

Stockbridge Audubon



<http://members.aol.com/StockbridgeAS>

Representing Northeast Indiana

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

“Sky Islands and Saguaros: Birding Southeast Arizona” Fall Meeting at Pokagon State Park

Date: October 14, 2007

Time: 2:00 PM, Sunday

Location: Nature Center

Speaker: Dr. James Haw

Varied habitats and proximity to the Mexican border make Southeast Arizona one of the premier areas in the United States for birders and other naturalists. Using slides, this program is an introduction to the natural beauty and special birds of one of the country's most remarkable regions.

Jim Haw, professor of history at IPFW, is a long-time board member and

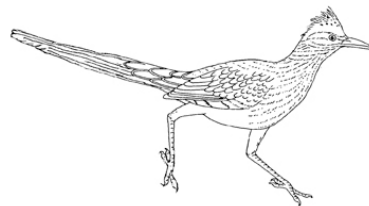
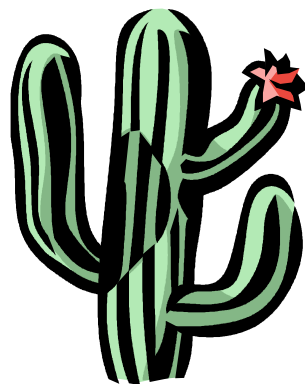
field trip chairman of Stockbridge Audubon Society. He has birded widely in the United States, including several trips to southeast Arizona. And for years he has generously

shared his birding wisdom, training a whole generation of new birders.

Remember that **admission** to the park is now \$5 on weekends for Indiana residents, per carload. (If you're a senior, an annual pass at \$18 is a really good deal!)

October 14 is also the nationwide **Big Sit** bird count, “Birding's Most Sedentary Event.” We'll let the birds come to us and record what we see out the observation window.

Pokagon's Nature Center hours are 10-5.



From Your President:

Dear Stockbridge Member,

These words are being written in August, the month Joseph Wood Krutch in his book *The Twelve Seasons* calls “the very dead of summer”. The days have been in the 90’s. The early portion of the day hums with cicadas and the nights pulse with the calls of tree crickets. Very soon, however, we will feel the nights get cooler and this will be followed first by cool then nippy days. From late August until early November, we will be in the fall migration season. The shorebirds will be among the first to come to Indiana then followed by many, many other species of birds.

Make a promise to yourself to spend more time in the field this fall. If you are like me, you plan to get afield more, but things get in the way. Important things, but things.

A good way to see more birds, learn the locations of good birding spots and hone your identification skills would be to join one of the many Fall fieldtrips offered by Stockbridge Audubon. Remember, the trips are for birders of all levels. Beginners are encouraged to attend. Often, some one on the trip will have a spotting ‘scope and you will get better views of birds than you get in your binoculars. There will be trips to all of the local and not so local “hot spots”.

We also invite you to attend our fall meeting at Pokagon State Park. (Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.) Many folks plan on a hike in beautiful Pokagon State park either before or after the meeting. In addition, the views of the regularly stocked feeders through the Nature Center windows will typically provide some enjoyable minutes of

easy birding. I’m looking forward to seeing you at Pokagon or perhaps on one of the field trips.



Gary Tieben

Bird Notes

March 27-June 20,
2007

By Jim Haw

The most notable feature of the spring was a late hard freeze for eight days in mid-April that killed blooming flowers and retarded blossoming of those that had not yet bloomed. Effects on birds are not known, but hummingbirds and Cedar Waxwings arrived late this spring. The spring migration was not notable for numbers or rarities in northeast Indiana.

Two Snow Geese were at Pigeon River Mar. 29 and 31 (Sandy Schacht et al). Two Tundra Swans were found at Cedar Swamp, Steuben Co. Mar. 31 (Stockbridge field trip). American Bitterns were recorded at Fox Is. Apr. 29 (Haw), at Salamonie Res. May 3 (Haw), and in Allen Co. May 12 (Ryan Smith et al). A Least Bittern was also in Allen Co. May 12 (Haw). A Black-crowned Night Heron was notable on the IPFW campus Apr. 12 (Margit Codispoti). A notably late migrant Broad-winged Hawk was in Mengerson Reserve May 20 (Haw).

