sale featuring selected artists from around the region
- FamilyFest- fun, interactive games for children of all ages throughout the day, including river rides, river shows and river education activities
- RiverFeast- concessions throughout the day and adult beverages and food in the evening
- Rockin’the River- culmination event with bands performing on barges and floating cauldrons of fire on the St. Joseph River

Date/Time Information

RiverFest will be held on **Saturday, June 26** with events taking place from 9 a.m. to midnight. **The FamilyFest activities will be conducted from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. only.**

**STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON
PLANS TO HAVE A BOOTH AT
THE RIVERFEST.
WANT TO HELP? WE’D LOVE
TO HAVE YOU. JUST CALL
ONE OF THE BOARD
MEMBERS (SEE BACK PAGE.)**

Big May Day Bird Count

On the second Saturday in May each year, Indiana Audubon Society sponsors the Big May Day Bird Count. Birders all over the state survey their respective counties and report the numbers of each species of bird they see that day. **This year the count is held on May 8.**

This day is chosen because it is normally close to the peak of spring migration; for example, there is a reasonable expectation that 30 species of warblers will be seen in Allen County that day. This is an excellent time to be out and learn more about our birds.

The count is conducted by a number of parties; each made up of two to four observers, at least one of them an experienced birder. Even if you can't tell a hawk from a heron, you can make a significant contribution, because the more eyes there are, the more birds will be seen. The more experienced birders will be on hand to help with identification.

For more information, or to volunteer for the count, contact the compiler listed below.

Allen County: Ed Powers 260-638-4291 zzedpowers@aol.com
Noble County : John Winebrenner 260- 373-2904 goshawk7@verizon.net
Steuben County: Holly and Dave Meyers OTTERINDY@aol.com



Are you wondering.....why you're getting this newsletter? It's simple: if you join the National Audubon Society, you're automatically a member of your local chapter. (What a deal!) We're sending this issue to 795 members!