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Cover photo: A very popular Green-tailed Towhee visited Betty Wallace's *Huntington* feeder, shown here 22 February. Photo by Ryan Sanderson

Back cover photo: One of two Varied Thrushes this winter, this bird graced Wesselman Woods Nature Center, *Vandenburgh*, here 30 December. Photo by Michael Brown

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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A Reminder on the Summer Bird Count! (Form included on website)

MEET THE IAQ STAFF - Jay Bolden, Big May Day and Final Copy Editor



Jay's handiwork for the Central Lake Trust

Jay Bolden has been the IAS Big May Day Bird Count editor since 2009, taking over for his birding mentor, former IAS board member and past Amos Butler Audubon Society president, Karl Werner. Jay was also a member of the special committee tasked with the IAS website redesign and was instrumental in the implementation of the Birds of North America subscription for IAS members. He graduated from Indiana University in 1997 with a B.S. in Biology and certificate in Environmental Studies, including ornithology and field biology coursework, and was an undergraduate assistant in Don Whitehead's laboratory, studying Prothonotary Warbler breeding success and behavior.

Jay got hooked on birding as a hobby in 1999, participating in his first Johnson County Christmas Bird Count on the invitation of Karl and has enjoyed birding trips since then with other birding friends and mentors including Rob Rutledge, Lee Casebere and Alan Bruner. Some of his favorite trips included birding Washington State and Dry Tortugas National Park trips, and Big May Day Count expeditions to under-represented Indiana locales such as Shelby and Orange counties. Jay has also birded Ireland extensively, having moved there for work assignments in 2008 and



Birding a Prairie Dog Trail in Santa Fe

2010, and getting involved with the West Cork branch of BirdWatch Ireland.

Jay shares his passion for birding and having introduced friends, family and co-workers to the hobby, and derives a great deal of satisfaction helping novice birders get a new lifer. His birding has slowed down with the arrival of his third child, but is training them young on backyard and neighborhood birds. Jay looks forward to your participation in IAS and on this year's and future Big May Day Bird Counts!

Field Notes - Winter 2012-2013 (Dec. - Feb.)

Rob Ripma, robert.ripma@nuttybirder.com

After such a mild winter last year, our weather this season felt much more like a typical Indiana winter even though temperatures were slightly above average. The list of rare and unusual birds was long and varied. After a strong irruption of many northern species, several persisted into the winter reporting season. We also had a good list of rarities including a long staying Green-tailed Towhee, two Varied Thrushes, and a Cinnamon Teal.

Other highlights found during this winter season include: Western Grebe, Bohemian Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Harris's Sparrow, both crossbills, both redpolls, and Evening Grosbeak.

A special note of thanks to the following birders who took the time to submit individual or regional summaries: Ken Brock, Michael Brown, Jim Haw, and Roger Hedge. Also thanks to those that allowed the use of their photos, Ryan Sanderson, Landon Neumann, and Jim Switzer.

Abbreviations:

CBC = Christmas Bird Count
FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area
NWR = National Wildlife Refuge
SP = State Park
SF = State Forest
SRA = State Recreation Area

Species Accounts:

Greater White-Fronted Goose

On 12 February, Lee Sterrenburg, Kathy McClain, John Pohl, and Andy Harrell tallied (8015) at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene*. This is Indiana's highest single party count. This fantastic number also contributed to the largest number of this species recorded in the winter with (57,740) for the season (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Ross's Goose

After a bit of a slow season for this species last winter, the (100) reported this season provided a great total (KJ Brock Winter Report). The largest flock was (31) individuals at Chinook Mine in *Vigo* on 10 February (Peter Scott).

Trumpeter Swan

Although we did not have the numbers present last winter, a high count of (198) by Steve Lima on 3 January was a significant total (KJ Brock Winter Report). Roger Hedge's report of (140) from Kingman in *Fountain* on 19 January was significant as well.

Blue-winged Teal

Peter Scott reported 2 females in Terre Haute, *Vigo* through at least 15 December (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Cinnamon Teal

A hunter collected a male on 29 December in *Knox*. Photos were obtained and they show now evidence that this bird is a hybrid. (Gary Bowman). This is Indiana's first winter record (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Northern Pintail

A count of (27,641) at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene* on 12 February by Lee Sterrenburg, Kathy McClain, John Pohl, and Andy Harrell almost triples the state's next highest count (KJ Brock Winter Report).



Harlequin Duck

The only Harlequin Duck reported this year was from the US Steel Breakwall in *Lake* (Michael Topp). It was reported until 19 January.

Harlequin Duck, 4 January, Miller Beach, *Lake*
Photo by Michael Topp

Surf Scoter

Only (2) individuals were reported this season. The first, an adult male, was at Stillwater Marsh in *Monroe* on 10 February by Jim Brown and Greg Simon. The second was an immature male at Fiddler's Pond in *Elkhart* on 24 February (Leland Shaum and Thaddaeus Shaum).

White-winged Scoter

It was quite a winter season for this species in Indiana. A total of (307) were reported in the state with most of them occurring on Lake Michigan (KJ Brock Winter Report). The highest single day count this season was of (69) from Michigan City Harbor in *LaPorte* on 19 February (Brad Bumgardner).

Black Scoter

There were only (3) reported this season. Two came from the lakefront and one was an inland record.

Long-tailed Duck

The (9) inland reports lead to the best total away from the lakefront since 1997-98 (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Red-throated Loon

This winter season set a new record with (542) individuals reported. (KJ Brock Winter Report). The high count for the season was (139) flying past Dunes State Park in *Porter* on 9 February (Brendan Grube).

Eared Grebe

The lone Eared Grebe this winter season was reported by Ed Hopkins and Michael Topp at Miller Beach in *Lake* on 14 December.

Red-necked Grebe

One individual was seen and photographed on Hidden Valley Lake in *Dearborn* on 20 January (Leslie Houser).

Western Grebe

This species was present in unusually high number with 17 reported (KJ Brock Winter Report). Jeff McCoy found (4) on 30 December to set a new high-count record.

American White Pelican

After a record setting count last winter, we have again raised the bar for this species. The first individuals (5) at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene* were reported on 5 February. By 24 February, Lee Sterrenburg counted (182) setting the new state record high count for this species (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Great Egret

Peter Scott reported (1) from JI Case Wetland in *Vigo* on 12 December.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

There were no reports of this species in Indiana for the second year in a row.

Golden Eagle

There were many reports of this species across the southern tier.

Merlin

The high count of Merlins this winter (5) came from Peter Scott at Minnehaha FWA in *Sullivan* on 5 January.

Virginia Rail

There were two reports of this species during the winter season. The first was of (2) individuals at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene* on 19 December (Roger Hedge and Michael Clay). The second came from Beverly Shores in *Porter* on 7 January (Brad Bumgardner).

Sandhill Crane

Indiana has had a significant increase in the number of Sandhill Cranes that are wintering in the state. A count of (26,153) at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene* on 20 February by Lee Sterrenburg is the highest count away from Jasper-Pulaski FWA (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Whooping Crane

Whooping Crane numbers topped out at (26) on 22 January at Goose Pond FWA in *Greene*. This included both surviving wild hatched birds from 2012. These 26 birds also made up about ¼ of the entire Eastern population (Lee Sterrenburg).

Killdeer

Dave Crouch's count of (101) at Starve Hollow Lake in *Jackson* on 6 December is an exceptional winter total.

