



Stockbridge Audubon

www.stockbridgeaudubon.org

Representing Northeast Indiana

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

Fall Meeting at Pokagon: “The Spotted Turtle in Southwest Michigan”

Date November 21, 2010

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Nature Center
Pokagon State Park

Speaker: Diana Lutz

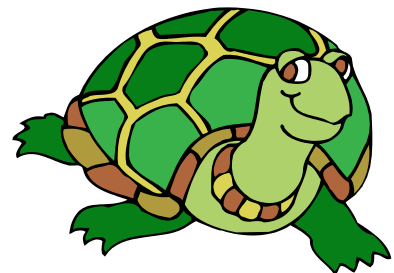
Diana is an Interpretive Naturalist and Certified Interpretive Guide at Pokagon State Park. She says her two passions in life are birding and turtles. She has a BS and MS, both in zoology, from Michigan State University. Her master's thesis was a behavioral and ecological study of the Spotted Turtle, *Clemmys guttata*. Although considered a threatened species, it had never been studied in Michigan before. Diana says Spotted Turtles are semi-aquatic, small and colorful, shy and timid with an easy-going disposition. Thus they are at risk for being collected (poached.)

Diana used radio telemetry equipment over her 2 ½ year study. She wanted to find out their habitat requirements, movement patterns, and seasonal activity. She says she has some very exciting and unique findings to share with us.

Extra Bonus: Dave Messmann of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo will report on the turtle rescue efforts by volunteers, many from the zoo, in response to the July oil spill near Marshall, Michigan. Zoo keepers drove in the zoo van after work to scrape tar off over 1000 turtles. Many have already been released. Dave will tell you what it was like to clean a 28 pound snapping turtle that was only partly sedated!

Park admission is \$5 per car for Indiana residents, or you can use your seasonal pass. Fred Wooley invites us to join his Sunday morning bird walk leaving from the Pokagon Inn sun deck at 8:30 a.m.

(Pokagon Inn serves a great brunch, too.)



President's Message By Gary Tieben

As a reader of the Stockbridge Audubon newsletter, you are almost certainly interested in the environment. Many of you recycle, choose cars that get good gas mileage, watch the temperature of your house in the winter and summer, mulch your leaves and grass clippings, choose activities that are moderate energy expenders such as hiking, fishing, or canoeing, and participate in other "green" actions. Another good way to help the environment is to become more active in one of the local environmental organizations. The Stockbridge Audubon Society is seeking additional Board members. You ask, "What do Board members do?" The obligation is modest. Normally the Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Achatz Hall on the University of Saint Francis campus. Most meetings run under ninety minutes. Board members may volunteer at the Stockbridge booth at community activities such as River Fest. Others may volunteer to be a member of a committee such as the Conservation Committee or Program Committee. **If you are interested in joining the Board and helping direct the Stockbridge Audubon Society, please call me at 260-493-7058.** The current Board is acting as the Nominating Committee and I, as President, am the contact person for the Nominating Committee. I am looking forward to hearing from you if you want to further your involvement with the

Stockbridge Audubon Society and the environment.



BIRD NOTES By Jim Haw

July 21-October 10, 2010

It was my impression that nesting songbird species left early, while transient songbirds appeared in only modest numbers. An Am. Wigeon at Eagle Marsh Aug. 25 (Jim Haw) was the first August record for northeastern Indiana.

A Least Bittern at Pigeon River Aug. 28 (Haw, Sandy Schacht) was the latest detected in fall by 24 days, although the species should be here into September.

The high count of Great Egrets was 42 at Eagle Marsh Sept. 28 (Ed and Cynthia Powers). A Green Heron at Eagle Marsh through Oct. 9 (Stockbridge field trip) was quite late. Six young Common Moorhens were at Pigeon River Aug. 17 (Haw), while the high count of young at Eagle Marsh was 8 on Aug. 25 (Haw).

