

Turnout for the SAS Spring Banquet Was “Wonderful”

by David Rupp

The SAS spring meeting and dinner was held on Sunday, March 25 at Grazie! Italian Eatery in Bloomington. The banquet room was packed with 45 conservation enthusiasts eager to honor award recipients, learn about bats, and eat, drink, and socialize. No one left hungry or disappointed.

After dinner, SAS president David Rupp presented two awards. The 2012 Donald R. Whitehead Conservationist of the Year Award was given to Ellen Jaquart, Director of Stewardship for The Nature Conservancy and coordinator for Monroe County’s Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) coalition. Jaquart has been the state leader in the fight against invasive plants and has the unique ability to motivate, teach, and organize. When working with the public, she assumes that people will care if they understand, so she focuses on educating people about the threats that invasives pose. MC-IRIS has created the “Go Green, Grow Native” initiative and the upcoming SNAYL Day on June 2 (see related article on this page).

The Lifetime Conservationist Award was presented to William W. Jones, an aquatic ecologist and limnologist that has spent the past 34 years teaching and doing research through the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. Jones has been a local, state, and national leader in lake conservation during his career. He proposed and directed the Clean Lakes Program with John Winters. He is a founding member of the North American Lake Management Society, a member of the Environmental Resources Advisory Council for the Bloomington Board of Parks and Recreation since 1986, and a leader in protecting the Lake Monroe watershed during his career. Jones has received numerous awards for teaching excellence and been a passionate scientist and voice for lake conservation during this time.

The guest speaker was Dr. John Whitaker, Jr., professor of biology at Indiana State University. He is the director of the Center for North American Bat Research and Conservation and a *(continued on page 3)*

SAS Sponsors Monroe County’s Identify and Reduce Invasive Species Outreach Program

Want to learn how to manage your land for nature?

Whether you own ¼ acre or 100 acres, your land can be habitat for an amazing assortment of native plants and animals. MC-IRIS is hosting a fun and enlightening day at Flatwoods Park in northwestern Monroe County at the first annual Sustaining Nature and Your Land Day (SNAYL Day). SNAYL Day is an outreach to help landowners gain the knowledge and skills to create resilient native habitat that is free of invasive plants. The event is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Session topics include:
Rain Gardens – How to Build Your Own,
Beautiful and Benign Choices for Landscaping,
Convert Your Lawn to Natives,
Total Pond Management,
Tools of the Trade for Invasive Control,
Deer Resistant Landscaping,
Back to the Basics: Invasive ID Hike,
Butterflies – More Than Just Pretty Bugs, and
Talk With the Invasive Control Experts.

This is a free event (including lunch!) but is limited to 100 people. It is sponsored by SAS, Monroe County Farm Bureau, and EcoLogic LLC. Go to <http://mc-iris.org> to register. 

CAN YOU NAME THAT BIRD?

This bird first appeared in the March/April issue in 2006. But after all those years he is still a favorite that you are most likely to see pecking and scratching on the ground under your feeder. His call says his name and his song is a delightful “drink your tea”. The answer is on page 3.

Photo by Robert Barber



A Note From the President: It's time to go birding!

by David Rupp

For those of us that have been too busy to get outside and see the Sandhill Cranes, the ducks, and the early migrants, we can't wait any longer. My lifetime is only going to have so many months of May in it, so it's time I make birding a high priority and put the other projects on the back burner. It's time to admire the oriole, the grosbeak, the tanager, or one of the 30-some species of warblers that are found in Indiana this time of year.

Sometimes we forget how fortunate we are: fortunate to have the large tracts of protected mature forests just down the road from us; fortunate to be able to hear cerulean warblers singing in Yellowwood State Forest; fortunate to hear the worm-eating warblers of Hoosier National Forest; and fortunate, indeed, to be living in one of the top areas in the world for the spring

migration of the beautiful wood-warblers.

I birded out west last summer with a very accomplished ornithologist, one of my sister's graduate school professors. He introduced me to my first Black-Throated Gray warblers and an Acorn Woodpecker. But the conversation at times shifted to Indiana, a state he had never birded. I told him how easy it was to go watch some of our nesting warblers and vireos, even a couple he had never seen. With all this protected forest and plenty of healthy springtime vegetation, it's pretty easy to understand why migrant songbirds like south-central Indiana as much as we do.

