

Chimney Swift Tower at Fairview Now Under Construction

by Dawn Hewitt

By the time you read this, odds are very high that a brand-new Chimney Swift tower will be standing at the corner of West Eighth and North Fairview streets in Bloomington, the northwest corner of the Fairview School property. It will be made of block at the bottom and brick at the top, and the top will resemble the massive old chimney a stone's throw to the southeast.

Ground was broken on Oct. 1, with construction expected to take about two weeks, depending upon weather.

The new tower will have a clean-out door at the bottom, and a trap door on the side, so WildCare volunteers can place orphaned swifts in a man-made nest inside. The nestlings will make such a ruckus that the adult birds will feed them just to keep them quiet, volunteers said. The tower is designed to accommodate a camera and necessary wiring for it, but that won't be installed immediately. And two plaques will be attached: one thanking donors, and the other offering a brief description of the natural history of Chimney Swifts.

Swifts are gone from Indiana now, so this is a great time to build them a new home without disturbing them. The old chimney will be capped this winter so that swifts



Rapidly rising Fairview swift tower as it appeared on Oct. 21, 2009. *Photo by Bob Dodd.*

won't be able to use it in the spring. It will be torn down next summer. But returning swifts will find welcoming and hospitable lodging near their old digs. In the next *Leaflet*, expect a photo of the completed Fairview Chimney Swift tower.

Thanks to all of you who so generously helped make this happen. Thank you for helping to maintain habitat for wildlife in our community.

(Editor's note: As you can see above, progress on the swift tower has been rapid since we received Dawn Hewitt's article.)

Dec. 19 Marks 34th Lake Monroe Christmas Bird Count

by Don Whitehead, compiler

Save Saturday, Dec. 19, on your calendar — that is the date for this year's version of the annual Lake Monroe Christmas Bird Count sponsored by Sassafras Audubon. This will be the 34th consecutive year for this wonderful birding extravaganza.

As almost all of you realize, the CBC is both a birding event and a very important scientific enterprise. On the day of the count, teams of birders spend the day (and, if you choose, part of the night) working within a specified portion of our designated count circle attempting to identify and tabulate all of the birds seen or heard. CBC count circles are standardized and have a radius of 7.5 miles — our count circle is centered south of Lake Monroe, close to the intersection of State Road 446 and Tower Ridge Road (which runs through the Deam Wilderness). Our circle includes all of Lake Monroe, important wetland areas at the east end of the lake, portions of Hoosier National Forest, and extensive field areas southwest of Monroe. This provides our count circle with remarkable habitat diversity, thus giving us great potential for recording a large number of species. We normally divide the circle into 12 or so areas with a specific team of birders designated to cover each area. Each team has a leader familiar with the area and the birds to be expected and as many willing birders as possible.

The data that we gather on each count is entered into our own database
(continued on page 4)



CAN YOU NAME THAT BIRD ?

These birds like to hang out with goldfinches. If you have an overabundance of them on your feeder, you may consider them pests. A color photo would help with the identification, especially the male on the right. Find the answer on page 6.

Photo by Jeff Hammond

Editor's Note: It's Time to Move On

by Bob Dodd

This will be my last *Leaflet* as solo editor. John Eakin and Jim Mitchell have agreed to take over as co-editors. I will also continue to work with them for some time before fading away like an old soldier. Editing the *Leaflet* has been an enjoyable experience for me. It has been fun to write about one of my favorite topics and to interact with many talented and congenial contributors through the last five years. I have made many new friends and shared many great adventures with fellow SAS members whom I met through my work with the *Leaflet*. It hardly seems like five years ago when I sat down with Angela Jordan (the previous *Leaflet* editor) to talk about the editorship. Then a

few days later I went with a bit of trepidation to my first SAS board meeting to introduce myself and to learn what goes on behind the scenes with the SAS leaders. I was immediately welcomed by board members and soon felt like I was one of the team.

