

# Stockbridge Audubon



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*Representing Northeast Indiana*

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

## “From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska” Spring Meeting at Fox Island

**Date:** April 22, 2007

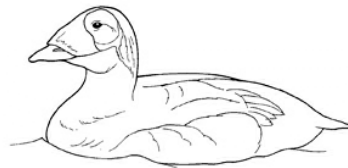
**Time:** 2:00 PM, Sunday

**Location:** Nature Center  
Fox Island County Park

**Speaker:** Taldi Walter, Alaska  
Field Coordinator for National  
Audubon Society

Taldi will discuss issues facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Tongass National Forest, the Chugach National Forest, and the National Petroleum Reserve.

Mark your calendar! Admission to the park is \$2 per person, unless you have a park pass. Fox Island is located southwest of Fort Wayne. Turn south from US 24 West, at the Wendy's just past Village at Coventry. Cross over 1-69 and the park is on your left.



### “What Makes an Environmentalist?”

By this time some of you will have received, or will receive, a survey from Pat Oppor, a Masters Degree candidate at Taylor University. Pat has been active in many local conservation groups, including Little River Wetlands. Her survey will try to establish what formative experiences in people's lives makes them sensitive to environmental issues.

Pat gave an excellent presentation at a recent Stockbridge board meeting, and

we gave her permission to use part of our mailing list for her survey. After all, we are interested in the results: we need more birders and more environmentalists. Perhaps Pat's results will help us “grow our audience.”

Please help Pat by returning your survey promptly. All answers will be anonymous. We'll look forward to hearing her conclusions.

#### *In This Issue...*

Spring Field Trip Calendar

Jim Haw's Bird Notes

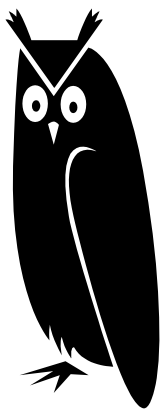
Christmas Count Results

**By Julie Henricks**

As I write this, the Blizzard of '07 is raging a few feet from where I sit. How nice to be indoors, with plenty of food and fuel to ride out the storm. I can't help but be concerned about wild, outdoor creatures: how can the birds, in particular, scrounge enough energy from the seeds and suet they eat to keep warm through the winter night?

Earlier today some little birds were busily pecking at a spot in my driveway that was swept bare by the northeast wind. I couldn't make out whether they were house sparrows or something else. When I viewed them through the binoculars, I was surprised to see that they were horned larks, braving an area close to the house that they normally wouldn't approach. They evidently found something worthwhile, because they returned later in the day, skittering this way and that in the tempest. Then when I went out to feed the barn cats, I startled one of the larks: it actually sang as it took off, carried far away by the ferocious wind.

No doubt everyone in Audubon knows lessons taught by nature, some of them recent, and some whose foundations reach back across a lifetime. I plan to save the memory of the lark's song on this bitter day, and dust it off occasionally when I need to be reminded to look on the bright side of things.



## Bird Notes

By Jim Haw

October 23, 2006 to  
February 5, 2007

Although the waterfowl migration was low in numbers, there were some notable records. A White-fronted Goose was at Pigeon River Nov. 9 (Sandy Schacht et al) and four Ross' Geese visited Salamonie Reservoir Dec. 17 (Josh Christian et al). Cackling Geese included one over Fox Island Nov. 5 (Jim Haw), one in Lagrange County Dec. 5 (Haw), one in northern Allen Co. Jan. 1 (Doug Rood et al), and three at Pigeon River Jan. 4 (Frannie Headings et al). The Woodburn sewage ponds hosted a Black Scoter Nov. 19-23 (Haw et al) and a Long-tailed Duck Nov. 19-Dec. 3 (Rood et al). Surf Scoters were one at Huntington Res. Nov. 11 (Marisa Windell et al) and two at Clear Lake, Steuben Co. Jan. 20 (Haw, Schacht). Hurshtown Reservoir had the corner on rare grebes. Eared Grebe numbers built from one Oct. 29 (Stockbridge field trip) to 6 on Nov. 12 (Stockbridge). All six were still there Nov. 19, and three remained Nov. 23 (Haw). Hurshtown also hosted a Red-necked Grebe Dec. 10 (Haw, Rood).

