

# Stockbridge Audubon



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*Representing Northeast Indiana*  
46864

P.O. Box 13131, Fort Wayne, Indiana

**Attention: rattlesnake lovers!**

## **Fall Meeting at Pokagon: “Massasauga Ecology and Conservation in Michigan”**

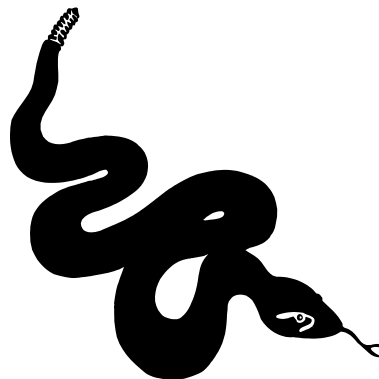
**By Brett DeGregorio**

**Location: Nature Center,  
Pokagon State Park  
Date: October 22, 2006  
Time: 2:00 PM Sunday**

**Park admission is now \$5 per  
carload on weekends, or you  
can use your annual pass.**

Brett is a graduate student of Dr. Bruce Kingsbury at IPFW. This last summer he has been radiotracking 20 massasaugas at Camp Grayling, in northern Michigan, studying their movements, habitat use, seasonal behavioral shifts, and whether or not they are willing to use human-modified habitats or clearings. Previously he has worked with tiger rattlesnakes, prairie rattlesnakes, ridgenose rattlesnakes, Blanding's turtles, box turtles, and (attention birders: chestnut-sided warblers.)

**There's a live massasauga  
on display at the Nature  
Center.**



Did you know: we can use some new Stockbridge directors (also known as board members.) Our next meeting is Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. at Achatz Hall at the U. of St. Francis. All are welcome. Lots of us have served for several years, and it's time for some new folks to step up. **Let us hear from you!**

***Also in This Issue:***

Fall Field Trip Calendar

Jim Haw's Bird Notes

May Day Count Results



### President's Remarks

By Julie Henricks

This summer I've discovered a new friend, the Rodney Dangerfield Bluebird. Like all eastern bluebirds, he looks beautiful to me; but apparently the females of his species are more discerning than I, and for the longest time they refused his offers of courtship. Although he sang almost nonstop since the first week of April, and courageously drove away all intruders from my nest boxes, he got "no respect – no respect at all".

Then during the second week of July he found a mate. Maybe an earlier nest of hers had been destroyed; maybe her last mate had died; maybe her eyes weren't sensitive enough to notice that Rodney wasn't quite the ideal shade of blue. Whatever the case, Rodney's patience was rewarded.

How interesting: a bird's experience has, in a way, mirrored a birder's experience. When we take our binoculars and begin a hike, we have no way of knowing whether we'll find what we want. But we act as if we will: we choose a likely-looking spot and wait patiently, all the while thinking that something exciting could happen. Often it does; yet even if we don't have much luck on a certain day, hope springs eternal and we try again.

Are you thinking that a Stockbridge field trip might be fun? Rodney would tell you to go for it – you never know what lovely thing is around the next bend.



### Bird Notes

By Jim Haw

MARCH 16-JULY 31

Spring was generally cold and late; migration in May ran a week or so behind schedule. The spring migration, though, produced three notable rarities. Northeast Indiana's first Purple Gallinule was found at Salamonie Reservoir May 8 (Jim Haw). Allen County's first Clay-colored Sparrow was at Eagle Marsh, Ft. Wayne, May 5-6 (Rodger Rang), and a Lark Sparrow visited the Woodburn sewage ponds May 15 (Haw).

Twelve White-fronted Geese were at Markle pond Mar. 23 (Larry Parker). Least Bitterns were found at Wing Haven May 14 (Brad Bumgardner) and near Orland May 23 (Haw, Jamie Toole), both in Steuben Co. Eagle Marsh hosted a Peregrine Falcon Apr. 12 (Ed and Cynthia Powers) and a Merlin May 2 (Rang). Rarely found in northeast Indiana, a King Rail was at Emma Lake, Lagrange Co. May 29 (Larry Bontrager). Eagle Marsh had the shorebird concession this spring; highlights there were 2 Long-billed Dowitchers Apr. 8-13 (Rang et al), up to 3 White-rumped Sandpipers in late

May-early June (Rang et al), and two Dunlin that remained through June 5, northeast Indiana's latest spring record by 6 days (Rang). There were more Black Tern reports than in recent years; peak count was 7 at Eagle Marsh May 15 (Rang).