I am sure that John and Jim will do a great job with the *Leaflet*. John brings an excellent background to the job as a retired professor of English at IU. John continues his professional involvement in his field and may have to miss some time from the editorship with his professional and personal travels. That is especially where

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The board normally meets on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All SAS members are welcome to attend. Contact the president or another board member to learn more details and meeting locations, or e-mail SAS@sassafrasaudubon.org.

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We invite readers to submit material for consideration for publication. Contact the editor at dodd@indiana.edu or (812) 339-2976.

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Give a Holiday Gift of a SAS Membership

Why not share the advantages of a Friends of SAS membership with family and friends? Membership in SAS allows them to join a group of like-minded people concerned with wildlife and the environment. They will have the satisfaction of knowing that dues money helps to support our local conservation efforts. They will also receive our bimonthly newsletter, *Leaflet*, and a 10 percent discount on selected items at the Bloomington Wild Birds Unlimited and Bloomington Hardware stores.



Application for Gift Membership

(1) Gift to:

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For additional gift memberships, attach a sheet of paper with the name and address of each person.

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Each gift membership is \$20. Mail your completed application along with your check (made payable to Sassafras Audubon Society) to: Sassafras Audubon Society, P.O. Box 85, Bloomington, IN 47402. Thank you for supporting Sassafras Audubon Society!



SAS Calendar

November/December 2009

All SAS-sponsored outings and programs are free and open to nonmembers. Watch our website (www.sassafrasaudubon.org) and the *Bloomington Birds* e-mail list for announcements about other upcoming events.

Saturday–Sunday, Nov. 14–15: Northwest Indiana

Join Don Whitehead for a one-day trip to Willough Slough and Jasper–Pulaski FWA with a possible option to do the lakefront on Sunday. We will leave very early on Saturday morning and carpool to WS and then JP with an intermediate stop at Kankakee Sands. For information and reservations, contact Don Whitehead at (812) 339-1782 or whitehea@indiana.edu.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.: Invasive Species

Jonathan Bauer, Department of Biology, Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, will be the presenter in our student-speaker program. “Introduced (invasive) species are a major threat to biodiversity, second in importance only to habitat destruction. My research investigates the effects of non-native plant species invasions on native plant communities and the management of problematic non-native plants. Specifically, I have studied the response of native

Editor’s Note *continued from page 2*

Jim and I will come in to help. Jim is one of the most talented and conscientious persons I know. Anything he lacks in experience with editing he will more than make up for in ingenuity and dedication to the task. And I will be hanging around for some time to help in whatever way I can. You undoubtedly will see some changes as the months go by, and knowing John and Jim, I am sure they will be for the better.

I would like to give my special thanks to Terri Greene and Julie Dales. Terri became designer/formatter for the *Leaflet* not long after I became editor. Previously we had our printer do the formatting — at a cost. Terri’s good work allowed us to avoid that cost and improved the appearance at the same time. Julie took over the designer/formatter job about two years ago and has allowed us to continue saving that expense by doing a tremendous job of taking the text and photos we supply to her and turning them into a beautiful publication. Thank you Terri and Julie for making the *Leaflet* look so good.

Just because I am bowing out as *Leaflet* editor does not mean that I will not continue to be involved in SAS activities. I plan to continue to go on as many outings as possible and attend monthly SAS meetings. I am planning to work on preparing a detailed history of our organization. I have two large boxes of unsorted historical items dating to the founding of SAS and a large stack of *Leaflets* that go back many years. I will enjoy sorting through that material and trying to organize a narrative of our history. John has asked me to submit tidbits and progress reports on this work as it progresses. So you will continue to see my byline on *Leaflet* articles, I hope for years to come. So this is not a good bye but just a change. 🐦

plants to management of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), and monitored the response of a rare native plant to invasion by Japanese stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Ongoing studies are investigating improved management strategies for honeysuckle and the reasons why honeysuckle is a successful invader. The results of these studies will be discussed and related to ‘big picture’ questions concerning biological invasions and the preservation of biodiversity.” The program will be held in room 2B of the Monroe County Public Library.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m.: Late Fall Migrants