Lesser Yellowlegs

The (1) reported by Steve Gifford at Patoka River NWR in *Gibson* on 12 February provided the record early spring arrival date for this species (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Least Sandpiper

There were several reports of this species into December. The most noteworthy was a report of (11) at Cane Ridge WMA in *Gibson* on 22 December (Vern Wilkins).

Dunlin

On 1 December, (2) late birds were seen at Mississinewa Reservoir in *Miami* (Jim Haw).

Purple Sandpiper

After a good year for this species in the winter of 2011-12, we had no reports in 2012-13.

Wilson's Snipe

Among the many reports, a count of (12) at JI Case Wetland in *Vigo* by Peter Scott on 9 December was significant.

American Woodcock

Evan Speck set a new record count of (43) while driving 20 miles in northwestern *Warrick* on 17 February.

Gulls:

The main lakefront gull species were present in good numbers this winter as can be seen in the chart below (KJ Brock Winter Report).



**Hard to find 2nd-cycle Iceland Gull
9 February, Whiting Refinery, Lake**

Photo by Marty Jones

WINTER LAKEFRONT GULL TOTALS

	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13
Thayer's	10	18	13	5	12	16	10	44	7	26
Iceland	4	7	3	2	3	4	7	16	9	13
L. Black-backed	7	19	1	2	4	7	5	16	1	15
Glaucous	22	38	21	9	17	76	34	64	26	71
G. Black-backed	111	125	87	55	74	224	218	192	60	168

Lesser Black-backed Gull

There was only one report away from the lakefront. On 30 January, Don Whitehead found (1) adult at Paynetown SRA in *Monroe*. Later that afternoon, Susan Hengeveld found a first-cycle bird in the same location but could not locate the adult.



Editor's note: Following a popular adult Glaucous x Great Black Gull on the Lakefront from 20010-12, additional evidence for this symmetrically white wing-tipped hybrid in Indiana arrived with the appearance of this 2nd-cycle individual, here 16 February, Whiting Refinery Beach, *Lake*

Photo by Michael Topp.

Slaty-backed Gull

Indiana's third state record was spotted by Kirk Roth at Whiting Refinery Beach in *Lake* on 13 February.

Barn Owl

There were (2) reports of this species in the winter season. Amy Kearns found a dead bird on 2 December outside of Mitchell in *Lawrence*. Landon Neumann found (1) on a private property in *Cass* on 2 February.

Snowy Owl

After the outstanding Snowy Owl winter last year, we had only one report in the state. A single bird was found at the Hammond Marina in *Lake* on 16 January (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Long-eared Owl

The (3) found by Landon Neumann and Bud Dodrill on 8 January was the first record for *Cass*.



**A county first: One of three Long-eared Owls
8 January, *Cass***

Photo by Landon Neumann

Northern Saw-whet Owl

It was a good year for this species, as predicted by fall banding reports. The season high count was (5) on the Arvin property in *Tippecanoe* (Delano Arvin).



**Northern Saw-whet Owl
19 January, Arvin's residence, *Tippecanoe*
Photo by Marty Jones**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

One individual lingered at Michelle Summers' feeder in *Lake* until 28 December setting the lake date for the lakefront region (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Calliope Hummingbird

The bird in *Monroe* that was reported in the fall season continued until 5 December at the Belth residence.

Rufous Hummingbird

Just like last year, there were three birds reported in the state. *Hancock*, *Hendricks*, and *Posey* Counties all had single birds with the latest staying bird being the one in *Hancock* that left on 8 January.

Say's Phoebe

Indiana's 11th record was found on 25 December by Peter Scott and Diana Hews at Universal Mine in *Vermillion*.

Loggerhead Shrike

On 16 December, Jim Sullivan found (1) at the Brazil Sewage Lagoons in *Clay*. There was a second individual that was seen off and on at Monty's Station in *Gibson* from 19 December through 20 January.

Northern Shrike

We had a fantastic total of (37) reported in the state this winter season (KJ Brock Winter Report). The farthest south an individual was reported was in *Warrick* on 28 December by Vern Wilkins.

Tree Swallow

There were several reports of early migrants in the southern tier in the second half of February.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

As Indiana's birders know, it was a fantastic winter for this species. A total of (107) were reported (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

There were several reports in the southern and central tiers but none in the northern tier this winter.

Varied Thrush

On 27 December, Delano Arvin photographed a female on his property in *Tippecanoe*. The following day, a first-cycle male was found at Wesselman Woods in *Vanderburgh*. Both birds were seen by many birders.



**Varied Thrush, 30 December
*Tippecanoe***

Photo by Ryan Sanderson

Gray Catbird

There were two reports of this species during the winter season. Larry Peavler reported (1) on the Hamilton County CBC on 30 December and Jerry Downs reported (1) on the McCormick's Creek CBC on 5 January.

Northern Mockingbird

It was another strong year for mockingbirds in Indiana and they remained throughout the state all winter.

Brown Thrasher

There were (8) total reports all in the southern tier and all involving single birds.

Bohemian Waxwing

There were three reports of this species with all of them occurring along the lakefront. One individual was seen on 1 December at the National Lakeshore Headquarters in *Lake* (Mike Brattain, Ken Brock, et al.).

Another single bird was found at Ogden Dunes in *Porter* on 22 December by John Kendall. On 29 January, as dozens of waxwings flew over Indiana Dunes State Park in *Porter*, Brad Bumgardner heard the distinctive call of at least (1) Bohemian in the flock.

Orange-crowned Warbler

On 29 December, (1) visited a feeder in Ligonier in *Elkhart*. It was seen through the rest of the winter season and was the state's fourth January record (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Cape May Warbler

On 9 December a first-cycle male was photographed at a feeder in Greencastle *Putnam* (Gary VanMiddlesworth). From 20 January thru 8 February this bird or possibly another male, visited the peanut butter feeder in the yard of Dr. E. Dean Finley in Greencastle. This was Indiana's sixth January and third February record (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

A male continued from the fall season in Indianapolis in *Marion*. It was last seen on 5 January by Gordon Chastain. Another male was found at Eric Helfrich's feeders in Churubusco in *Whitley* on 19 December.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

During the Whitewater CBC on 16 December, one party reported (139) individuals in *Franklin and Union*. This more than doubled the previous winter high count for Indiana (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Palm Warbler

Heath Hamilton found (1) on 16 December at Cane Ridge in *Gibson*. This is Indiana's 18th winter record (KJ Brock Winter Report). Timothy Shrock found (1) in *LaGrange* on 5 January (*fide* Leland Shaum).

Pine Warbler

On 25 December, (1) first-cycle female was photographed in *LaGrange*. It was seen through the rest of the winter season (Leland Shaum). Jim Switzer found another individual at a private residence in *St Joseph* on 26 December.



**1st-cycle female Pine Warbler
26 December, *St. Joseph*,**

Photo by Jim Switzer

Green-tailed Towhee

Indiana's third record occurred at the private residence of Betty Wallace in Huntington in *Huntington*. The bird was first reported to the birding community on 17 February although Betty had seen the bird twice since the fall. It remained at the feeders into the spring reporting season and was photographed by many birders.

Clay-colored Sparrow

The individual that spent part of the fall at Ogden Dunes in *Porter*, continued in December and was seen and photographed as late as 27 December (Geoffrey Williamson and Ken Wysocki).