Rarely encountered in migration, a Whip-poor-will flushed from a Fox Island Park trail Apr. 11 (Haw, Sandy Schacht, Toole). Highlights among warblers were single Golden-winged at Fox Is. May 6 and 19 (Rang); a "Brewster's" hybrid at Pigeon River May 17 and 23 (Haw, Toole); single Connecticut at Fox Island May 20 (Stockbridge field trip) and May 25 (Haw) and at Pokagon State Park May 22 (Bumgardner); a peak count of six Mourning at Fox Is. May 20 (Stockbridge field trip); and a record late Wilson's Warbler at Fox Is. June 4 (Haw).

The Bald Eagle nest near Lagro again produced young, as did one of the two Pigeon River Osprey nests. There were more reports than usual of Pine Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers this summer; although still scarce, both species seem to be increasing as summer residents in this area. A Western Meadowlark was found near Shipshewana, Lagrange Co. July 3 (Dan Stoltzfus, Perry Miller et al).

The most remarkable chain of events of the summer began on June 28 when Lee Casebere found a Mourning Warbler, very rare in summer, at Pigeon River. Birders looking for the Mourning found a "Lawrence's" Warbler hybrid July 1 (Haw, Schacht) and a singing male White-throated Sparrow July 3 (Stoltzfus, Miller et al), both first summer records for northeast Indiana. The latter two birds were not seen again; the Mourning stayed at least through July 5 (Bumgardner, Fred Wooley).

### Fall Field Trips 2006 Stockbridge Audubon Society

- Sat. Sept. 2 Pigeon River FWA; leave from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot on Lima Rd north of I-69 at 7 a.m., or meet us at Pigeon River HQ on CR 300N at east edge of Mongo at 8 a.m.; return around 4-5 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.
- Sat. Sept. 9 Fox Island; meet at Nature Observation Bldg lot at Fox Is., 7314 Yohne Rd., at 7:30 a.m., finish around noon (possible p.m. continuation if birding good). Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang
- Sat. Sept. 16 Oak Openings Metropark (west side of Toledo). Leave from Scott's, New Haven Plaza, IN 930 and Minnich Rd. (just west of I-469) at 7:00 a.m.; return around 4-5 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.
- Sat. Sept. 23 Salamonie Reservoir; leave from Scott's, Village at Coventry, US 24 just west of I-69, at 7:00 a.m. or meet us at Day's Inn/Family Table Restaurant, US 24 and IN 9, Huntington, at 7:30 a.m.; return around 4-5 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.
- Sat. Sept. 30 Fox Island; meet at Nature Observation Bldg. lot at Fox Is., 7324 Yohne Rd., at 8:00 a.m., finish around 12 (possible p.m. continuation if birding good). Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang.
- Sun. Oct. 8 TENTATIVE: Big Sit, Fox Island Nature Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Check the Stockbridge website to see if the Big Sit will be held, and if so for details. **If you are willing to coordinate the Big Sit, call Cynthia Powers for information.**
- Sat. Oct. 14 Arrowhead Marsh, Arrowhead Prairie, Little Wabash Preserve, all in SW Allen Co. Meet at Arrowhead Marsh, on east side of Aboite Rd. (take US 24 west, S on Redding Rd., then south on Aboite Rd. for 0.4 mi) at 8 a.m.; finish around 12. Limited parking at the other two locations will make carpooling necessary from there. Please don't plan to meet us later at Arrowhead Prairie or Little Wabash to conserve parking. Joint trip with LRWC, ACRES. Leaders: Ed Powers, Jim Haw.
- Sat. Oct. 28 Ottawa NWR, Ohio. Leave from Scott's, New Haven Plaza, IN 930 and Minnich Rd. (just west of I-469) at 7 a.m.; return about 6-7 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers
- Sun. Oct. 29 Hursttown Reservoir; meet at the reservoir on Roth Rd. 1.5 miles north of Grabill Rd. at 3 p.m.; finish around 5 p.m. Leaders: Tony Acosta, Jim Haw
- Sat. Nov. 4 Lake Michigan; leave from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot on Lima Rd. north of I-69 at 6:30 a.m.; return around 6-7 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers.
- Sun. Nov. 12 Hursttown Reservoir; meet at the reservoir on Roth Rd. 1.5 miles north of Grabill Rd. at 3 p.m.; finish around 5 p.m. Leaders: Tony Acosta, Jim Haw
- Sat. Dec. 16 Fort Wayne Christmas Bird Count; details later