So I leave you with two points: 1) Appreciate what we have access to and make sure to take time to go enjoy it; and 2) Do what you can to help (continued on page 3)

Sassafras Audubon Society

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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

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We invite readers to submit material for consideration for publication. Contact the editor at chameleonediting@gmail.com.

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JOIN SAS

Support Sassafras Audubon Society local educational programs, outings, and conservation projects by being a Chapter Member. Members receive membership in SAS and a 10 percent discount on selected items at Bloomington Hardware. Support national conservation efforts through the National Audubon Society and receive Audubon magazine along with automatic membership in SAS. But, because NAS dues primarily support national priorities, we encourage you to also become a Chapter Member. As a Chapter Member, you will have the satisfaction of supporting your local chapter and its local projects!

Sassafras Audubon Society Membership Application

Name: _____

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- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter Membership in SAS | \$25/year x ___ year(s) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student Membership in SAS | \$15/year x ___ year(s) | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | National Audubon Society Membership | \$20 for first year | \$ _____ |
| | Special introductory offer (regularly \$35/year) | | |
| | (Renewals go through National Audubon Society) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional Contribution to SAS | | \$ _____ |
| | Total Enclosed | | \$ _____ |

Mail your completed application along with your check to: Sassafras Audubon Society, Attention Membership Coordinator, P.O. Box 85, Bloomington, IN 47402.

Thank you for supporting Sassafras Audubon Society!

For more information about membership, e-mail us at SAS@sassafrasaudubon.org.





SAS Calendar

May/June 2012

All SAS-sponsored outings and programs are free and open to nonmembers. For announcements about other upcoming events watch our Web site (<http://www.sassafrasaudubon.org>) and the Bloomington Birds e-mail list..

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: International Migratory Bird Day at Monroe Lake

Stop by the Paynetown Activity Center throughout the day for a wide variety of bird-related events. Try the Migratory Bird Geocache Challenge, a scavenger hunt, bird bingo, or a guided hike (at 3 pm). Check out the Monroe Lake May schedule (http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Monroe_May.pdf) for details about these events and more. The contact for this event is Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov.

Saturday - Sunday, May 12-13: IMBD "Wings Over Muscatatuck" and Saturday, May 12 Big May Day Bird Count

Muscatatuck, NWR, just east of Seymour, Ind., is celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with two full days of events. There will be lots of booths, exhibits, and displays. The bookstore will be open all day. For details, contact Jackson County Visitor Center at (888) 524-1914 or Donna Stanley at (812) 522-4352 or Donna.Stanley@fws.gov.

Saturday, May 12: Greene County Big May Day Bird Count

The sixth annual Greene County Big May Day Bird Count will be held on Saturday, May 14. This count records the number of species and individuals of all birds identified by sight or sound within the county from midnight to midnight. Therefore if you have working eyes or ears you are qualified to participate. The count covers all of the public and private land within the county, including Goose Pond and Beehunter Marsh, Greene Sullivan State Forest (within Greene County), Hillenbrand FWA, Combs Unit of Martin State Forest, Shakamak State Park (within Greene County) and the White River. To participate, contact Jess Gwinn at (812) 876-8623 or jagmo@bluemarble.net so that you can be matched with a team.

Saturday, May 19, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Celebrate Urban Birds

Spend a fun-filled afternoon learning all about our feathered friends! Bring the entire family to explore the wonders of bird ecology, behavior, conservation, and identification. Kids and adults work together to make a bird feeder to take home, learn about backyard bird habitats, watch local artists make bird houses, and hear a storyteller tell tales about birds. Everyone can help gather important information about urban bird behavior by participating in a 10-minute bird watching survey. The event takes place at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10th. St., rain or shine. Parking is available. For more information contact Lea Woodard at hilltop.indiana.edu or Cathy Meyer at cmeyer@co.monroe.in.us.

Saturday, June 2: The Birds of Goose Pond

Meet at the northeast corner of the Super Walmart parking lot on

west Second Street. We will car pool to the Goose Pond leaving at 8 a.m. and returning in early afternoon. Bring snacks and water. For more information contact Don Allen at donandchar2@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 16: Summer Birds of Monroe County

Meet at the northeast corner of the east side K-mart parking lot (near Bloomingfoods). We will car pool to local areas leaving at 7 a.m. and return in the early afternoon. For more information contact Don Allen at donandchar2@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 14: Goose Pond Butterfly Count

The fifth Annual Goose Pond Butterfly Count will take place in Greene and Sullivan counties on July 14. Public lands covered include Goose Pond FWA, Greene-Sullivan SF including the Dugger Unit, the Linton Conservation Club, and parts of Hillenbrand and Minnehaha FWA. To sign up or for more details, contact Jess Gwinn at jagmo@bluemarble.net.

