



Cooper's Talk

Newsletter of the Robert Cooper Audubon Society, serving east central Indiana

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Two Banding Opportunities in Muncie!

There are two banding opportunities available to RCAS members through the Ball State University Cerulean Warbler Research Lab.

Every Monday morning (weather permitting) songbird banding occurs from about 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Christy Woods. Participants can help with the banding process including checking nets, extraction, banding, and release! Contact Clay Delancey at cddelancey@bsu.edu for more information.

Undergraduate student, Kaitlin Gavenda, is conducting a pilot-program of Saw-whet Owl banding at two locations in Delaware Co. This banding occurs in the evenings every Sunday to Thursday (weather permitting). Owl banding will end November 20th. The schedule of locations varies so contact Kaitlin at kdgavenda@bsu.edu if you are interested in attending and for more information.



Join the Christmas Bird Count
Sunday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a longstanding citizen science program that combines the joy of bird watching with the scientific aim of documenting population trends.

From 9 a.m. to noon, groups of volunteers will count birds at different sites in and around Muncie. Previous counts have recorded as many as 56 different species, ranging from winter visitors, such as the tiny golden-crowned kinglet, to year-round residents like the great blue heron. Beginning bird watchers are welcome, and binoculars will be available for participants to borrow.

If you'd like to join us in the field, or would prefer to remain home and count at a bird feeder, please contact the CBC coordinator, Annette Rose at rosenflowers@hughes.net

Mounds State Park Bird Hike
SATURDAY, Nov. 25 & Dec. 30

NOTICE: Mounds Bird Hikes will change to the **last Saturday of the month** starting November 25. Meet at the **visitor center at 9 a.m.** We will provide binoculars. The hike ends with a review of which species we recorded. Birders of all skill levels are invited and children are encouraged to join!



Birding Close to Home
December 7 at 6:45 p.m.

Sometimes the best birding happens in our own back yards! Come to Audubon's December 7th program, when our Field Trip Chair, Rose Jeffery, will highlight the best birding sites within a two-hour drive of Muncie.

If you have any favorite places that Rose should include in her program, please send them to her at rosemariejeffery@gmail.com by December 1. (Unfortunately, we can't include private property in the program, unless it's your property!) Be sure to clearly identify the location and any relevant tips about the best times of the year to visit, noteworthy species that might be found there, etc. If you have any photos, feel free to send those along, too.

Refreshments and time to socialize will begin at Kennedy Library at 7:00, followed by the chapter meeting at 7:00 and the program at 7:15. As always, non-Audubon members are welcome, so bring a friend!



A successful bird hike with RCAS and HEC!
Seven hearty souls endured a windy downpour to participate in a joint RCAS/Hoosier Environmental Council bird walk at Edgewater Park (Anderson) on October 15th. Fearlessly led by Lois Rockhill, “Team Blue” spotted 21 species including a Black-and-white Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglet!

Celebrating Conservation Leaders in East Central Indiana

The heart of East Central Indiana is blessed with talented people doing extraordinary things to protect and enhance the quality of the environment that sustains us. Robert Cooper Audubon Society is proud to celebrate the leadership and achievements of six dedicated individuals during the 2017 Conservation Awards Banquet on Saturday, November 11, at 6:00 PM.

The chapter’s highest honor, the *Robert H. and Esther L. Cooper Award*, will be bestowed upon Josie and Geoff Fox. Long standing members of RCAS, their overall contributions to, and conservation of, our natural environment includes funding of student research on the endangered Cerulean warbler and trail building along the Knobstone Trail. Most recently, Josie and Geoff’s generous contributions have acquired and helped restore Dutro-Ernst Woods from an industrial zoned property along Indiana State Route 32 to a natural area. Now owned and managed by the Red-Tail Land Conservancy, Dutro-Ernst Woods honors the dedication of Ruth Dutro a former biology teacher and provides a living laboratory for generations of futures school groups to learn, discover, and connect to nature.

Julie Borgmann’s personal mission to connect people to nature will be celebrated with the *Clyde Conservation Education Award*. Julie’s bi-weekly nature column’s in the Star press, her contributions to Nature Play Day’s and efforts to work with the Youth Opportunity Center in Muncie are especially appreciated.

The *Richard Greene Public Service Award* will celebrate the Soup Kitchen of Muncie for their successful transition from single-use Styrofoam containers to compostable plate, trays and paper beverage cups for as many as 175 guests for five days per week. We celebrate their efforts to reduce these one-use plastics which are often ingested by foraging birds and other wildlife.

The *Phyllis Yuhus Wildlife Habitat Preservation Award* will recognize Micayla Jones’s efforts to coordinate restoration projects of Red-Tail Land Conservancy, coordinate volunteers, and eradicate invasive plant species, including the Asian bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and autumn olive which continue to over-compete native plant species of East Central Indiana and thus, reduce local habitat that supports breeding and migratory birds.

Logan Carter will be honored with the *Charles D. Wise Youth Conservation Award*. Logan has worked with Bat Conservation International, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Geographic’s *Animal Jam* to raise awareness about the role and importance of bats in our ecosystem.



Robert Cooper
Audubon Society

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Dates for Your Calendar

Nov 5: Field Trip - Fall Creek Woods
Nov 11: Conservation Award Banquet
Nov 25: Mounds Bird Hike
Dec 7: Monthly Program - Birding Close to Home
Dec 30: Mounds Bird Hike

Chapter Website: www.cooperaudubon.org
 Find us on Facebook!
 Email: admin@cooperaudubon.org

Program meetings are held every month except
 July, August, and September at
Muncie Public Library, Kennedy Branch
 1700 W McGalliard Rd, Muncie, IN
 7:00 pm: chapter business & refreshments
 7:15 pm: scheduled program

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