**Field trips are open to the public—beginners are welcome!** Keep in mind:

--arrive a few minutes early; we try to leave on time

--we car pool for out-of-town trips; please share gas expenses; have a full tank if you are willing to drive

--we can meet people at our destination or en route if arranged in advance

--return times are estimates, and are not guaranteed; you may return earlier if you drive yourself

--bring a sack lunch for all of the all-day trips except Lake Michigan, plus drinks and snacks for all trips

--dress for the weather. The Lake Michigan and Lake Erie shorelines are often colder than inland, so bring plenty of warm clothes. Water-resistant shoes or boots are often useful for early morning dew

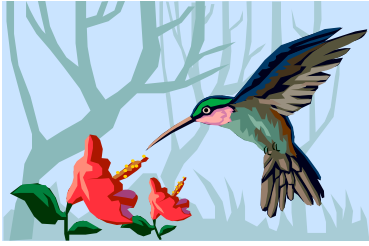
For further information, contact Jim Haw, 485-7802, e-mail [Jhawillet@aol.com](mailto:Jhawillet@aol.com)

## Big May Day Bird Count – May 13, 2006

Count day was cool (42° - 52° F); overcast and rainy until. Winds were light to moderate, from the west. The count is held on the second Saturday in May because that is usually the peak of spring migration; unfortunately, this year the peak was about a week late. Participants found a disappointing 6068 individual birds, the lowest since 2000, and 133 species, the lowest in at least 20 years. There were a few bright spots – Henslow’s Sparrow was seen for the first time in the Allen County count, amazingly by two of the five parties. Several other records were set or tied (numbers in **bold**). Species in **bold** have been seen 25% of the counts or less. Participants in the count were Mark Derloshon, Jim Haw, Frannie Headings, Valerie Pelz, Cynthia Powers, Ed Powers (compiler), Rodger Rang, Doug Rood, David Ward, Galen Yordy, and Don Youso.