Mike Clarke will lead us on a half-day of birding to the Lake Monroe area in search of late fall, early winter visitors. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the northeast corner of the Kmart parking lot on East Third Street in Bloomington. Direct inquiries to Mike Clarke at (812) 606-2025 or redeyegravy@gmail.com.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 8 a.m.: Christmas Bird Count Warm-up Birding

Don Whitehead will lead us on this half-day of birding in anticipation of the upcoming annual Lake Monroe Christmas Bird Count. Join us and hone your winter bird skills for the Christmas Bird Count. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the northeast corner of the Kmart parking lot on East Third Street in Bloomington. Direct inquiries to Don Whitehead at (812) 339-1782 or whitehea@indiana.edu.



Sunday, Dec. 13, 8 a.m.: Brown County State Park CBC

Meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. Contact Jim Eagleman for more information or to sign up at (812) 988-5240 or jeagleman@dnr.in.gov.

Wednesday, Dec. 16: Goose Pond CBC

See the article in this *Leaflet*. Contact Lee Sterrenburg for details and to sign up at sterren@indiana.edu.

Saturday, Dec. 19: Lake Monroe CBC

See the article in this *Leaflet*. Contact Don Whitehead to sign up at (812) 339-1782 or whitehea@indiana.edu.

Sunday, Dec. 20: Spring Mill CBC

Contact John Castrale at jcastrale@dnr.in.gov for more information.

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Patoka Lake CBC

Contact John Castrale at jcastrale@dnr.in.gov for more information.

Friday, Jan. 1, 7:30 a.m.: Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge CBC

Meet at the Visitor Center at 7:30 a.m. Contact Donna Stanley at the refuge office at (812) 522-4352.

Saturday, Jan. 2: McCormick’s Creek CBC

See the article in this *Leaflet*. Contact Sandy or Jeff Belth for details and to sign up at (812) 825-8353 or jeffreobelth@aol.com. 🐦

Gear Up and Get Out for the Goose Pond CBC Dec. 16, 2009

by Lee Sterrenburg

The fourth annual Goose Pond Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on Wednesday, Dec. 16. The Goose Pond CBC circle features highly varied habitat. It offers possibilities for birding from roads, off-road exploring, and walking in woods, grasslands, and wetlands that might appeal to almost any participant. The circle includes all of the 8,000-acre Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area with its bluestem prairie grasslands, extensive shallow-water wetlands, and riparian corridors; all the forested parts of Greene-Sullivan State Forest; almost all of Hawthorn Mine on both the Sullivan and Greene County sides; the Linton Conservation Club; 1,000 Island Woods; the urban and suburban habitats of the city of Linton; and extensive agricultural fields in the southern and eastern parts of the circle. The varied landscape plus exceptional efforts by participants have helped to produce the high counts attained so far. Last year on the Goose Pond CBC we recorded 105 species.

Terrain in our circle has changed this year with almost 2,000 acres of new wetlands on line at Goose Pond FWA, including the huge 1,226-acre Main Pool West impoundment. We need more help this year than

ever for covering the dynamic, changing habitat. New participants are most definitely welcome. We continue to find some very exciting birds on the count. The count circle is sparrow and raptor paradise. Regular CBC rarities have included American Bittern among lurking wetland birds and Prairie Falcon among open-land birds. What discoveries will show up this year?



Sassafras Audubon Society sponsors the count. We will once again divide into several teams. Teams have different starting times and locales. We meet at lunchtime at McDonald's in Linton on State Road 54 at 12:30 p.m. to see how we are doing. We do not hold a compilation dinner in the evening after the count is over due to commuting distances for some participants. We hope to see you at this year's Goose Pond CBC. To be placed on a team or to ask questions please contact count compiler Lee Sterrenburg via e-mail: sterren@indiana.edu. 

