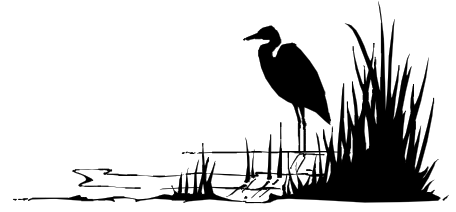


Stockbridge Audubon



www.stockbridgeaudubon.org

Representing Northeast Indiana

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

Stay tuned: we are trying to arrange a fall meeting, probably at Pokagon.



Bird Notes By Jim Haw

April 11-July 20, 2010

The spring produced several rarities. Doug Rood and Jim Haw confirmed a report of five Am. White Pelicans at Cedarville Reservoir May 3, the second Allen Co. record. A *Plegadis* ibis sp. flew over Fox Island May 15 (Stockbridge field trip), the first Allen Co. record. A Yellow Rail was flushed at Salamonie Dam spillway Apr. 29 (Haw). Two very rare sparrows were found at Eagle Marsh, a Clay-colored Apr. 13 (Ed Powers) and a Nelson's May 18 (Dave Reichlinger). Somewhat less rare but still unusual, single Eared Grebes were at Eagle Marsh Mar. 18 (Ed & Cynthia

Powers) and Cedarville Res. Mar. 20 (Haw, Sandy Schacht), both very early dates for the species.

There were a number of record-early arrivals, especially during very warm weather in mid April: Virginia Rail at Salamonie Apr. 1 (Haw, Schacht); Common Tern at Eagle Marsh Apr. 12 (Reichlinger); Willow Flycatcher at Fox Island May 4 (Haw, Marisa Windell); Least Flycatcher at Franke Park Apr. 19 (Jerry Brown, Rang et al); House Wren at the Powers residence and at Fox Island (Haw, Windell) Apr. 15; Marsh Wren at Eagle Marsh Apr. 12 (Rang, Reichlinger); Tennessee Warbler at Fox Is. Apr. 25 (Rang); Nashville Warbler at Franke Park Apr. 16 (Brown,

Rang); Yellow Warbler at Salamonie Apr. 3 (Haw); Blackburnian at Franke Apr. 17 (Brown).

Other spring migrants of note included a Surf Scoter at Salamonie Apr. 1 and a pair there Apr. 6 (Haw, Schacht); a Cattle Egret at Eagle Marsh May 25 (Haw, Schacht, Windell); a Merlin in Allen Co. Mar. 6 (John Winebrenner); Worm-eating Warbler at Fox Is. May 8 (Haw) and Franke Park May 11 (Haw); and Brewer's Blackbird in Noble Co. Apr. 16 (Neil Case). Numbers of Golden-winged and Connecticut Warblers were very good this spring. Record late were a Lesser Yellowlegs in Allen Co. June 2 (Haw); a Wilson's Snipe at Eagle Marsh May 19 (Powers); a Forster's Tern at Eagle Marsh May 29 (Reichlinger, Gary Williams); a Semipalmated Plover in Allen Co. June 12 (Rang); Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pigeon River June 3 (Haw, Schacht).

Among nesting birds, a

milestone was **Allen Co.'s first active Bald Eagle nest in decades**, found near Cedarville.

Beyond that, Eagle Marsh provided much of the excitement for nesting birds. Several pair of Pied-billed Grebes produced young. American Bitterns were heard pumping from Apr. 20 (three birds; Rang) through May 25 (Haw, Schacht, Windell). Six Least Bitterns were heard there May 22 (Rang, Paul McAfee) and May 25 (Schacht et al), and 2 on June 7 (Winebrenner). Both Virginia Rails and Soras were apparently on territory. Two pair of Common Moorhens nested successfully; young were seen with their parents June 30 and July 14 (Haw). Eight adult and 20 juvenile Am. Coots were at Eagle Marsh July 14 (Haw). Marsh Wrens also were on territory there, with a high count of 10 singing males June 30 (Haw). **Eagle Marsh also furnished the rarity of the summer; an Am. White Pelican** found June 12 (Haw, Schacht) was joined by a second bird June 19 (John Harley) and the pair stayed through June 27 (Bev Richardson).

Elsewhere, Common Moorhens with young were found at Pigeon River July 10 (Haw, Schacht). The territorial Bell's Vireo returned to Fox Island for the third year. Most unusual, a

Blue-headed Vireo was apparently on territory at Pigeon River June 17 and 29 (Haw, Schacht). A Loggerhead Shrike was again found in Lagrange Co. July 14 (Dan Stoltzfus et al).