Turkey Vultures attempted to winter, with 30 still at a roost in Allen Co. Jan. 26 (Haw, Schacht) and one at Clear Lake Dec. 23 (Haw, Schacht). A Rough-legged Hawk at Salamonie Nov. 18 (Haw, Schacht) was the only one reported until the snow and cold hit in late January. There were five in Steuben and Lagrange Counties Jan. 27 (John Winebrenner, Lisa Silvey).

Winebrenner and Silvey found a Golden Eagle at Salamonie Dec. 10,

and two were noted there Dec. 14 (Jeff McCoy). An exceptional concentration of Dunlin was 240 at Salamonie Nov. 8 (McCoy).

Rare gulls were a Black-legged Kittiwake at Hurshtown Res. Oct. 29 (Stockbridge) and a Little Gull at Salamonie Res. Nov. 11 (Haw, Schacht, Windell). Four late Bonaparte's Gulls were in Steuben Co. Jan. 9 (Windell et al). A Short-eared Owl was at Eagle Marsh Oct. 30 (Ed Powers) and six were found near Spencerville Jan. 6 (Winebrenner, Silvey). The only Long-eared Owl was at Salamonie Dec. 14 (McCoy).

Two Eastern Phoebes attempted to winter. One was in Mengerson Reserve, Ft. Wayne, Jan. 1 and 15 (Haw), while the bird found on the Ft. Wayne Christmas Bird Count was still at Metea Park Jan. 26 (Haw, Schacht).

Northern Shrikes were at Fox Island Nov. 5 (Haw) and at Pigeon River Dec. 23, Jan. 4, and Jan. 9, with two different birds involved in the three records (Schacht et al). Pokagon had two notably late migrants, a Hermit Thrush Nov. 26 (Fred Wooley) and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak Oct. 28 (Brad Bumgardner). A Common Yellowthroat at Salamonie Dec. 14 (McCoy) was very late, and a Fox Sparrow at Salamonie Feb. 7 (Lynnanne Fager) was quite unusual for late winter. The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported during the period were three in Steuben Co. Jan. 20 (Haw, Schacht). The only winter finch of any species was a Pine Siskin in Mongo Jan. 20 (Haw, Schacht).

Blackbirds at Fawn River Nov. 17 (Haw, Schacht). Few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were reported. A Turkey Vulture in Allen Co. Jan. 29 (Mead) was probably a remarkably early spring migrant.

**2007 SPRING FIELD TRIPS**

## 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Species	FW	POK	PR	Species	FW	POK	PR
<b>Stockbridge Audubon Society</b>							
Sat. Mar. 10	Lake Michigan; leave at 6:30 a.m. <b>EST</b> from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot, Lima Rd. (hwy. 3) just north of I-69; return 5:30-6:30 p.m.. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers						
Sun. Mar. 11	Hurshtown Reservoir; meet at the reservoir on Roth Rd. 1 mi. south of hwy. 1 (1.5 miles north of Grabill Rd.) at 3 p.m. <b>EDT</b> ; finish around 5 p.m. Leaders: Tony Acosta, Jim Haw						
Sat. Mar. 17	Killdeer Plains WMA, Wyandot County, Ohio; leave at 7:30 a.m. from Scott's, New Haven Plaza, IN 930 and Minnich Rd., New Haven (just west of I-469); return 4:30-5:30 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers						
Sun. Mar. 25	Hurshtown Reservoir; meet at the reservoir on Roth Rd. 1 mi. south of hwy. 1 (1.5 mi. north of Grabill Rd.) at 3 p.m.; finish around 5 p.m. Leaders: Tony Acosta, Jim Haw						
Sat. Mar. 31	Cedar Swamp Wetland Conservation Area, Steuben Co.; leave at 7:30 a.m. from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot, Lima Rd. (hwy. 3) just north of I-69, or meet us at Cedar Swamp, entrance on N side of hwy. 120 about 1 mi. east of Fremont at 8:30; finish by noon. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ted Heemstra						
Sat. Apr. 7	Fox Island; meet at 8 a.m. at the old (Nature Observation Bldg.) parking lot at Fox Island, 7324 Yohne Rd.; finish by noon. Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang						
Sat. Apr. 28	Salamonie Reservoir; leave at 6:45 a.m. from Scott's, Village at Coventry, US 24 just west of I-69, or meet us at 7:15 at Day's Inn/Family Table Restaurant, US 24 and SR 9, Huntington, or at 8:15 a.m. at the Hominy Ridge Picnic Area in Salamonie River State Forest; return around 5 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht						
Sat. May 5	Crane Creek State Park, Ohio; leave at 6:30 a.m. from Scott's, New Haven Plaza, IN 930 and Minnich Road, New Haven (just west of I-469); return 6:30-7 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers						
Sat. May 12	Big May Day Count; details later						
Sat. May 19	Fox Island; meet at the old (Nature Observation Bldg.) lot at Fox Island at 7 a.m.; finish around noon. Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang						
Sat. May 26	Willow Slough FWA/Kankakee Sands; leave at 6:30 a.m. from SW corner of Park West Center, West Jefferson and Illinois Road; return about 6:30-7:30 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ted Heemstra						