Lake Monroe *continued from page 1*

and then submitted to National Audubon's master database that includes all of the thousands of counts run in this country, Canada, and elsewhere in the world. Since some of the counts date back to the early 1900s, there is great potential for monitoring trends in the wintering populations of birds on local, national, and hemispheric levels. This is increasingly important in a world experiencing rapid habitat alteration and climate change.

The Lake Monroe CBC has become one of the most interesting in the state. Virtually every year we record the highest number of species of any count in Indiana. Until recently we were the only Indiana CBC that had recorded 100 species, and we have accomplished this seven times. Over the 33 previous counts we have tallied more than 140 species, including many rarities. Our supremacy in the state ended two years ago because of the wonderful results from the new Goose Pond CBC organized by Lee Sterrenburg.

The count is great fun involving camaraderie and friendly (?) competition between teams. The success of the count is very clearly dependent on the number of eyes and ears in the field on that day. The more people and teams, the better the coverage of our area and the greater the number of species and individuals tallied. Thus — WE NEED YOU! This is a plea to get you to participate in this year's CBC. Call or e-mail me for information and to get a team assignment. This is a wonderful event for novice birders as well, as you can help spot birds and learn identification from the leader. Many people start working in the pre-dawn hours to record owls, others start at first light and bird all day — other people participate for a portion of the day.

I am especially interested in having a great count this year, as I have been the compiler for 25 years and feel that it is time to pass the torch to a new generation.

To sign up for the count, call (812) 339-1782 or e-mail me at whitehea@indiana.edu. I will provide information on the different team areas and provide you with information concerning starting times and places for each team.

The day ends with our traditional potluck dinner, which had been hosted by Henry Wahl every year since the count's inception. Henry Wahl's passing two years ago was a sad moment for SAS. This year, as last year, the potluck will be held in the new headquarters for the Sycamore Land Trust at 4898 E. Heritage Woods Road. The food is usually wonderful. The meal is followed by the tally, at which time individual and team bragging rights are established.

Please join us for this important event — we need you and you will not regret participating.

[Editor's note: This is the 25th Lake Monroe CBC that Don Whitehead has organized and it will be his last. Don plans to hand over the reins to a new compiler after this year. As a thank you to Don it would be great if we had more participants (and birds) than in any previous count.] 



Northern Shovelers. Photo by Jeff Hammond

Making a Birdwatcher's Christmas List and Checking It Twice

by Bob Dodd

Do you have a friend or relative who is a birdwatcher? Or are you looking for ideas to pass along to others for your own Christmas gift? Here are some ideas the SAS board members have suggested as gift items for the birdwatcher in your life.

Our first suggestion would be to complete the form on page 2 of this *Leaflet* and give a gift membership to SAS. Or you might give your friend an owl! Check out the adopt-an-owl form on the back page of this *Leaflet*.



Whether you are a really serious go-out-into-the-field birdwatcher or just like to admire the feathered friends at your feeder, you would enjoy the recently issued pair of CDs by Geoff Keller, *Birdsongs of the Brown County Hill Country*. You don't have to go to the hills to appreciate these CDs. They will help you identify birdsongs in your backyard as well as those in the wilds of our area.



Our sister organization, Friends of Goose Pond, has two great gifts. They have just published their second annual Goose Pond calendar filled with photos of the Goose Pond area taken by local contest winners. FOGP also has a cap with their new logo available. Check the FOGP article on this page for ordering instructions.

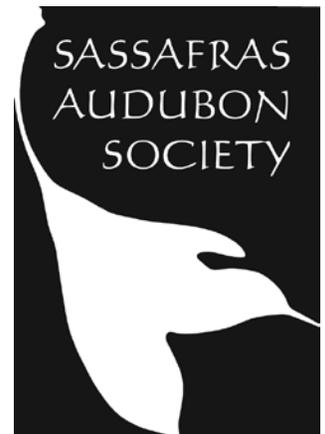
If you are seriously into birding you might consider asking for a birdJam iPod. You can take your iPod into the field to help identify calls of birds. You can also use it at home to learn calls. Other portable electronic approaches to birding are a number of applications that can be added to an iPhone. These

include digital field guides such as *National Geographic Handheld Birds* and three *Peterson Field Guides* (Backyard Birds, Birds of Prey, and Warblers). If you do not have an iPhone, you can spend about \$200 to buy an Apple iPod Touch that can contain these applications and also allow you to surf the Web. See an article in the October 2009 issue of *Birder's World* for details.