Stockbridge at RiverFest by Warren Mead (mostly)

On June 26, IPFW held what they hope will be an annual event promoting enjoyment of Fort Wayne's river heritage. And Stockbridge was there!

Paul McAfee, Warren Mead, Joyce Pacer, Valerie Pelz, and Julie Henricks set up 3 work stations under a big tent. They helped children make pine cone bird feeders using peanut butter and birdseed. They used up 12 pounds of peanut butter and 205 pine cones, and ran out only 10 minutes before the event ended. Thanks, Terri Gorney for collecting the pine cones. The kids were also given bird stickers after they finished their feeders which they took home in ziploc sandwich bags, and then cleaned their hands with wet

wipes. (We thought of everything!) Val had brought a microscope to look at pond life, but the table was too high for kids to see well. Val also had ordered a 3x6 banner that gave us identity. It can be used next year or at similar events.

President's Message By Gary Tieben

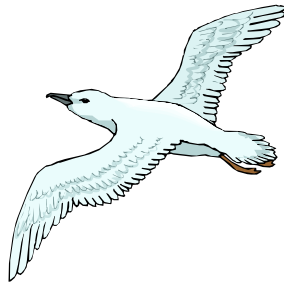
The best commentary that I have seen on August is in Joseph Wood Krutch's popular sixties book *The Twelve Seasons*. He describes the month as the "dead of summer." He tells us "August ... slumbers, replete, and satisfied." "The very birds, whose springtime was devoted to love and music, are now responsible parents who have forgotten how to sing." Krutch points out "Green, the most wonderful of all colors, is by now monotonous.....The quaint fancy which led someone to give one of our common birds a verb for a name: Vireo, 'I am green. I am green. I am green'...seems all that Nature herself can say at this moment." This particularly hot and humid August fit perfectly into Krutch's description of the month.

I hope that you are

enjoying this season of warmth and growth. However, at times it seems that August is much more pleasant when remembered in January than when actually experienced! We know that August's "dead of summer" is quickly followed by the fall. While September's first week or two is frequently not much different from August, the days of heat are quickly followed first by much cooler nights and then by cooler days. In late summer and fall the birds that spent their summers in our immediate north or in some cases the far, *far* north will be reappearing in Indiana.

All of us are interested in seeing birds, and the fall is a great time to see them. You will find the **2010 Stockbridge Fall Field Trip Schedule** in this newsletter. Jim Haw has again organized a great series of trips. Consider including all the trips in your schedule. The best way to do this is to put them on your calendar, and I recommend you do this before it slips your mind. You will definitely see more birds if you go on the Stockbridge field trips than if you just go by yourself. I will guarantee that! Plan to

attend if you are an expert or a beginner. Remember that **you are welcome** regardless of your level of bird identification skills. I hope to see you at one or all of the scheduled field trips.



**Speaking of Global Warming:
... Its Effect on Birds,
From an Audubon Public
Policy Fact Sheet**

Scientists are already seeing alarming impacts of global warming on birds. More than 80% of plant and animal species studied have shown changes in the timing of migration or reproduction, shifts in habitat or migratory routes, or other changes associated with climate change. Some of the observed impacts on birds include:

- Several North American warbler species have shifted northward more than 65 miles. The Golden-winged Warbler's range has moved nearly 100 miles north just in the past two decades.
- Between 1971 and 1995, many British bird species began laying their eggs an average of nine days earlier each year. A dozen species in Great Britain have shifted their ranges an average of 12 miles northward in the past 20 years.

- On Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 15 species—including the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Black-throated Blue Warbler—are arriving up to 21 days earlier than in the 1960s.
- Adelie Penguins are taking longer routes to find food in the ocean as icebergs break off the Ross Ice Shelf.

**Editorial Rantings
By Cynthia Powers**

I've been interested in the lives of Indiana's 5 Vice Presidents. One was from Columbia City, Thomas R. Marshall, who served with President Wilson. His most famous quote, muttered during a boring Senate debate, was "What the world needs now is a good 5 cent cigar!" But how about this: **"What the world needs now is.....More Birdwatchers!"**

To that end, Stockbridge members have helped teach birding classes to the Youth Master Gardeners and the new Youth Master Naturalists, plus leading field trips. Don't miss a chance to take a child birding. Let a non-birder look through your scope; they are fascinated! In another few years, they will vote to preserve habitat (for all of us.)

And join Audubon's Activist Network at www.audubonaction.org.