Bill Zimmerman Art Exhibit

The Indiana University Art Museum is hosting "A Tribute to William Zimmerman (1937-2011)" from June 12 to Sept. 9. The exhibit features original paintings for Bill's book, "Life Histories of North American Woodpeckers." The nationally recognized Brown County resident died Nov. 19, 2011. Jeff Belth wrote a fitting tribute to such a kind and accomplished man for the January *Leaflet*. Thankfully, Bill leaves us with a lifetime of artwork and memories to cherish and enjoy.

SAS Banquet *(continued from page 1)*

renowned expert on bats. Whitaker spoke about the hazards that wind farms present for migrating bats and the efforts the Bat Center is making to support safer windmill design. He also updated us on the fight against the spread of white-nose syndrome that has led to the closing of many caves in Indiana and the death of millions of North American bats. A lively question and answer session concluded our enjoyable evening.

A Note From the President

(Continued from page 2)

protect our landscape! Advocate for forest conservation, lobby Congress for migratory songbird protection, or plant a tree or two in your yard. SAS will be doing its best to help support you in those ventures.

The Monroe County Bird-a-thon is coming up very soon. I'm participating for the first time, and I'm excited to hear that there will be at least six teams in the field on May 5. I've got the day reserved... no obligations, no guilt, just birding. I can't wait!



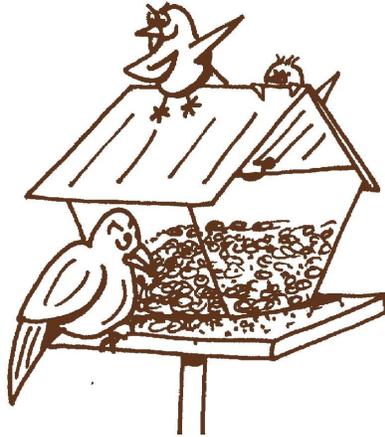
Answer to Name That Bird:
Eastern Towhee

Spring Feeder Cleaning was a Thunderous Success

In spite of a day filled with rain and thunderstorms, resilient SAS volunteers worked hard under canopy tents at Bloomington Hardware to clean bird feeders for the spring fundraiser. This crew raised over \$750 for SAS programs and local conservation projects. This project not only raised needed funds but also made many feeders healthier for the birds.

SAS thanks the volunteer cleaners and the many people who brought in their feeders in spite of the weather and donated money. We also want to acknowledge the great partnership SAS has with Bloomington Hardware and its staff; we couldn't do it without them.

Volunteers included Joni Beatrice, Julie Dales, Bob Dodd, Julia Ferguson, Terri Green, Jack Hadden, Gary Langell, Nancy



Martin, Jonathon Mongold, Paul Mongold, Tom Platt, Jen Richardson, David Rupp, and Natalia Schau.

This cleaning marked the end of the long leadership tenure of Nancy Martin. Nancy, a junior high science teacher at Jackson Creek, has helped coordinate this event for countless years. She has spent many 8-hour days at the feeder cleaning making sure the event goes as smoothly as possible. Nancy will continue to be involved, but is relinquishing her leadership position. We can't thank Nancy enough for the time and effort she has put in on behalf of SAS!

See you all at the fall bird feeder cleaning! 🐦

Birding Guide Still Available



The *Birding Guide to South-Central Indiana* provides detailed information on where to find birds in our part of Indiana, including helpful hints such as GPS coordinates and what species one might expect to see during different seasons.

Proceeds from sale of the guide go to projects at Goose Pond FWA, SAS's adopted Important Bird Area. Booklets cost \$10, \$8 for members. To purchase copies, contact SAS at: Sassafras Audubon Society, P.O. Box 85, Bloomington, IN 47402. 🐦

DISCOUNT COUPON

Show this coupon with your address label to receive a 10% discount on items in the bird department at [Bloomington Hardware](#). Please keep the coupon for future purchases. Coupon expires June 30, 2012.



DISCOUNT COUPON

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