A very useful gift that I received a couple of years ago was a birding vest (mine is the Titanium model made by Columbia). It has more pockets than you can imagine ever using, but it is great for carrying a guidebook, birdJam iPod, cell phone, notebook, etc.

Books about birds are always an excellent idea for the birdwatcher. Here are just a few suggestions: *The Singing Life of Birds: The Art and Science of Listening to Birdsong* by Don Kroodsma, *Kingbird Highway* by Kenn Kaufman, *All Things Reconsidered* by Roger Tory Peterson, *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds* by Olivia Gentile.

If your birdwatching friend is someone who "has everything," consider making a charitable contribution in his or her name to a conservation organization (such as SAS, the Sycamore Land Trust, or the Nature Conservancy).



Friends of Goose Pond Goodies

by Grace Chapman

Friends of Goose Pond has a new logo! The new logo (see below) was designed by Lisa Sullivan of Worthington, Ind. Caps embroidered with the new logo are available for purchase at Friends of Goose Pond sponsored events.

The eagerly anticipated 2010 Friends of Goose Pond Calendar will be available for purchase this month. This beautiful calendar features birds and other wildlife photos taken at GPFWA. Contest winners and calendar sales information will be announced to those on the Friends of Goose Pond e-mail list, so please contact us at friendsofgoosepond@yahoo.com if you are not already on our list.

Additionally, Friends of Goose Pond is in the process of developing a website and hopes to be online soon. The Web address will be www.friendsofgoosepond.org. Photos and content will be updated regularly to keep you informed of special events, birding news, and property updates. We hope this site will help all visitors make the most of their outings to GPFWA. Calendars and caps will also be available for purchase online at the website.



Twenty-third Annual McCormick's Creek CBC Jan. 2, 2010



by Sandy and Jeff Belth

All eyes are needed! Come join us on Saturday, Jan. 2, for the 23rd Annual McCormick's Creek Christmas Bird Count. The count circle includes McCormick's Creek State Park, the Restle unit of the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge, Green's Bluff Nature Preserve, a section of the White River, and Flatwoods Park. Last year we had 16 people in the field and recorded 61 species. Our record of 75 species was tallied first on Jan. 3, 2003, and tied again in 2007. Let's try to break the record this year! If you can help for all or part of the day, please call us at (812) 825-8353 or e-mail Jeff at jeffreybelth@aol.com to be placed on a team. As always, the day will be topped off by the traditional potluck dinner and tally at our house. We really look forward to another great count!

Living with the Birds in Alaska *by Amy Kearns*

On Sept. 23, I returned from two months in the Barren Islands, Alaska. The Barrens are located between Kodiak Island and the Kenai Peninsula, where the Gulf of Alaska and the Cook Inlet merge. I was monitoring seabirds as a volunteer for U.S. Fish and Wildlife—Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Researchers have been studying birds in the Barrens since the 1970s. I worked with biotech Arthur Kettle, who has headed the project for 20 years. Nearly half a million seabirds of 18 different species nest on East Amatuli Island, the island we lived on. It's one of the largest seabird nesting colonies in the Gulf of Alaska. We collected data on the reproductive success of Common and Thick-billed Murres, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Tufted Puffins, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; measured the growth rates and fledge dates of Tufted Puffin and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel chicks; and recorded the diet of Tufted Puffin chicks.