Field trips are open to all, and we welcome beginners. Keep in mind:

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

--we car pool for out-of-town trips; share gas expenses if you ride, have a full tank if you can 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 early 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. Water-resistant shoes or boots are often useful.

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

## 2006 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Species	FW	POK	PR	Species	FW	POK	PR
Common Loon		1		Red-breasted Nuthatch		1	
Pied-billed Grebe		6	11	Wht-breasted Nuthatch	77	77	55
Horned Grebe			1	Brown Creeper	7	3	12
Great Blue Heron	11	10	7	Carolina Wren	13	15	
<b>Great Egret</b>			1	Winter Wren	1		
Turkey Vulture	40	2		Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	4	17
Canada Goose	826	958	1086	Eastern Bluebird	86	62	142
<b>Cackling Goose</b>	1			Hermit Thrush	1	1	
Mute Swan		63	28	American Robin	51	4	14
Wood Duck		3	1	Northern Mockingbird	2	3	3
Gadwall		16	10	European Starling	2513	1931	1086
Am Black Duck		8		Cedar Waxwing	21		3
Mallard	560	266	85	Yellow-rumped Warbler	11	2	
Redhead			1	Amer. Tree Sparrow	217	220	197
Ring-necked Duck		2		Fox Sparrow	cw		
Lesser Scaup		6	4	Song Sparrow	32	24	19
Bufflehead		23	30	Swamp Sparrow	4	3	3
Common Goldeneye		2	1	White-throated Sparrow	9	1	1
Hooded Merganser			5	White-crowned Sparrow	2		8
Red-breasted Merganser			2	Dark-eyed Junco	227	151	208
Ruddy Duck			1	Lapland Longspur	3	3	
Bald Eagle			2	Northern Cardinal	174	123	76
Northern Harrier	1	8		Red-winged Blackbird	18		
Cooper's Hawk	7	5	4	Common Grackle	2		
Red-shouldered Hawk	3		1	Brown-headed Cowbird	1		4
Red-tailed Hawk	51	76	20	House Finch	232	66	31
American Kestrel	25	31	10	American Goldfinch	173	116	55
Ring-necked Pheasant	2			House Sparrow	753	810	551
Wild Turkey	8			<b>Total species</b>	56	64	56
American Coot		50	109		+1 cw		
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>		5		<b>Total individuals</b>	7550	6261	4720
Bonaparte's Gull		2	4	(CW means seen during count week)			
Ring-billed Gull	8	20	6	<b>Fort Wayne Participants:</b> Josh Christian, Margit Codispoti,			
Herring Gull		5		Morris Duffey, Sr. Mary Joan Ginsterblum, Don Gorney, Joyce			
Rock Pigeon	258	83	103	Gottschalk, Jim Haw (compiler), Frannie Headings, Ted Heemstra,			
Mourning Dove	383	346	184	Julie Henricks, Sr. Lorraine Masters, Valerie Pelz, Ed Powers,			
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	1		Doug Rood, Sandy Schacht, Lisa Silvey, Anderson Smith, Carole			
Great Horned Owl	1	1		Smith, Ryan Smith, Jamie Toole, Sr. Angeline Walczyk, Ann			
Barred Owl		1		Walton, Bob Walton, John Winebrenner, Galen Yordy, Tim			
Short-eared Owl		1		Young.			
Belted Kingfisher	8	4	7	<b>Pokagon Participants:</b> Michael Bultinck, Graham Rowe			
Red-headed Woodpecker		6	1	Bultinck, Brad Bumgardner, John Cassady, Josh Christian, Joyce			
Red-bellied Woodpecker	59	60	24	Gottschalk, Frannie Headings, Ted Heemstra, Tennyson Jelinck,			
Downy Woodpecker	78	26	36	Barbara Kaiser, Kelly Knox, Lance Lothamer, Jacob Lothamer,			
Hairy Woodpecker	17	11	12	Carrie Macke, Kay Macke, Roger Macke, Jeff McCoy, Holly			
Northern Flicker	15	21	14	Meyers, Kip Miller, Bruce Plew, Sam Plew, Cynthia Powers, Ed			
Pileated Woodpecker	2	2	1	Powers, Sandy Schacht, John Schaust, Sue Treesh, Fred Wooley			
Northern Shrike		1		(compiler) and the Nature Center staff.			
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>Pigeon River Participants:</b> John Winebrenner, Dick Hurley,			
Blue Jay	144	67	80	Louis Harber, Chad Harber, Richard Cooney, Ted Heemstra,			
American Crow	116	274	249	Sandy Schacht, Frannie Headings, Matt Becher, Austin Cooney,			
Horned Lark	96	48	2	Tim Young, Jim Haw, and compiler: Gary Tieben			
<b>Carolina Chickadee</b>	<b>1</b>						
Blk-capped Chickadee	132	79	48				
Tufted Titmouse	64	39	30				