Clay-colored Sparrow 27 December
Porter

Photo by Geoffrey Williamson

Fox Sparrow

Fox Sparrows were reported in good numbers from around the state this winter.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Lee Sterrenburg and Kathy McClain found (1) on 1 January at the Somerville Mine in *Gibson*. This is Indiana's fourth winter record (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Harris's Sparrow

Indiana had two records of this rare but regularly occurring species. The first (1) was found on the Wabashiki FWA CBC in *Vigo* on 15 December by Jenny Bodwell et al.). The second was photographed at a private residence in *DeKalb*. It was seen from 24-28 January.

Lapland Longspur

An incredibly impressive flock of (1,000+) was found at Kankakee FWA in *LaPorte* on 23 February but Brad Bumgardner, Matt Kalwasinski, and Penny Starin (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Baltimore Oriole

The individual in *Sullivan* continued until 5 December and is the 12th record in that month.

Indigo Bunting

There was a single report of (1) individual by Gordon Chastain at his home on 31 December in *Marion*.

Rusty Blackbird

The high count (180) occurred at the Gibson Generating Station in *Gibson* on 16 December (Brian Taylor).

Brewer's Blackbird

The most noteworthy report was (10) at Chinook WMA in *Clay* on 26 January (Don Gorney and Mike Clay). One individual also spent a few minutes at a seed pile at Eagle Creek Park in *Marion* (Rob Ripma and Eric Ripma).

Purple Finch

This species appeared in average numbers with (136) reported (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Red Crossbill

This species appeared in the highest numbers in more than a decade with (20) birds reported (KJ Brock Winter Report). The high count was (4) by Leland Shaum on 22 December at Pigeon River FWA in *LaGrange*.

White-winged Crossbill

The high count this season was (10) at Lindenwood Cemetery in *Allen* on 19 December (Jim Haw). This species was reported widely in the state with flocks containing 1 to 10 birds occurring at nine different locations (KJ Brock Winter Report).

Common Redpoll

With a total of (1,634) reported, it was the best redpoll invasion since 1993-94 (KJ Brock Winter Report). The high count for the season was (340) at Kankakee FWA in *Starke* (Brendan Grube).

Hoary Redpoll

Indiana had (2) reports for the winter season. The first occurred at the home in *Porter* of Ken Brock on 31 December. It was seen again on 2 January. The second was found at the Dunes State Park Nature Center on 3 January. On 9 January, it was caught and banded by Brad Bumgardner.



Tale of two Hoary's: 31 December at Brock residence, *Porter* 23 December Dunes SP, *Porter*
Photos by Ken Brock and Michael Topp

Evening Grosbeak

Evening Grosbeaks occurred in the largest numbers that we have seen in more than two decades. The southernmost report came from the home of Sharon Sorenson in *Posey* on 2 December. A total of 105 were reported during the winter season (KJ Brock Winter Report).

REPORT OF THE INDIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE – 2012

Rob Ripma, Chair, Indiana Bird Records Committee

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- * - acceptable verified record
 - C - correspondence/comments
 - D - written documentary information by this observer was available for evaluation
 - PPh - photo(s) by this observer published in scientific or semi-scientific journal was available for evaluation
 - Ph - unpublished photo(s) by this observer was available for evaluation
 - Video - video recording by this observer was available for evaluation
- FWA- Fish and Wildlife Area*
IAQ - Indiana Audubon Quarterly
NAB - North American Birds

During 2012, the Indiana Bird Records Committee (IBRC) completed evaluations of 34 Indiana bird records involving 26 species. Records were evaluated in accordance with the Rules of Operation. At the annual meeting, changes were made to the Rules of Operation. Those were approved by both the IBRC and Indiana Audubon Society (IAS). These rules were put into place once approved by IAS at the October board meeting (The Rules of Operation can be viewed at www.indianaaudubon.org.) In general, all records are determined to be acceptable or not acceptable on the basis of available information provided by the observer(s). Some records may contain additional information such as reviews by outside experts or articles or similar information providing background about the species.

With the recent changes, if a photo, specimen, or recording of a song or call supports the identification, the record is considered to be accepted with physical evidence. If acceptance is based on written documentary material, the record is considered to be accepted without physical evidence and can fall into one of two categories. If only one documentation is submitted to the committee, the record is considered accepted without physical evidence with a single observer, if multiple documentations are submitted, the record is accepted without physical evidence with multiple observers. Separating single observer records from that of multiple observers allows more objective, accurate and consistent criteria, decisions and records. A record's inclusion in "official" checklists will likely continue to only include those that have very strong evidence-most likely only multiple observer and physical evidence records. Single observer records must meet the same documentation criteria as for multiple observers, thus allowing only well-substantiated records to pass. Categorically, single observer records may not carry the same weight of the other two classes of records. Following the lead of other state bird record committees, well-documented, single observer records that meet consistent, objective sighting criteria can now be processed more easily and consistently in Indiana. This new category should also alleviate a need to apply increased scrutiny and perhaps subjective criteria to single observer records in attempt to equate and include them in the same category with multiple observer records. Because single observer records do not fit well with multiple observer records and do not carry their weight, the committee has

decided to separate them. It is also hoped that in this era of instant online birding, that this delineation will further encourage people to document important sightings of both types and at least stabilize the downward trend in documentation.

Of the 34 records completed in 2012, 30 were accepted and four were not accepted. Four species—Hooded Crane, Calliope Hummingbird, Barnacle Goose, and Trumpeter Swan—were added to the state's Official Checklist in 2012 with the Trumpeter Swan being based on a review of that species distribution and occurrence in Indiana from data supplied by Ken Brock and not a typical documentation form. Information presented below for each accepted record includes the IBRC record file number, location of the sighting, number of birds, date(s), names of observers submitting written or other evidence, and references to published photos. Records that were not accepted contain similar information and an explanation of why the record was not accepted. Designation of a record as “not accepted” *does not* mean that the observers were incorrect in their identification. Anyone desiring more information about these records should contact the author at the address above.

IBRC members during 2012 were John “Barney” Dunning, Chuck Mills, David Ayer, Amy Kearns, Lee Sterrenburg, John Kendall, and Michael Retter. Terms for Barney Dunning, Chuck Mills, and Michael Retter expired at year-end 2011. They will be replaced by Even Speck, Jim Hengeveld, and Matt Hale. Rob Ripma served first year as Chair in 2011, and will continue in 2012.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

0458-LTJA-026-LAKE2011 Miller Beach, Lake Co., one bird, 3 September 2011 (^DJohn Cassady). A very detailed description was provided by an experienced jaeger observer. All of the relevant field marks were noted. This is the 26th record reviewed and 22nd accepted by the IBRC.

* 0458-LTJA-027-LAKE2011 Miller Beach, Lake Co., one bird, 5 September 2011 (^DKen Brock, ^{Ph}Ryan Sanderson). The excellent photos and documentation made this a very easy record for the committee to evaluate. The written documentation provided good insight into what the committee should be looking at when reviewing the photos. This is the 27th record reviewed and 23rd accepted by the IBRC.

*0458-LTJA-028-MARI2011 Eagle Creek Park, Marion Co., one bird, 1-4 October 2011 (^D^{Ph}Ryan Sanderson, ^DKen Brock, ^DAmy Kearns). Being in Indiana's largest city made this one of the most viewed jaegers ever in the state. Excellent photos were obtained and left no doubt about the identification. This is the 28th record reviewed and the 24th accepted by the IBRC.