Living conditions on the island were rustic (sleep in a tent, bathe in a bucket), but it was definitely worth sacrificing a bed and hot showers to stay at such a cool field site. About 55,000 Tufted Puffins nest on the island, and on some mornings they would darken the sky. We saw tens of thousands of birds every day, and at night there were thousands of noisy Storm-Petrels flying over camp. To get to the cliffs, where the murres and kittiwakes nest, we took a small



Storm-petrel chick. *Photo provided by Amy Kearns*

boat around the island and then climbed up the rocks using climbing gear. The cliffs were so jam-packed with birds that we would smell them a half mile away. All those birds weren't as loud as I expected, however. The "kitt-i-wake! kitt-i-wake!" could get monotonous, but I enjoyed the low purring "errrrr" of the murres. Often a Song Sparrow or Winter Wren would add his song to the mix.

My favorite research activity was measuring the Storm-Petrel chicks. There is something special about a bird in the hand, especially when it is a tiny warm ball of soft, grey down. The chicks were adorable and extremely docile; most of the time they seemed perfectly content cuddled up in my hand. We measured certain plots of puffin and petrel chicks every week, and it was really fun to watch them grow from little downy puffballs to fully feathered and ready to fledge.

I had copious wildlife viewing opportunities on the island. Nearby Sugarloaf Island is home to about 800 Steller's Sea Lions; from our puffin plots we could hear them groaning and see them hauled out. They looked like a thick, brown bathtub ring around their island. They often visited our beach, along with Sea Otters and Harbor Seals. The only other land mammals on East Amatuli besides us were the River Otters, which we witnessed preying on puffins. There was a fair amount of raptor activity on the island; the falcons were my favorite. I saw a Peregrine Falcon almost every day I was there, and I saw them pursue everything from Least Sandpipers to American Wigeon. There are only a handful of small, stunted spruce trees on the island and those were always full of small passerines. Once a Merlin spent several minutes perched in a tree just 15 feet from me, the sparrows beneath him frozen in fear. Another time I watched a Peregrine make a 400-foot stoop on a shorebird. Yet another time a Peregrine flew right over camp with a screaming Merlin in its talons. Turnstones and oystercatchers were favorite prey. Those chases were so full of twists, turns, and near misses that they took my breath away, although every time I was watching, the shorebird escaped by diving into the ocean.

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Blatchley Weekend Great Success

by Jeff Belth

Our weekend of activities to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Willis Stanley Blatchley was a great success. Armin Moczek gave an entertaining introduction to beetles to kick it off, and each outing during the weekend had several highlights. These included an Orange-crowned Warbler found on the Lake Monroe birding trip, eight new species added to the plant list for the Cedar Bluffs Nature Preserve on the botany walk, two Nelson's Sparrows observed on the Goose Pond trip, several Rock Bass censused during the fish program at McCormick's Creek, and the spectacular Jug Rock seen on the geology trip. My sincere thanks to all of the trip leaders for providing an enjoyable and educational weekend: Sandy Belth, Brant Fisher, Don Hattin, Jim and Susan Hengeveld, Ellen Jacquart, Kriste Lindberg, Armin Moczek, and Don Whitehead. Thanks also to the Sassafras Audubon Society for sponsoring this event. 🐦



Don Hattin explains the formation of Jug Rock to geology trip participants.

Photo by Jeff Belth

🐦 **Answer to Name That Bird:
House Finch**

Conservation Corner: It's Time to Bounce the Bottle

by Bob Dodd

One of my pet peeves is the widespread use of bottled water. It amazes me that so many people are willing to pay as much as a dollar or more for something that is available from the tap at less than a penny. Perhaps even more important than the damage that bottled water does to your pocketbook is the environmental damage caused by the manufacture, transport, and disposal of all those plastic bottles. A 2008 article in USA Today includes this quote: "Plastic water bottles produced for U.S. consumption take 1.5 million barrels of oil per year, according to a 2007 resolution passed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. That much energy could power 250,000 homes or fuel 100,000 cars for a year, according to the resolution."

One argument for bottled water might be its convenience. But how much more convenient is it to buy a bottle of water than to fill a Nalgene or stainless steel bottle at the tap?