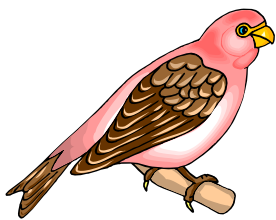
New shorebird habitat recently

created at Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve, Adams Co., was great until the area dried up in late August. In addition to excellent numbers of the more common migrants, Limberlost hosted a peak count of 234 Great Blue Herons Aug. 8, an immature Little Blue Heron July 31 and Aug. 8, a Black-bellied Plover Aug. 8-11 which was NE IN's earliest fall record by 20 days, an Am. Golden Plover Aug. 24, American Avocet Aug. 22-24, high counts of 4 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 24 and 14 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 19 (fifth highest day count of Baird's for all of Indiana), and a Wilson's Phalarope Aug. 11 (Haw et al). Five Am. Golden Plovers visited Eagle Marsh Sept. 27 (Haw). A Franklin's Gull at Eagle Marsh Sept. 30 (Aaron Boone) was the first for that location of a species casual in the region.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at Pigeon River Aug. 17 (Haw) and Fox Island Sept. 4 (Stockbridge field trip). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Franke Park Sept. 13, 16, and 30 (Jerry Brown), and from Fox Is. Sept. 20 (Haw). An Alder Flycatcher was singing at Pigeon River Aug. 3 (Haw, Schacht). A very early Philadelphia Vireo was at Franke Park Aug. 17 (Brown). Gray-cheeked Thrush visited Fox Is. Sept. 4 and Oct. 4 (Haw). Notable among warblers were the only Golden-winged of the fall at Franke Sept. 8 (Brown); very early

Orange-crowned at Franke Sept. 2 (Brown) and Sept. 11 (Stockbridge field trip); the only Cape May of the fall at Franke Sept. 26 (Brown); a late Louisiana Waterthrush in Salamonie River State Forest Aug. 5 (Haw, Schacht); 2 Ceruleans singing at Pigeon River Aug. 21 (Haw, Schacht, Susan Treesh); the only Mourning of the fall at Pigeon R. Sept. 29 (Haw); Hooded at Salamonie River State Forest Oct. 8 (Haw), the first October record and latest fall date for NE IN. An early Dark-eyed Junco was in Ft. Wayne Sept. 15 (Beverly Richardson).

The first Red-breasted Nuthatch of what is so far a small fall flight was at Fox Island Sept. 20 (Haw). A Purple Finch in Franke Park on the very early date of Aug. 18 (Brown) seemed to foreshadow a big irruption this winter, but it hasn't happened so far; the next report of Purple Finch was one at Pigeon R. Sept. 29 (Haw).



**CONGRATULATIONS
ARE IN ORDER:**

Our own Bob Walton recently returned from a trip to Brazil, where he saw his 8000th life bird!

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**Bird of the Month
By Warren Mead**

The folks that monitor such things have indicated that we have a pretty good chance of seeing common redpolls in our area this winter. With that prediction in hand, we are featuring the common redpoll in this month's newsletter. The common redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) is similar in size, shape and actions to the American goldfinch and the pine siskin. Its 5 inch body is streaked brownish-gray, with the distinguishing feature being a bright red cap (or "poll") on its forehead. It also has a striking black chin. The males also sport a blush of reddish/pink on their upper breast and this is the only way to distinguish the sexes. The common redpoll breeds/nests in the sub-Arctic tundra scrub in northern areas of Canada and Alaska. During summer, they feed on insects but during winter, they eat seeds—and favor the seeds of alder and birch trees.

Apparently, the seed production of these trees has been low this year, and that is why redpolls are expected to move south into our area this winter.

You can attract common redpolls to your yard with

thistle/nyjer seed, millet and sunflower chips. They favor areas with lots of brushy undergrowth.

They will readily visit feeders, are quite tolerant of human activity and can be easily approached and watched. When common redpolls "irrupt" into our area, they are usually most abundant in the northwestern counties of Indiana. In February of 1972 and 1978 flocks of up to 4,000 common redpolls were documented in LaPorte County. These were, reportedly, the largest flocks of common redpolls ever encountered in the U.S. (at least at that time). In many instances, common redpolls will appear in mixed flocks with goldfinches and crossbills, so look closely at other birds in your yard if you see common redpolls. Over the years, this bird has also been called the "redpoll linnet" and the "lesser redpoll". The common redpoll closely resembles the hoary redpoll, but the latter is an extremely rare visitor to our area. So if you see a redpoll, it is most likely our featured species—the common redpoll.