0458-LTJA-029-LAKE2012 Miller Beach, Lake Co., three birds, 10 August 2012 (^DJohn Kendall). Excellent documentation sufficiently distinguished between 3 individuals that were sighted on the same lake watch. This is the 29th record reviewed and the 25th accepted by the IBRC.

California Gull (*Larus californicus*)

* 0530-CAGU-024-LAPO2011 Michigan City Beachfront, LaPorte Co., one bird, 14 November 2011 (D-PhJohn Kendall). This is the first record of this species since 2008. It was well photographed and written documentation helped eliminate other species. This is the 24th record reviewed and the 22nd accepted by the IBRC.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)



*0800-BLSK-005-GIBS2012 Gibson Lake Splitter Dike, Gibson Co., one bird, 4 September 2012 (D-PHGary Bowman, D Amy Kearns). Excellent photos made this a very easy record for the committee. This is the fifth record reviewed by the IBRC, and fifth accepted record.

Photo by Gary Bowman

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

*1210-NECO-002-MARI2012 Eagle Creek Park, Marion Co., one bird, 7 May 2012 (DRoger Hedge, DKirk Roth, and P^hRyan Sanderson). After getting our first state record in 2011 it did not take long for more reports of this species to be submitted to the committee. The bird was seen by many observers and photos were taken. This is the 2nd record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

*1210-NECO-003-LAKE2012 Com Ed Plant, Lake Co., one bird, 11-26 April 2012 (DKirk Roth, DKen Brock, P^hAmar Ayyash and P^hJohn Cassady). It seems likely that the committee will be getting more and more records of this species to review as its range continues to expand. The photos and documentation that were submitted left no doubt as to the identification. This is the 3rd record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

*1260-BRPE-012-ORAN2012 Patoka Lake, Orange Co., one bird, 05 May 2012 (D-PhAmy Kearns). Solid written details and photos submitted. This is the 12th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

*1750-BRNG-001-JASP2012 Private Property in DeMotte, Jasper Co., one bird, 27 January 2012 (CRob Ripma and P^{-Video}Dave Vanderhall). This bird was shot by a hunter and reported to the DNR who then contacted the committee chair. An interview, video, and photos were provided by the hunter who

collected the bird. After being sent to a second round vote, the hunter was contacted for more information and the record was subsequently accepted. This is the first record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

1860-GLIB-017-LAKE2012 Grant Street Wetland, Lake Co., one bird, 7 June 2012 (^DMatt Kalwasinski, ^{D-P}Brad Bumgardner). Although a photo was submitted with the written documentations, the committee felt that it was not enough to be accepted as a verified record. It will instead be accepted as a sight record. This is the 17th record reviewed and the 13th accepted by the IBRC.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)

1990-TRHE-014-GREE2012 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co., one bird, 19 May 2012 (^DDon Gorney, ^DRyan Sanderson). Although the bird was seen in fading light and at a significant distance both observers were able to provide adequate written details about this sighting. This is the 14th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*)

2150-YEAR-010-GREE2012 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co., one bird, 22 May 2012 (^DMike Brown). All identification points needed for this species were sufficiently discussed in the written documentation. This is the 10th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

2150-YERA-011-MONT2012 Lye Creek Prairie Burn, Montgomery Co., one bird, 13 September 2012 (^DClint Murray). A very detailed description from an experience observer helped the committee accept this record. This is the 11th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

2160-BLRA-007-GREE2012 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co., one bird, 4 May 2012 (^DTravis Stoelting). A good detailed description was provided and the committee felt that it sufficiently eliminated juvenile Sora. This is the 7th record reviewed and the 6th accepted by the IBRC.

Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*)



#####-HOCR-001-GREE2012 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co, one bird, 8-11 February 2012 (^CRob Ripma, ^DKen Brock, ^DKirk Roth, ^DAmy Kearns, ^{D-Ph}Ryan Sanderson). The identity of this crane was never in question but origin most definitely was. Much research was provided by both the Nebraska and Tennessee Bird record committees. The committee felt that the arguments for this being a wild bird were far greater than those for it having escaped from captivity. This is the first record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Photo by Ryan Sanderson

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

*2340-REKN-006-GIBS2011 Cane Ridge, Gibson Co., one bird, 14 September 2012 (^{D-Ph}Amy Kearns, ^DLisa Bowman). Excellent documentation and definitive photos were provided. This is the 6th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

2440-CUSA-003-GREE2011 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co., one bird, 16 June 2011 (^DAmy Kearns, ^DNoah Kearns, ^CBrad Bumgardner). This was a tough decision for the committee but after discussion with the birders that viewed this individual during the meeting, the committee voted to accept this record. This is the 2nd record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

*2440-CUSA-004-GREE2012 Goose Pond FWA, Greene Co., one bird, 22 May 2012 (^{D-Ph}Ryan Sanderson, ^DDon Gorney, ^DRoger Hedge, ^DKirk Roth). More birds were able to see and photograph this bird than any of the previous Curlew Sandpipers seen in Indiana. The documentation provided to the committee was all exceptional. This is the 3rd record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.



**Photo by
Ryan Sanderson**

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

3270-STKI-007-HARR2012 West of Blue River on I-64, Harrison Co., one bird, 10 May 2012 (Roger Hedge). A well written description of a very distinctive species made this an easy record for the committee to evaluate. This is the 7th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

*3420-SWHA-016-PORT2012 Green Tower at Dunes State Park, Porter Co., one bird, 1 May 2012 (^DKen Brock). An extended view allowed time to get photos that confirmed the sighting gave us a rare chance to have a verified record of this species. This is the 17th record reviewed by the IBRC, and 15th accepted record.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*)

*4360-CAHU-001-JENN2011 Private Residence in Mount Vernon, Jennings Co., one bird, (^DTim Tolford). Although this individual was seen by hundreds of birders while coming to feeders, only the banders took the time to submit documentation. Although the documentation was minimal, it was enough for the committee to accept the record. This is the first record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Western Kingbird (*Corvus ossifragus*)

*4470-WEKI-023-POSE2012 Port of Indiana Southwind Maritime Center, Posey Co., one bird, 02 June 2012 (^DDan Collins, ^{Ph}Sharon Sorenson). Excellent photos and documentation were provided for this record. This is the 23rd record reviewed and the 21st accepted by the IBRC.

*4470-WEKI-024-VAND2012 Private Property, Vanderburgh Co., one bird, 8 June 2012 (^DDan Collins, ^{Ph}Evan Speck). Another individual found shortly after the previous record in an adjoining county. This record was also well documented and photographed. This is the 24th record reviewed and the 22nd accepted by the IBRC.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

*4570-SAPH-005-ELKH2012 CR32/E County Line Rd, Elkhart Co., one bird, 16 April 2012 (^DLeland Shaum). Many photos and great documentation were provided to the committee. This is the 8th record reviewed and the 7th accepted by the IBRC.

4570-SAPH-008-VIGO2011 Chinook Mine, Vigo Co., one bird, 10-11 December 2011 (^DDon Gorney, ^DSteve Housefield). Although many birders saw and photographed this bird, only 2 documentation forms and no photos were submitted. It was difficult for the committee but it could only be accepted as a sight record. This is the 9th record reviewed and the 8th accepted by the IBRC.