You may have health concerns about using tap water, but tap water is subject to even more stringent health requirements than bottled water. Standards for monitoring contamination in tap water, which are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, are stricter than those used for bottled water, which are administered by the Food and Drug Administration. Much bottled water is tap water, sometimes filtered and sometimes not. A report published a few years ago by the National Resources Defense Council reported, "An estimated 25 percent or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle — sometimes further treated, sometimes not." For example, the popular Dasani

water bottled by Coca-Cola is purified tap water. There is indeed some concern that chemicals (especially phthalate) leaching from the plastic bottles may be harmful to your health.

You may think that bottled water tastes better than tap water. In a study conducted by Showtime television, the hosts found that 75 percent of tested New York City residents actually preferred tap water over bottled water in a blind taste test. Taste tests elsewhere have shown similar results. There is certainly some tap water that has an off taste, but if this is a problem it can be filtered at home either with a system attached to a faucet or through a filter pitcher. If you still think you need bottled water, why not purchase a large, multigallon, refillable bottle. At least you will be impacting the environment far less than with small, one-use bottles.

In any event, you can take a small step toward helping our environment by swearing off bottled water. Some major cities have done just that. According to the USA Today report: "Some cities, including San Francisco, Albuquerque, Minneapolis, and Seattle, have banned city purchase of single-serve bottled water because of waste impact from the bottles and because it's viewed as an unnecessary cost to taxpayers."

Check these websites for more about the effects of bottled water:

- ▶ www.allaboutwater.org/bottled-water.html
- ▶ www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2008-06-07-bottled-water_N.htm

Alaska *continued from page 6*

Our last night on the island, we were leaving the cliff nesting area later than usual. A pink sunset lit up distant volcanoes while fledging murrens leapt from the cliffs into the water all around us. It was a perfect ending to a wonderful experience. 🐦



Murrens on cliff in Barren Islands, Alaska. Photo provided by Amy Kearns

Thanks for Your Help at Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area

by Brad Feaster, Property Manager; Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area

Once again, I want to thank the SAS membership for their continued assistance in invasive plant eradication at GPFWA. The recent workdays were quite successful. For those who have been to other workdays, I think you can start to see the fruits of your labor. There are a few stubborn patches that require annual attention, but many of the "old" phragmites patches have been successfully removed. However, there are always new patches sprouting up to take the place of the old stuff. In addition to the new phrag patches, lotus is now starting to appear in a few units and there are always trees, canarygrass, Ludwigia spp, sericia, fescue and cattails ... the list goes on and on. In other words, SAS has excellent job security when it comes to invasive species eradication at GPFWA.

Thanks again to SAS for your help and support. We do appreciate all that SAS does for GPFWA. 🐦

Sassafras Audubon Society's Saw-whet Owl Adoption Program

Supporting research on the migration patterns of the Northern Saw-whet Owl in southern Indiana.

- Yes, I would like to support Northern Saw-whet Owl research!

Send a check with \$30 for each adopted owl, payable to: Sassafras Audubon Society, P.O. Box 85, Bloomington, IN 47402.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

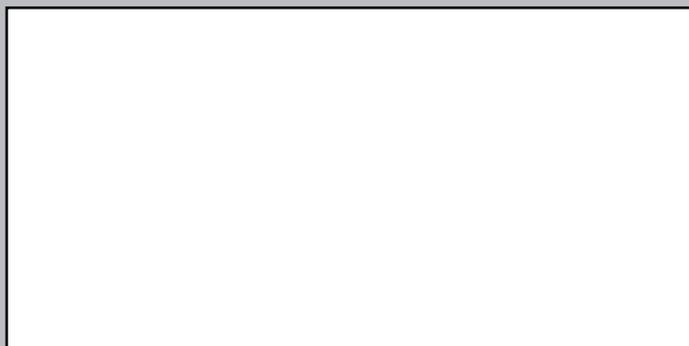
You will receive a detailed letter and certificate about your adopted owl. Contact Ross Brittain at (812) 340-9994 or rabritta@indiana.edu for details.

Northern Saw-whet Owl. *Photo by Jeff Hammond*



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