Pied-billed Grebe	2	Ruby-thr Hmingbird	3	Eastern Bluebird	31	Savannah Sparrow	15
Great Blue Heron	27	Belted Kingfisher	6	Veery	12	<b>Henslow’s Sparrow</b>	<b>2</b>
Green Heron	7	Red-headed Woodpkr	5	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Song Sparrow	95
Canada Goose	329	Red-bellied Woodpkr	30	Swainson’s Thrush	24	Lincoln’s Sparrow	2
Wood Duck	33	Yel-bellied Sapsucker	<b>1</b>	Wood Thrush	28	Swamp Sparrow	7
Mallard	112	Downy Woodpecker	17	American Robin	489	Wht-throated Sparrow	33
Blue-winged Teal	6	Hairy Woodpecker	3	Gray Catbird	96	Wht-crowned Sparrow	17
Northern Shoveler	1	Northern Flicker	10	Brown Thrasher	5	Bobolink	14
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Olive-sided Flyctchr</b>	<b>1</b>	European Starling	617	Red-winged Blackbird	536
Ruddy Duck	1	Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	American Pipit	5	Eastern Meadowlark	35
Turkey Vulture	23	Acadian Flycatcher	5	Blue-winged Warbler	5	Common Grackle	352
Cooper’s Hawk	3	Least Flycatcher	12	Tennessee Warbler	13	Brn-headed Cowbird	147
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>	<b>1</b>	Eastern Phoebe	13	Orange-crwned Warb	1	Baltimore Oriole	46
Red-tailed Hawk	11	Grt Crested Flycatchr	20	Nashville Warbler	8	House Finch	23
American Kestrel	4	Eastern Kingbird	10	Northern Parula	11	American Goldfinch	114
Ring-necked Pheasant	4	White-eyed Vireo	4	Yellow Warbler	52	House Sparrow	204
<b>Wild Turkey</b>	<b>2</b>	Blue-headed Vireo	2	Chstnt-sided Warbler	10		
Virginia Rail	<b>4</b>	Yellow-thr Vireo	4	Magnolia Warbler	10	Total individuals	6070
Sora	5	Warbling Vireo	24	Cape May Warbler	2	Total species	133
American Coot	21	Red-eyed Vireo	27	Yel-rumped Warbler	12		
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	<b>4</b>	Blue Jay	35	Blk-thr Grn Warbler	5		
Semipalmated Plover	5	American Crow	28	Blackburnian Warbler	4		
Killdeer	61	Horned Lark	<b>78</b>	Palm Warbler	2		
Greater Yellowlegs	4	Purple Martin	75	Bay-breasted Warbler	5		
Lesser Yellowlegs	12	Tree Swallow	71	Blk-and-wht Warbler	2		
Solitary Sandpiper	4	N Rough-wng Swallow	<b>149</b>	American Redstart	5		
Spotted Sandpiper	12	Bank Swallow	119	Ovenbird	16		
Least Sandpiper	12	Cliff Swallow	22	Kentucky Warbler	1		
Ring-billed Gull	29	Barn Swallow	<b>648</b>	Mourning Warbler	1		
<b>Common Tern</b>	<b>3</b>	Blk-capped Chckadee	12	Com Yellowthroat	40		
<b>Forster’s Tern</b>	<b>11</b>	Carolina Chickadee	14	Yellow-breasted Chat	2		
Black Tern	1	Tufted Titmouse	25	Scarlet Tanager	14		
Rock Pigeon	65	Wht-brsted Nuthatch	15	Northern Cardinal	109		
Mourning Dove	149	Carolina Wren	14	Rose-brsted Grosbeak	27		
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	House Wren	50	Indigo Bunting	49		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	<b>Sedge Wren</b>	<b>2</b>	Eastern Towhee	21		
Barred Owl	1	<b>Marsh Wren</b>	<b>1</b>	Chipping Sparrow	76		
Common Nighthawk	1	Ruby-crownd Kinglet	5	Field Sparrow	33		
Chimney Swift	26	Blue-gray Gnatcatchr	23	Vesper Sparrow	3		





**Watch Your Feeders this Fall for Rare Hummingbirds**  
by Don Gorney

Don is a former Fort Wayne birder who now lives in Indianapolis. Recently he posted on the IN-bird Listserv the following:

“I want to encourage everyone to keep in mind the possibility of a rare hummingbird making an appearance at your feeders. There are a handful of potential hummingbird species that could make an appearance in Indiana, although the most likely is the Rufous Hummingbird. If you have a hummingbird that looks a little out of the ordinary, consider taking a photo or

video, and contact a birder in your area to see if they can confirm the identification. If the homeowner grants permission, there will be an effort to band any rare hummingbirds.”

Don says there are now 49 records of Selasphorus hummingbirds in Indiana. Selasphorus is the genus that includes Rufous and Allen’s. These are western species that are rare in Indiana. Rufous is more likely, but females and immatures are indistinguishable, so to be safe, birders “in the know” just say “Selasphorus sp.” An adult male Rufous would have a solid dark orange back and tail. **Late (Oct. or Nov.) hummingbirds are likely to be unusual species.**

Check those bird books!  
Wouldn’t it be exciting to have the first Selasphorus in Allen County?

If you’d like to be an IN-birder, send an e-mail to [LISTSERV@listserv.Indiana.edu](mailto:LISTSERV@listserv.Indiana.edu) with the message: subscribe in-bird-L.

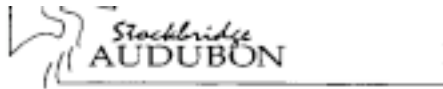
We welcome **new** members using the form below. To speed your service and save us postage, mail **renewals** directly to National Audubon, using the form that they provide. Any questions relating to membership? Ed Powers, Membership Chair, will be glad to help!

HO-9 National Audubon Society/Stockbridge Audubon Chapter Membership Application HO-9  
I want to join Audubon! Enclosed is my check payable to the National Audubon Society.

Name_____	MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
Address_____	__Individual/\$20    __Family/\$20
City/State_____	__Student/\$15    __Sr. Citizen/\$15
Zip_____ Phone_____	__Lifelong/\$1500

**HO-9  
7XCH**

Mail to National Audubon Society, Chapter Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51001, Boulder, CO 80322-1001.



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