FW means Fort Wayne; POK means Pokagon; PR means Pigeon River. This was the 107<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society. Each count area covers a 15-mile diameter circle and attempts to record every bird seen. Results are of interest to scientists in tracking bird populations and establishing ranges, and participation is a great way to interest people in birds.

### **This might be fun:**

Merry Lea Environmental Center is sponsoring a trip May 18, 19, 20, and 21 to the International Crane Foundation near Baraboo, WI and also to the Necedah NWR for birding. Travel is by van from Goshen College, and participants will stay 3 nights at St. Joseph's Resort. Cost per person, double occupancy is \$250; meals not included. Our own Paul McAfee is one of the leaders. 200 bird species have been seen at Necedah, plus Karner Blue butterflies and gray wolves. Contact [jennifersh@goshen.edu](mailto:jennifersh@goshen.edu) or call 260-799-5869 for info. Some Fort Wayne birders are going and there may be more spaces.



### **Speaking of cranes:**

By now you have heard the sad news that all but one of the 2006 “class” of young whooping cranes were killed in the tornado that hit central Florida in January. These were the birds that followed the ultralight aircraft in order to learn the migration route. Some even landed in Indiana on the way. They made it to Florida just days before the tornado. Bird number 15-06 was found alive and uninjured.

This tragedy does emphasize what a good idea it was to establish an eastern population, so that one tragedy (such as an oil spill near Aransas NWR where the western flock winters) could not kill off the whole species.

How heartbreaking this must be for those who have worked so hard on crane restoration, and for those of us who hope to “count” a whooping crane on our Indiana lists before too long.

### **Biodiesel or ethanol?**

This from “Ask Audubon,” part of Audubon Newswire: the question was “Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these two fuels.”

Answer: “Both are less toxic and more biodegradable than conventional fuel. It takes about 1.5 gal. of ethanol to travel as far as on 1 gal. of gasoline. 420 gal. of ethanol are produced/acre of corn, vs. 60 gal. of biodiesel/acre of soybeans. Ethanol reduces greenhouse gas emissions 12% compared with fossil fuels, whereas biodiesel reduces emissions by 41%. So there is no clear cut answer as to which fuel is best.

In other words, “More study is needed.” (Isn't that always the way?)

You can subscribe to Audubon Newswire through the National Audubon website, [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).



## Stockbridge Directors & Officers

**Inside this issue:**

Christmas Bird Count Instructions  
 Jim Haw's Bird Notes  
 Bird of the Month: Blue Jay  
**And lots of other neat stuff**

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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**.

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**HO-9  
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