Eagle Marsh was again the spring shorebird hot spot, with a Black-bellied Plover May 19-20 (Haw, Marisa Windell); an American Golden Plover May 8 (Jamie Toole et al); Semipalmated Plovers May 14-June 3, peaking at 35 May 15 (Rodger Rang); and White-rumped Sandpipers May 16-19, peaking at five May 17 (Haw).

The only terns reported in spring were two Caspians at Salamonie Apr. 10 (Haw, Schacht) and a Forster’s at Eagle Marsh Apr. 13 (Rang).

A migrant Whip-poor-will called in Mengerson Reserve Apr. 29 (Haw). The warbler of the spring was a Worm-eating in Franke Park Apr. 23-24 (Jerry Brown et al), and the best sparrow was a Clay-colored in Whitley Co. Apr. 29 (Jeff McCoy). There were four May reports of Summer Tanager, which is more than usual. A Western Meadowlark was on territory in Lagrange Co. May 23 (Windell et al).

Northeast Indiana’s rarity of the summer was an apparent White-winged Dove at an Adams County feeder June 27-28 (Jeremy Reinhart). Mute Swans extended their nesting range southward to Salamonie Reservoir with a pair and cygnets June 5 and July 7 (JH, SS). Least Bitterns were detected at Pigeon River June 9 (Haw) and Steuben Co. June 10 (Windell et al). The two Osprey nests at Pigeon River were again successful. Four Common Moorhens were at Pigeon River June 10 (Schacht et al). A Blue-headed Vireo at Salamonie River State Forest June 5 (Haw, Schacht) was probably a very late migrant. Chain O’ Lakes State Park furnished several notably high warbler counts: seven Cerulean and eleven Prothonotary June 20 (Haw, Schacht) and a remarkable 53 American Redstarts July 5 (Don Gorney). A Summer Tanager at Pigeon River July 3 (Haw, Schacht) was most unusual for that area; another was in Allen Co. July 10 (Smith). Ed Powers made another remarkable high count of 31 Dickcissels at Eagle Marsh in June.



STOCKBRIDGE AUDUBON SOCIETY Fall Field Trips 2007

- Sat. Sept. 1 Chain O' Lakes State Park; leave from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot on Lima Rd north of I-69 at 7 a.m., or meet us at Miller/Norman Lake boat launch parking lot at Chain O' Lakes at 7:45 a.m.; return around 3-3-30 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.
- Sat. Sept. 8 Fox Island; meet at Nature Observation Bldg lot at Fox Is., 7314 Yohne Rd., at 7:30 a.m., finish around noon. Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang. Can continue at Eagle Marsh after lunch with Jennifer Lyn Schall of Little River Wetlands Project.
- Sat. Sept. 15 Pokagon State Park. Leave from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot on Lima Rd. north of I-69 at 7:00 a.m., or meet us at NW corner of Potawatomi Lodge parking lot (at trailhead for Lake Lonidaw) at 8 a.m.; return around 3-4 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Sandy Schacht.
- Sat. Sept. 22 Metea Park. Meet at the NORTH parking lot for Metea Park, on Hursh Rd. just east of the Cedar Creek Bridge between Puff Rd. and Halter Rd. at 7:30 a.m.; finish by noon. Leaders: Ed and Cynthia Powers. NOTE: NO REST ROOMS ON NORTH SIDE OF METEA; make a stop on the way if needed; rest rooms available at mid-morning when we go to the south side
- Sat. Sept. 29 Fox Island; meet at Nature Observation Bldg. lot at Fox Is., 7324 Yohne Rd., at 8:00 a.m., finish around 12. Leaders: Jim Haw, Rodger Rang.
- Sat. Oct. 6 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 parking lot, US 24 and IN 9, Huntington, at 7:30 a.m.; return around 4-5 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers
- Sat. Oct. 20 Lake Michigan lakefront. Leave at 6:30 a.m. from lamppost K, Meijer parking lot on Lima Rd. just north of I-69; return 6-6:30 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ed Powers.
- Sun. Oct. 28 Hurshtown 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. 3 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ohio (on Lake Erie east of Toledo). Leave from Scott's parking lot, New Haven Plaza, IN 930 and Minnich Rd. (just west of I-469) at 7:00 a.m.; return around 6-7 p.m. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ted Heemstra
- Sat. Nov. 10 Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area. TWO DEPARTURE TIMES: 9:00 a.m. for general birding in afternoon, thousands of cranes gathering at sunset OR 2:30 p.m. for cranes at sunset only. Both leave from SW corner of Park West Plaza, West Jefferson Blvd. and Illinois Rd.; return around 9-9:30 p.m, stopping for a fast food supper on the way home. Leaders: Jim Haw, Ted Heemstra for 9 a.m., TBA for 2:30 p.m. IF GOING AT 2:30, PLEASE NOTIFY ACRES OFFICE IN ADVANCE AT 637-2273.
- Sun. Nov. 11 Hurshtown 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. 15 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 on all trips.