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*)

4900-FICR-010-PIKE2011 Pike State Forest, Pike Co., four birds, 18 May 2011 (^DAmy Kearns). The observer's description of the calls combined with her experience with the species was enough to convince the committee on this record. This is the 10th record reviewed and 8th accepted by the IBRC.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

*6070-WETA-006-LAKE2012 Private Residence, Lake Co., one bird, 11 May 2012 (^{D-Ph}Polly Bodinet). Although the description was minimalist at best, the photos were definitive. This is the 6th record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

*6180-BOWA-006-PORT2012 Porter Beach, Porter Co., 19 birds, 4-5 November 2012 (^{D-Ph}Brad Bumgardner, ^DRandy Pals). While there were many reports of this species around the same time, this was the only one that was documented. The photos and documentation were unequivocal. This is the 6th record reviewed and the 5th accepted by the IBRC.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*)

7680-MOBL-003-GREE2012 Private Property, Greene Co., one bird, 23 May 2012 (^DJohn Kendall). After getting more information from the only observer of this bird, the committee was able to make a more informed decision about this record. This is the 3rd record reviewed and accepted by the IBRC.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

0370-PAJA-001-GIBS2011 Cane Ridge, Gibson Co., one bird, 25 November 2011 (^{D-Ph}David Ayer). A description of the bird was received from one observer. The committee felt that the description was enough to identify the bird as a jaeger but not enough to identify it to species. It was accepted as a jaeger species. This is the first record reviewed by the IBRC away from the lakefront.

Brant (*Branta bernicla*)

1730-BRAN-008-MARI2012 Franklin High School, Marion Co., one bird, 11 March 2012 (^DSara Earles). Without a photo and better written documentation there was not enough provided to sufficiently eliminate other species. This is the 10th record reviewed by the IBRC.

Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)

4540-ATFL-001-WABA2011 Majenica Marsh, Wabash Co., one bird, 17 July 2001 (^{D-Ph}Eric Weaver). The committee was unable to agree on whether or not this record even represented a member of the *Myiarchus* genus and thus it was not accepted. This is the first record reviewed by the IBRC.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

6380-SWWA-008-VAND2011 Eagle Slough Nature Preserve, Vanderburgh Co., one bird, 29 September 2011 (^DSharon Sorenson). The committee felt that some similar species were not completely eliminated and that without photos this record could not be accepted. This is the 8th record reviewed by the IBRC.

CHANGES TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF INDIANA BIRDS

The significant changes made to the Official State Bird Checklist during 2012 were the addition of the Hooded Crane, Calliope Hummingbird, Barnacle Goose, and Trumpeter Swan bringing the checklist to 422 species.

INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY SUMMER BIRD COUNT 2012

Amy Kearns 562 DNR Road, Mitchell, IN 47446

The Indiana Audubon Society held its 33rd annual Summer Bird Count during June and July 2012. Weather during the count period started out mild but then escalated to severe heat and drought. Statewide, the month of June was 1.2°F above normal and precipitation was 31% of normal. There was only 1.30 total inches of rain in the state all month, making it the third driest June on record. The drought continued in July, with crop losses exceeding \$1 billion and more than half the state qualifying as a drought disaster area. Out of 31 days in July, 28 of those had above normal temperatures, with the state average 5.9°F above normal for the month. Precipitation during July was 2.45 inches total, which is about 60% of normal. Sixteen days in July had severe wind and hail (Indiana State Climate Office 2012).

There were 197 species found on this year's Summer Bird Count, which is above the mean of 191 and is the highest species total since 2004. Participation was at its highest since 2005 with 29 counties represented. Although below the 39 count average, we are happy to see the increase in participation and hope the trend continues in 2013. The number of observers (102) reached triple digits for the first time in five years and species found with breeding evidence (143) was the highest in seven years as well as slightly above average. Individual birds, party hours and party miles were all reported well below the mean (Table 1).

Adding new species to this count is difficult to do, as the count has been running since 1980. This year, two new species were added: Monk Parakeet and Glossy Ibis, both reported from *Lake*. A remarkable 6 species had new high counts for the count period (Great Egret, Semipalmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Dunlin, Least Tern and Caspian Tern). The number of reported Osprey tied the previous high count. New breeding evidence was added for Red-breasted Merganser (juveniles in *Lake*). *Tippecanoe* had the greatest diversity with an incredible 136 species reported. Eleven other counties (*Boone, Cass, Jasper, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lake, Marion, Pulaski, Ripley, and Vigo*) reported 100 species or more for the summer. Three counties bested their county's previous species high count (*Cass* 106/86, *Jasper* 125/110, and *Tippecanoe* 136/123) (Fig. 1, Table 2). The 20 most abundant species on this year's Summer Bird Count, in descending order, were: European Starling, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Canada Goose, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Common Grackle, Mallard, American Crow, House Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Great Egret, Tree Swallow, Brown-headed Cowbird, Song Sparrow, Wood Duck, and Great Blue Heron (Table 2).

Notable species with breeding evidence on this year's count were Hooded Merganser (juveniles in *Bartholomew, Lake, and Pulaski*), Red-breasted Merganser (juveniles in *Lake*), American Bittern (territory in *Ripley*), Osprey (nest in *Kosciusko*, juveniles in *LaPorte*, nestlings in *St. Joseph*), Northern Harrier (territory in *Vigo*), Bald Eagle (breeding in 11 counties), Red-shouldered Hawk (breeding in 7 counties), Broad-winged Hawk (territories in *Harrison* and *Lawrence*), Sandhill Crane (juveniles in *Jasper, Kosciusko, Laporte, and Pulaski*, territory in *Warren*), Black-necked Stilt (juveniles in *Greene*), Least Tern (eggs in *Gibson*), Barn Owl (nestlings in *Lawrence*), Peregrine Falcon (nestlings in *St. Joseph*, juveniles in *Vigo*), Alder Flycatcher (territory in *Pulaski*), Least Flycatcher (territory in *Pulaski*), Loggerhead Shrike (juveniles in *Orange*), Sedge Wren (territory in *Pulaski*), Black-and-white Warbler (territory in *Ripley*), Prothonotary Warbler (breeding in 7 counties), Blackburnian Warbler (territory in *Ripley*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (territory in *Pulaski*), Black-throated Green Warbler (territory in *Perry*), Lark Sparrow (territories in *Pulaski* and *Vigo*), and Western Meadowlark (territory in *Pulaski*) (Table 2).

Figure 1 gives current species totals and previous record counts by county. Table 2 details tallies and efforts for each county. Species with breeding evidence are designated in bold type. Codes for breeding evidence, in order of importance, are: **E, e** - Eggs seen; **Y, y** - Young at nest; **J, j** - Juvenile being attended by an adult; **N, n** - Nest contents empty or not seen; **M, m** - nesting Material being carried by adult; **F, f** - Food being carried by adult; **T, t** - adult showing signs of being Territorial or located through breeding period in suitable area. An upper-case letter indicates that the breeding evidence was noted during the count period (1 June - 31 July), while a lower-case letter indicates that it was noted outside the count period.

We would like to invite more participation next year. If you are already extensively birding an area in June and July, please consider submitting a Summer Bird Count. Compiling a Summer Bird Count should require little extra effort if a birder is already keeping track of bird numbers and observer effort. You can record birds on a paper form and mail it in, or you can use the Excel form and email your results if you prefer that method (the compiler does). The Summer Bird Count has been contributing to our knowledge of Indiana's breeding birds since 1980. We would like to see half of the counties participating each year (or 46 counts). To participate, download the data form and instructions from the Indiana Audubon Website under Activities, or email akearns@dnr.in.gov.