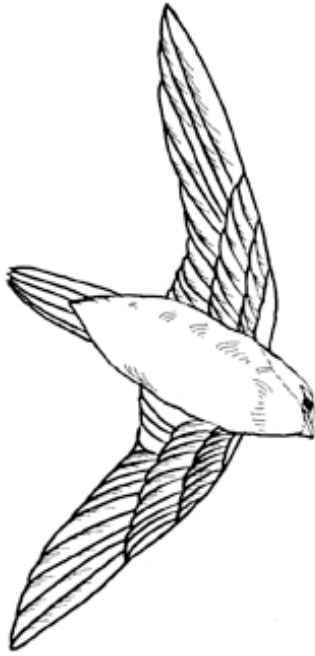
For further information, contact Jim Haw, 485-7802, e-mail jhawillet@aol.com

Big May Day Bird Count – May 12, 2007

The weather on count day was pleasant (54° - 77° F), partly cloudy, with no precipitation. Winds were light to moderate. We were somewhat short-handed this year, which resulted in one fewer parties in the field. As a result, the 4948 individuals was the lowest total in the last 21 years; nevertheless we had a respectable 138 species. There was one bird new to the Allen County Count: Least Bittern. 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 Jennifer Bowman, Jerry Brown, Mark Derloshon, Jim Haw, Frannie Headings, Valerie Pelz, Cynthia Powers, Ed Powers (compiler), Doug Rood, Ryan Smith, David Ward, Marisa Windell, Galen Yordy.

Canada Goose	300	Downy Woodpecker	15	Tennessee Warbler	27
Mute Swan	4	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Nashville Warbler	8
Wood Duck	33	Northern Flicker	9	Northern Parula	12
Mallard	193	Pileated Woodpecker	1	Yellow Warbler	39
Blue-winged Teal	6	Eastern Wood-Pewee	21	Chstnt-sided Warbler	17
Northern Shoveler	2	Acadian Flycatcher	17	Magnolia Warbler	36
Green-winged Teal	1	Willow Flycatcher	5	Cape May Warbler	1
Ring-necked Duck	2	Least Flycatcher	7	Blk-thr Blue Warbler	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	Eastern Phoebe	15	Yel-rumped Warbler	36
Pied-billed Grebe	4	Grt Crested Flycatchr	23	Blk-thr Grn Warbler	8
Dbl-crested Cormorant	31	Eastern Kingbird	10	Blackburnian Warbler	2
American Bittern	1	White-eyed Vireo	4	Palm Warbler	2
Least Bittern	1	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Bay-breasted Warbler	17
Great Blue Heron	31	Warbling Vireo	36	Blk-and-wht Warbler	2
Green Heron	2	Philadelphia Vireo	1	American Redstart	24
Turkey Vulture	94	Red-eyed Vireo	61	Ovenbird	14
Cooper's Hawk	8	Blue Jay	54	Northern Waterthrush	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	American Crow	15	Com Yellowthroat	27
Red-tailed Hawk	20	Horned Lark	61	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
American Kestrel	4	Purple Martin	11	Scarlet Tanager	16
Virginia Rail	2	Tree Swallow	31	Eastern Towhee	13
Sora	12	N Rough-wng Swallow	5	Chipping Sparrow	51
American Coot	52	Bank Swallow	31	Field Sparrow	23
Semipalmated Plover	32	Cliff Swallow	15	Vesper Sparrow	6
Killdeer	61	Barn Swallow	102	Savannah Sparrow	15
Solitary Sandpiper	2	Carolina Chickadee	13	Song Sparrow	88
Spotted Sandpiper	24	Blk-capped Chckadee	8	Swamp Sparrow	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	12	Tufted Titmouse	28	Wht-throated Sparrow	28
Least Sandpiper	25	Wht-brsted Nuthatch	18	Wht-crownd Sparrow	7
Dunlin	10	Carolina Wren	11	Northern Cardinal	102
Short-billed Dowitcher	10	House Wren	49	Rose-brsted Grosbeak	13
Wilson's Snipe	1	Sedge Wren	2	Indigo Bunting	45
Ring-billed Gull	59	Ruby-crownd Kinglet	4	Dickcissel	2
Black Tern	4	Blue-gray Gnatcatchr	35	Bobolink	10
Rock Pigeon	57	Eastern Bluebird	24	Red-winged Blackbird	435
Mourning Dove	149	Veery	7	Eastern Meadowlark	32
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Common Grackle	204
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Swainson's Thrush	22	Brn-headed Cowbird	164
Barred Owl	1	Wood Thrush	23	Baltimore Oriole	39
Common Nighthawk	1	American Robin	347	House Finch	15
Chimney Swift	9	Gray Catbird	106	American Goldfinch	119
Ruby-thr Hmingbird	9	Brown Thrasher	6	House Sparrow	237
Belted Kingfisher	4	European Starling	365		
Red-headed Woodpkr	8	Cedar Waxwing	15	Total individuals	4948
Red-bellied Woodpkr	34	Blue-winged Warbler	9	Total species	138