Acknowledgments - Thanks to all participants (Appendix 1), especially those who submitted donations to help defray costs of publishing this count.

Literature Cited

Indiana State Climate Office 2012 – www.agry.purdue.edu/climate/

Appendix 1. Summer Bird Count Participants by county during 2012 with the addresses of compilers in parentheses.

Bartholomew – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Jay Bolden, Mike Clay, Art Howard, Chuck Lunsford, Karen Lunsford.

Benton – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Boone - Roger Hedge (2605 Elizaville Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052), Cloyce Hedge, Steve Housefield.

Cass – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Landon Neumann (4100 High St., Logansport, IN 46947), Bud Dodrill.

Fulton – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Gibson - Roger Hedge (2605 Elizaville Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052), Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446), Steve Housefield.

Greene - Roger Hedge (2605 Elizaville Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052), Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446), Steve Housefield.

Harrison – Del Striegel (40 Georgetown-Lanesville Rd., Georgetown, IN 47112).

Jasper – Lynn Daugherty (9975 Arrowhead Lane, DeMotte, IN 46310), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Jon Chapman, Jeanette Jaskula, Barbara Lucas, Dan Stalbaum.

Jennings – Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Johnson – Karl Werner (209 Moccasin Court, Greenwood, IN 46142), Jay Bolden, Mike Clay, Ann Hougham, Tom Hougham, Chuck Lunsford, Karen Lunsford, Karen Wade, Mike Wade.

Kosciusko – Bruce Ruisard (418 N. Parks-Schram Rd., Warsaw, IN 46580), Luke Young.

Lake – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Matt Kalwasinski (8115 Schreiber Dr., Munster, IN 46321).

LaPorte – Elizabeth McCloskey (1602 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, IN 46350).

Lawrence – Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446), Noah Kearns.

Marion – Miles Zevin (700 N. Alabama, Apt. 1005, Indianapolis, IN 46204), Ted Lupino, Spike Selig.

Martin - Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446).

Miami - Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Newton – Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Orange - Amy Kearns (Dept. Natural Resources, 562 DNR Rd., Mitchell, IN 47446), Noah Kearns.

Perry - Noah Kearns (80 Sunset Rdg, Mitchell, IN 47446).

Pike - Roger Hedge (2605 Elizaville Rd., Lebanon, IN 46052), Steve Housefield.

Pulaski – Jon Chapman (577 N US 35, Winamac, IN 46996), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133).

Ripley- Gary Stegner (4624 S. Friendship Rd., Versailles, IN 47042).

St. Joseph – Louise Fessenden (P.O. Box 303, Notre Dame, IN 46556), Tony Baldoni, Alice Bentley, John Bentley, Trice Berkley, John Davis, Joe Doherty, Dick Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Audry Fleming, John Fleming, Laura Fuderer, Diane Hays, Wendy Jones, Ellen Lechlitner, Mike Lechlitner, Brian Miller, Scott Namestnik, Marge Riemenschneider, Vic Riemenschneider, Rick Rydzynski, Vicky Rydzynski, Bill Shephard, Nancy Shephard, Jim Spier, Joan Tweedell, Ken Tweedell.

Starke - Elizabeth McCloskey (1602 Michigan Ave., LaPorte, IN 46350).

Tippecanoe – Barny Dunning (7509 North 75 East, West Lafayette, IN 47906), Ed Hopkins (3059 Decatur Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1133), Russell Allison, Wes Homoya, Michael Retter, John Skene, Susan Ulrich.

Vigo - Mary Beth Eberwein (2414 N 7th St., Terre Haute, IN 47804), Ann Black, Bruce Black, Karen Henman, Marty Jones, Steve Lima, Brenda Milliren, Phil Milliren, Peter Scott, Stephanie Taylor.

Warren – Susan Ulrich (11907 E 500 N Otterbein, IN 47970).

2012 Birder's Lists

Chuck Mills 8600 Framewood Drive Newburgh, In 47630
ccmills@wowway.com

Many serious birders keep detailed lists of the species that they identify. They often record the species name and the location of the observation. Many keep numerous lists. For most Indiana birders the main lists kept are for the ABA, Indiana, and a county or two. Some just keep a life list others also do year lists and day lists. Some lists can be as expansive as a world list or as small as a favorite park, nearby woods, or their own backyard. This annual article is a place for birders to publicize their lists. Both life and year lists are published for World, North America, ABA, Indiana, Indiana Counties, and home property.

This year there were forty-eight people who submitted at least one list. The most popular list submitted was the Indiana Life list with thirty-eight lists being sent to the editor. The deadline for the 2013 list report will be February 1, 2014. I plan to remind all those whose emails I have and also to use INBIRD to get the word out. Several people wrote about planned birding trips in 2013. Many of their lists should show a big increase at the end of this year. Good luck to all of you in your birding endeavors.

2012 Birder's Life Lists

World

The World list is simply a compilation of the bird species seen anywhere in the world. It represents the results of birders travels all over the world. Obviously the more places a person has visited, the larger the list. The total possible on this list is around 10150. The top world lister was again Bob Walton with 8245. Bob is one of the top listers in the world. He added 143 in 2012. At the time of this writing he already had added 35 more from a trip to Brazil. Last year he birded in Thailand, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Sao Tome. He was 4th on the lists reported to ABA. He also does not include heard only birds. I bet that he could write several books about all the experiences from his travels that generated such a large list. Pam and Tim Keller are heading to Ecuador and should add to their respectable world list.

8245	Bob Walton		1283	Elvin Wilmot
3651	Larry Peavler		1190	Barny Dunning
3217	Tim Keller		975	Gordon Chastain
2487	Pam Keller		779	Roger Hedge
2120	Jim Hengeveld		775	Ed Powers
2114	Susan Hengeveld		745	Landon Neumann
2107	Marjorie Carmony		672	John Cassady
2014	Chuck Mills		409	Brad Bumgardner
1628	Geoff Williamson		358	Marietta Smith
1287	John Kendall			

North America

This list covers the region that is north of the Columbian-Panamanian border and includes the Caribbean. It is similar to the AOU list but does not include Hawaii. The top lister is Bob Walton with 1700. That represents about 87% of the possible species. He increased his total by 2. Chuck Mills went up 39 mainly from a trip to

Jamaica. To get a large North American list a birder has to be serious about birding in Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean as well as the ABA area.

1700	Bob Walton
1287	John Kendall
1265	Tim Keller
1216	Chuck Mills
1052	Pam Keller
1022	Geoff Williamson

ABA (Canada and the United States)

There is often some confusion about North American lists. The ABA list covers only the US, Canada and 2 French islands off the coast of Newfoundland. It includes Alaska but not Hawaii or Greenland. There were 969 species on last year's official ABA list. Larry Peavler with 879 is far ahead of everyone else reporting from Indiana. He was 2nd on the 2012 ABA report. He increased his list by 9 last year. He has already seen 3 more this year. Will Larry become the first person to get a 900 ABA life list? He is only 18 away. Some of the notable species that he added last year were Citrine Wagtail second North American record, Pine Bunting third NA record, and Rufous-tailed Robin fourth NA record. Ed Powers got his 700th ABA bird a Tropical Parula that he saw on the King Ranch in Texas. David Crouch wrote that his list was greatly helped with a trip to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, a weekend at Ohio's Magee Marsh, and 8 weeks in Montana and the Dakotas. Barney Dunning finally got the Sooty Grouse after 4 tries. Roger Hedge added the Black-tailed Gull.

879	Larry Peavler	636	Roger Hedge
763	Bob Walton	617	Gordon Chastain
761	Jim Hengeveld	616	Peter Scott
756	Jim Haw	615	Barney Dunning
749	Susan Hengeveld	576	Pam Keller
719	Ed Hopkins	555	Dave Reichlinger
708	Ken Brock	508	Amy Kearns
706	Peggy Harger-Allen	455	Larry Carter
705	Tim Keller	451	Landon Neumann
700	Ed Powers	447	Elvin Wilmot
692	Marjorie Carmony	358	Dave Fox
680	Chuck Mills	339	David Crouch
673	Cynthia Powers	333	David Ayer
663	John Cassady	330	Leland Shaun
659	Geoff Williamson	311	Marietta Smith
644	John Kendall	277	Matt Kalwasinski
640	Sam Plew		

Indiana

Tim Keller increased his list by 1 but Ed Hopkins added 4 and moved into a tie for the lead with Tim at 384. There were 38 people who reported Indiana lists. The rarities continue to surge into Indiana and I am becoming more convinced that a 400 species list is a real possibility. There are 422 species on the official Indiana list with 3 being considered extinct and 3 extirpated. So there are 416 possible. Amy Kerns added 13 to her state list. She added 5 species in one day on the lakefront. Barney Dunning added 5 species and is getting very close to 300. Additions that were mentioned by several birders were Curlew Sandpiper, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Varied Thrush, White-winged Crossbill, and Townsend's Solitaire. Next year many of you will be able to add the Hooded Crane to your lists since it was approved by the IBRC. Also approved last year was Barnacle Goose and Trumpeter Swan.

384	Ed Hopkins		308	Cynthia Powers
384	Tim Keller		307	Peter Scott
382	Ken Brock		304	Peggy Harger-Allen
372	Larry Peavler		303	Bob Walton
370	Jim Haw		302	Gordon Chastain
368	John Cassady		300	Noah Kearns
366	Peter Grube		298	Elvin Wilmot
365	Don Gorney		298	Barny Dunning
357	John Kendall		298	Sam Plew
355	Jim Hengeveld		296	David Ayer
349	Roger Hedge		296	Dave Reichlinger
346	Ed Powers		295	Bob Decker
345	Susan Hengeveld		294	Even Speck
343	Chuck Mills		283	Larry Carter
335	Pam Keller		274	Casey Zillman
322	Lou Anne Barriger		273	Landon Neumann
315	Brad Bumgardner		273	Geoff Williamson
315	Amy Kearns		263	Marietta Smith
310	Leland Shaun		247	Matt Kalwasinski
309	Marjorie Carmony		229	Dave Fox

Indiana Counties

There were reports from 33 Indiana counties this year. This is up from the 32 reported last year. It is my hope to report lists from all 96 Indiana counties next year. The county with the most reported lists was Porter with 7. Porter was closely followed by Gibson County and Lake County with 5 reports each. The county list is a more restricted list. The list is limited to species seen in one Indiana County. Some counties are blessed with a wide variety of habitat such as Gibson County, Green County, or all of the counties along the lake front. Some in the great corn desert mostly have farm fields with little opportunity for a diversity of species. The top list is 320 by Chuck Mills for Gibson County. The second place list is Ken Brock's 313 from both Lake County and Porter County. There were only 2 other 300 plus lists. What continues to amazing me is the number of people who have large lists from numerous

counties. Jim Haw again led with the most counties reported with 12. This is very impressive. Ed Powers reported lists for 9 counties

County		Birder		County		Birder
Allen	291	Jim Haw		Marion	287	Larry Peavler
	268	Ed Powers			249	Don Gorney
	259	Dave Reichlinger			249	Gordon Chastain
Boone	253	Roger Hedge				
				Monroe	296	Jim Hengeveld
Brown	277	Jim Hengeveld			200	Amy Kerns
Cass	210	Landon Neumann		Newton	223	Jim Haw
					168	Ed Powers
Davis	54	Terry Wise				
				Noble	203	Jim Haw
Elkhart	249	Leland Shaun			171	Dave Reichlinger
	233	John Cassady				
				Orange	203	Amy Kearns
Gibson	320	Chuck Mills				
	258	Marietta Smith		Porter	313	Ken Brock
	228	Evan Speck			298	John Kendall
	216	Amy Kerns			296	John Cassady
	215	David Ayer			257	Jim Haw
					232	Ed Powers
Greene	248	Jim Hengeveld			264	Brad Bumgardner
	239	Amy Kearns			117	Matt Kalwasinski
	174	Evan Speck				
				Monroe	296	Jim Hengeveld
Henry	171	Jim Haw			200	Amy Kerns
				Randolph	200	Larry Carter
Huntington	251	Jim Haw				
	182	Ed Powers		Rush	162	Marjorie Carmony
Kosciusko	181	Jim Haw		St Joseph	214	John Cassady
					183	Casey Zillman
LaGrange	243	Jim Haw		Spencer	253	David Ayer
	228	Leland Shaum				
	166	Ed Powers		Steuben	242	Jim Haw
					171	Ed Powers
Lake	313	Ken Brock			153	Dave Reichlinger
	312	John Cassady				

	302	John Kendall		Tipton	162	Elvin Wilmot
	252	Ed Powers				
	248	Jim Haw		Union	263	Bill Buskirk
	190	Matt Kalwasinski				
				Vanderburgh	188	Evan Speck
La Porte	299	Ken Brock				
	282	John Cassady		Wabash	261	Jim Haw
	254	Jim Haw			209	Ed Powers
	198	Ed Powers			153	Dave Reichlinger
Lawrence	197	Amy Kearns		Warrick	223	Chuck Mills
					218	Evan Speck
					135	David Ayer
				Vigo	250	Peter Scott

Property Lists

The property list covers all species seen while standing on your land of your homestead. This can be as small as the balcony of an apartment or as large as several hundred acres. The size and length of time birding you place greatly affect the possibilities. Amy and Noah Kerns added 20 to their list. Jim and Susan Hengeveld have one of the largest property lists in the United State. They were able to add one last year.

256	Jim and Susan Hengeveld
161	Leland Shaum
161	Charles and Susan Sorenson
160	Marietta Smith
159	Marjorie Carmony
127	David Ayer
127	Amy and Noah Kearns
126	Chuck Mills
149	Peter Scott
49	Terry Wise

2012 Birder's Year Lists

World Year List

Five people reported world year lists. John Kendall went to Costa Rica where he saw 469 species.

703	John Kendall
585	Landon Neumann
515	Chuck Mills
478	Bill Buskirk
164	Elvin Wilmot

ABA Year Lists

In most years the ABA reports some lists that are near or even above 700. A big ABA year for an Indiana birder involves not only birding heavy in Indiana but also going to south Texas, south Florida, southeast Arizona, maybe Alaska, and doing several pelagic trips. All this would have to be done in one year. To even get over 400 involves some serious birding. As an example, Evan Speck got his 418 species by birding Indiana, South Texas, Arizona, South Carolina, Cape May New Jersey, and Delaware.