**Bird of the Month:
Chimney Swifts**
By: Warren Mead

“Cigar with wings,” “flying cigar,” “American Swift” and “Chimney Swallow” all refer to this month’s featured bird: the Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*.

The Chimney Swift is the only swift that is normally found in eastern North America. It has a short body (5 ½ inches) but a relatively long wingspan (12 inches). It is sooty brown/gray above and has a whitish throat and belly. A recent evening downtown at the Three Rivers Festival was accompanied by the constant twittering of these birds overhead.

Chimney Swifts are

airborne virtually every waking moment. They hunt for insects, drink, bathe, gather nesting materials, engage in courtship and even mate while in flight. At the end of the day, they will roost in colonies in chimneys, air shafts, on the side of buildings and in silos. They never perch but easily cling to the surfaces of these structures, as all four of their toes face forward, with one being reversible. They also nest in the same types of structures, using their glue-like saliva to construct nests of small twigs.

Clutch sizes vary from 3-6, and the eggs are incubated by both parents for about 3 weeks. The young stay in the nest for about 30 days after hatching and are fed by both parents.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers (and their resulting chimneys), Chimney Swifts used old woodpecker holes, rotted tree trunks and open knot-holes as nesting sites. J. J. Audubon even witnessed these swifts excavating their own nesting holes in IN, IL, and KY. Some Chimney Swifts were recorded nesting in sycamore trees at Shades State Park, here in Indiana, in 1983.

Chimney Swifts winter in the Amazon basin of South America and in Peru. They

generally arrive in our area in April and leave again by mid-October. Not so long ago, it was believed that these birds hibernated in mud! One bird book I have that was printed in 1936 commented that the winter hide-out of the Chimney Swift as a “complete mystery.”

All of these characteristics make the Chimney Swift one of the most interesting—and vocal—migratory birds that visit our area.

This might be fun:

From Tuesday, November 13 through Saturday, Nov. 18, 2007, the **20th Annual Festival of the Cranes** will be held at Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico. Check out www.friendsofthebosque.org for more information.

Ask not what Stockbridge can do for you....ask what you can do for Stockbridge:

Lead a nature hike for families with small children

Take charge of press releases/publicity

Work with Scouts on merit badges on nature subjects

Give a program on a bird or nature related topic

Help keep the Bird Building open at Fox Island

Call a board member with your ideas!



Inside this issue:
 October meeting at Pokagon
 Fall Field Trip Schedule
 May Day Count Results

Stockbridge Directors & Officers

- Gary Tieben, President.....493-7058
- Julie Henricks, Vice President.....638-4375
- Warren Mead, Treasurer637-9098
- Dick Hurley, Secretary 484-8380
- Art Eberhart, Director260-665-2421
- Valerie Pelz, Director.....493-1954
- Sandy Schacht, Director.....260-356-3681
- Cynthia Powers, Director and Newsletter Editor.....638-4291
- Jim Haw, Rare Bird Alert & Field Trip Coordinator 485-7802
- Ed Powers, Membership 638-4291
- Dave Reichlinger, Director.....432-9431
- Roger McNett, Director and Webmaster.....749-4987
- Louis Harber, Director.....486-1683

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 _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

__ Individual/\$20 __ Family/\$20

__ Student/\$15 __ Sr. Citizen/\$15

__ Lifelong/\$1500

**HO-9
7XCH**

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