425	Jim Hengeveld		355	Chuck Mills
424	Susan Hengeveld		320	Amy Kearns
418	Evan Speck		293	Lynn Daughtery
388	Sam Plew		229	Matt Kalwasinski
344	John Kendall		133	Elvin Wilmot

Indiana Year Lists

Twenty Indiana year lists were submitted. Ed Hopkins had the largest with 307. He was only 5 species below John Kendall's record of 312 which was done a few years ago. To work on an Indiana Big Year a birder must bird both the Lake front and southwestern Indiana. They must spend a lot of time at Miller Beach, Kankakee Sands, Eagle Creek, Goose Pond, Cane Ridge and other bird magnet areas. They must be willing and able to drop everything and race to the location of a species that they have not seen yet this year. INBIRD is a great resource for any Big Year birders. Any list over 250 for a year in Indiana is very impressive.

307	Ed Hopkins		251	Susan Hengeveld
291	John Kendall		250	Jim Hengeveld
291	Kirk Roth		244	Evan Speck
285	Ken Brock		222	Chuck Mills
284	John Cassady		221	Matt Kalwasinski
275	Amy Kearns		215	David Crouch
271	Leland Shaun		205	Casey Zillman
266	Brad Bumgardner		200	David Ayer
262	Bob Decker		174	Mike Clay
260	Sam Plew		103	Elvin Wilmot
258	Peter Scott			

Indiana County Year Lists

There were 14 county year lists reported. John Kendall had the top one with 248 for Lake County. He also had second place with 246 from Porter. Amy Kearns reported lists for 5 counties.

County		Birder		County		Birder
Cass	184	Landon Neumann		Monroe	71	Amy Kearns
Gibson	198	Evan Speck		Orange	166	Amy Kearns
	171	Chuck Mills				
	166	Amy Kearns		Porter	246	John Kendall
					244	Brad Bumgardner
Greene	197	Amy Kearns				
				St Joseph	151	Casey Zillman
Jasper	149	Lynn Daugherty				
				Tipton	54	Elvin Wilmot
Lake	248	John Kendall				
				Vanderburgh	168	Evan Speck
Lawrence	162	Amy Kearns				
				Warrick	198	Evan Speck
Marion	171	Don Gorney			121	Chuck Mills

Other Lists

While Amy Kearns was pregnant with her first child she kept a pregnant bird list. It was 328 species ABA when June was born. She was able to observe these during a 9 month period of time. She was able to bird Minnesota, Ohio, and Florida in addition to Indiana during her pregnancy.

John Kendall has photographed 320 species in Indiana.

Jim and Susan Hengeveld saw 175 species on their property last year. Amy Kearns observed 112 on her property. Chuck Mills had 90 species on his 100 by 200 foot wooded lot of which 22 were warblers.

The IAS 2013 Puerto Rican Birding Adventure

Eleven members of the Indiana Audubon Society joined tour host Chuck Mills and local guide Gabriel Lugo for a six day birding trip to Puerto Rico sponsored by the IAS. The trip started February 28th and concluded on March 5th. Indiana has no endemic bird species. Puerto Rico on the other hand has 17 and Puerto Rico has a land area that is only 10% that of Indiana. Puerto Rico also has mountainous forests, rain forests, dry forests, tropical seas, mangrove swamps, and salt flats. The north side of the island is wet and rainy. The southwest is very dry and in many ways resembles the western United States. A total of 114 species were observed during the trip. Only 14 of the 17 endemic species were seen well by all of the participants. The very rare Puerto Rican Nightjar and the Puerto Rican Screech Owl were heard only. The Green Mango a Puerto Rican endemic Hummingbird was seen poorly by only a few people and was the big miss since the species is not considered to be rare.



The big find was probably the Puerto Rican Parrot which is critically endangered and has fewer than 100 individuals in the wild. There is a captive breeding and release program located in the mountains of central Puerto Rico at Bosque de Rio Abajo in Utuado. We were able to stand on a road near this facility to search for the few truly wild parrots. After about an hour of waiting Gabriel was able to spot an unbanded and therefore wild bird in a tree about 50 feet above us. We also were able to get excellent looks at the Elfin-woods Warbler in the Maricao State Forest. Isn't that a cool name for a bird? This bird exists in only a few of the higher mountains in rain forest habitat. It was only discovered as a separate species in 1978.

There are numerous Caribbean endemic species in Puerto Rico. We were able to see about 15 of them such as Scaly-naped Pigeon, Green-throated Carib (a type of hummingbird), Loggerhead Kingbird, and Caribbean Martin. There are also several introduced bird species. Some of them have been in PR for a long time. One of the most notable of these is the Venezuelan Troupial, which has been in Puerto Rico for some time. Some of the introduced species from Africa probably came over as early as the fifteen hundreds. We were able to see about 10 of the introduced species. Some of these were Monk Parakeet and Bronze manikin. We saw numerous Indiana migratory birds on their wintering ground such as Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warblers, Northern Parula, American Redstart, both yellowlegs, and Spotted Sandpiper. Some of you may have searched South Florida for White-Crowned Pigeon, Black-Whiskered Vireo and Mangrove Cuckoo. These three are hard to see in Florida but seem to be far less shy in Puerto Rico and we were able to get excellent looks at all three.



All of the important birding habitats in Puerto Rico were visited. Even on the first day, the arrival day, we spent about 2 hours in the field at a location close to the airport called Piñones. We birded both a lagoon in a mangrove swamp and the beach. Everybody started the trip off with a slew of lifers. Other places visited were Laguna Tortuguero, Camuy Ponds, Rio Abajo, Maricao, Cabo Rojo salt flats, Cartegena, Guanica Dry Forest, Fajardo, and El Yunque Rain Forest.

We saw a Cuban Martin at Piñones which was one of only a few records for this species in Puerto Rico. We were treated to excellent looks at the Caribbean Flamingo which has

hung out at the Camuy ponds for several years. Until recently it was the only one in Puerto Rico. We saw the Caribbean races of both the Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Broad-winged hawk. Both are non migratory and look different from the ones that we have in Indiana. The very rare and endangered Plain Pigeon was spotted in a tall tree near a baseball field.

The species that seemed to invoke the most excitement was the White-tailed Tropicbird, which was seen in a rocky area on the north coast near Arecibo. We could view it sometimes as close as 30 feet. Other popular birds were Masked Duck, White-crowned Pigeon, Puerto-Rican Lizard Cuckoo, Red-legged Thrush, and Pearly-eyed Thrasher. The close-up looks at the Caribbean endemic Antillean Crested Hummingbird caused everyone great pleasure. Even though we saw several Puerto Rican Todys (a small green bird with a red throat related to Kingfishers) no one ever said that's it's just another Tody.



Everybody added many species to their life lists. Rick Read who has never birded out of the 48 states added 48 lifers. Brad Bumgardner who has been twice to Cuba added 37 to his list from this trip to Puerto Rico. Elvin Wilmot had 34 new species. Puerto Rico is only about 2000 miles southeast of Indiana. Because it is a part of the United States no passport is needed for travel there. It has never snowed in Puerto Rico. Most of the birders left the warm green mountains and blue seas of Puerto Rico and returned to a major snow storm in Indiana. Welcome home!

The trip was full of great birding experiences, great food, and excellent sunny days. There was no rain until the birding was over.



From the left Tom Becker, Jim Starin, Penny Starin, Mary Fox, Chuck Mill, LaVerne Wilmot, kneeling and holding a Birds of Puerto Rico guide Elvin Wilmot, guide Gabriel Lugo, Colleen Becker, Sally Routh, Brad Bumgardner, Debbie Read, Rick Read. They are smiling because they just saw several Masked Ducks. Picture by Rick Read.

30 Dec 2012 Michael Brown

