



**INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY**  
**VOL. 91, NO. 3 AUGUST 2013**

**INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.**

**Founded 1898**

**Incorporated 1939**

**OFFICERS**

President.....	Brad Bumgardner	<a href="mailto:bbumgardner@dnr.in.gov">bbumgardner@dnr.in.gov</a>
Past President.....	Amy Wilms	<a href="mailto:wilmsab@muohio.edu">wilmsab@muohio.edu</a>
Secretary.....	Carl Wilms	<a href="mailto:wilmsce@muohio.edu">wilmsce@muohio.edu</a>
Treasurer.....	Sally Routh	<a href="mailto:mcana2@earthlink.com">mcana2@earthlink.com</a>
Editor Quarterly (Director).....	John Kendall	<a href="mailto:jeffro595@yahoo.com">jeffro595@yahoo.com</a>
Editor Cardinal (Director).....	Scott Arvin	<a href="mailto:arvinmac@yahoo.com">arvinmac@yahoo.com</a>
Webmaster (Director).....	Dick Patterson	<a href="mailto:rpatters@math.iupui.edu">rpatters@math.iupui.edu</a>

**DIRECTORS**

<b>Term Expires 2013</b>	<b>Term Expires 2014</b>	<b>Term Expires 2015</b>
Bill Cummings	Jeff Canada	Chuck Mills
Ted Meyer	Steve Sass	Chad Williams
Karl Henman	John Velasquez	Alan Bruner

**FIELD NOTE/COUNT EDITORS/BIRD RECORDS CHAIR**

Field Note Editor (Spring).....	Open	
Field Note Editor (Summer).....	David Ayer	<a href="mailto:dayerd@yahoo.com">dayerd@yahoo.com</a>
Field Note Editor (Fall).....	Brad Bumgardner	<a href="mailto:bbumgardner@dnr.in.gov">bbumgardner@dnr.in.gov</a>
Field Note Editor (Winter).....	Rob Ripma	<a href="mailto:robert.ripma@yahoo.com">robert.ripma@yahoo.com</a>
May Bird Count and Final Edit Editor.....	Jay Bolden	<a href="mailto:jay_bolden@hotmail.com">jay_bolden@hotmail.com</a>
Summer Bird Count Editor.....	Amy Kearns	<a href="mailto:akearns@dnr.in.gov">akearns@dnr.in.gov</a>
Winter Feeder Count Editor.....	John Castrale	<a href="mailto:jcastrale@dnr.in.gov">jcastrale@dnr.in.gov</a>
Christmas Count Editors.....	Gary & Lisa Bowman	<a href="mailto:otus44@sbcglobal.net">otus44@sbcglobal.net</a>
Indiana Bird Records Committee.....	Rob Ripma	<a href="mailto:robert.ripma@yahoo.com">robert.ripma@yahoo.com</a>

**TRUSTEES OF THE MARY GRAY/DEVELOPMENT ENDOWMENT FUNDS**

Rob Ripma	Sally Routh	Margaret Schwarz
-----------	-------------	------------------

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Sally Routh (Chairperson) [membership@indianaaudubon.org](mailto:membership@indianaaudubon.org)

**PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY (LIVING)**

Susanna Arvin	Ted Heemstra	Sallie Potter
John F. Branham	Karen Henman	Thomas Potter
Thomas Brinduse	Edward Hopkins	Marge Riemenschneider
Alan W. Bruner	Kathleen Hoover	Paul Steffen
Gerald Dryer	Rebecca Lewis	Francis Van Huffel
	Jane Miller	Carl Wilms
	Dr. Russell Mumford	Amy Wilms

**INDIANA AUDUBON QUARTERLY**  
 (Formerly the Indiana Audubon Society Yearbook)  
 Published in February, May, August and November by  
 The Indiana Audubon Society, Inc.  
*Editor's Address: 2054 Heritage Ct., Valparaiso, IN 46385*  
*Email: [jeffro595@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffro595@yahoo.com)*  
 Visit our website at <http://www.indianaaudubon.org/>

**Vol. 91, No. 3**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**August 2013**

Letter from the Editor.....	51
The Birds of North Twin Benjamin Miller.....	53
Spotted Redshank...Lighting Strikes Twice/The Spotted Redshank in Goose Pond FWA Context Kirk Roth & Lee Sterrenburg.....	55
Spring 2013 Field Notes John Kendall.....	65
Indiana Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count-2012-13 Gary and Lisa Bowman.....	74
Indiana Winter Bird Feer Count – 2012-2013 John Castrale.....	91

Cover photo: Alternate plumaged, continental Mega-rarity Spotted Redshank, 6 May, Field E, Goose Pond *Greene*, Originally discovered in basic plumage March 29 by Kirk Roth. Photo by Marty Jones

Back cover photo: Vagrant Rock Wren, 17 May 2013, Miller farm near Howe, *Lagrange* Second Indiana record. Found by Benjamin and John Allen Miller. Photo by Marty Jones

**CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE INDIANA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Life Membership	\$675.00	Individual	\$30.00
Cardinal Club	\$100.00	Library (subscription only)	\$30.00
Contributing	\$50.00	Student (full-time only)	\$20.00
Family	\$35.00	Single issues	\$6.00

Membership fees may be sent to: Sally Routh, 12284 Daugherty Dr., Zionsville Indiana

## Letter from the Editor

There are many ways to enjoying nature and birding. IAQ aims to present you with as broad a stroke as possible. We are compelled to celebrate birding again in this issue. Evidenced by hard work, we find that once in a lifetime sightings may not be wholly “accidental”. There is a subtlety of the odd field mark and a process that entails discipline and patience to sort and distill each bird down to a species. Was it bright legs or a Yellowlegs that appears slightly larger? Was there something peculiar about a “little brown job” flying about the farmyard? This spring season did not disappoint, with two outstanding, well-documented rarities. It is only fitting that photographers were able to capture both Spotted Redshank and Rock Wren for IAQ covers. Thanks to these birders and to others for their hospitality with visitors to Goose Pond and LaGrange County. Birders were able to enjoy two great rarities, other interesting species and socialization from within and outside Indiana.

With permission, we also present in this issue fine articles written by 16-year old Benjamin (Rock Wren) Miller and Kirk (Spotted Redshank) Roth. Thanks also go to several children who contributed the excellent bird sketches in Benjamin’s article, *The Birds of North Twin*.

Gary and Lisa Bowman provide yet another fascinating account of a record Christmas Bird Count for 2012, adding yet another 3 new species to the all-time list and a record 158 species. John Castrale contributes yet another fine Winter Feeder Count report.



The NRCS, DNR and Goose Pond staffs yield positive developments regarding wetland/grassland bird conservation. These are tempered with some not so good news. While photographing and rescuing back to its gourd a personal first cross-billed Purple Martin (inset), I came across a May article in *Birding* about a dramatic decline in the ABA Bird of the Year; Common Nighthawk. This population crash also includes its many aerial insectivores. It is sadly common these days to be in a small town in this state in mid-summer and to not hear the Nighthawk and Chimney Swift calling above the streets. The article goes on to detail losses (Breeding Bird Atlases) of these “common” aerial cohorts; Nightjars, Swifts, Flycatchers, Swallows and including even those largely dependent human-assisted breeding site efforts; Purple Martins. Something is possibly creating a drop in the populations of large insects that these Neotropical migrants depend on. Most importantly, the article is instructive on how we can help—breeding bird data from our members is invaluable to document and help drive conclusions that may eventually uncover missing links in their mysterious plight. Members are encouraged to go online and download the Summer Bird Count information or participate in Breeding Bird survey counts to help scientists better understand the mysterious downward spiral of these species.

On a final note, IAQ is trying to integrate more information from various sources into this journal, including ABA and for the first time, e-Bird data references into the IAQ. The IAQ staff hopes that this tool is helpful and informative. We welcome new ideas. There will be more to come as we hope to learn to provide meaningful data and charts to illustrate trends in this state.



# WATCHING THE BIRDS



## The Birds of North Twin

By

J Benjamin Miller, Age 16, Birding Enthusiast  
North Twin Lake, Howe, Indiana

The juncos and tree sparrows are being replaced with migrants such as House and Winter Wrens, Brown Thrashers, swallows, Fox, Chipping, and Vesper Sparrows, both kinglets, sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, and more that are coming in all the time.

This is mid-April and most of the ducks have left local lakes and ponds. Late stragglers remain such as the Ring-necked Ducks, and the Common Loons are nearing their migration peak. The nesters are also here such as the one Pied-billed Grebe I'm seeing now – no, there are two, another just surfaced.

I'm sitting at the edge of North Twin Lake with my big brown *Northerner* boots dangling in the water. The Wood Ducks, with twigs in their beaks, are already entering nest boxes. Mallards, Canada Geese, and the two domestic ducks (there are only two now because a Bald Eagle ate one for lunch) are feasting on cracked corn thrown out for them. An wings slightly bent at the wrist, or elbow, of the wing terrorizes the bass lurking in the mud bottom. A Belted Kingfisher rattles dryly above my head; a female because of the orange belt. The two loons yodel occasionally and Buffleheads and a few Scaup decorate the south shore. Tree and Barn Swallows hawk for insects above the water and sometimes scrape the waves while a coot bobs in the shallows. Other than that, everything is pretty dead except for the black-headed Bonaparte's Gull swimming far out. The Red-breasted Mergansers might be back again to nest like in past years, but I cannot find them anywhere.

Things were quite opposite on March 29 which I consider the peak this year for the waterfowl on North Twin. We had around seventeen waterfowl species on that day. Several Hooded Mergansers boomed out their 'song' in the morning and Common Goldeneyes with whistling wings dashed from end to end. I made out three black-reared Gadwalls while at the same time trying to focus on several pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers further

out. Screeching Wood Ducks winged in and out occasionally. Hidden from view, Green-winged Teals chirped and dabbled scarcely thirty feet away. Investigation revealed an American Wigeon, the former Baldpate, with them. A pair of Blue-winged Teals joined a hundred and fifty cawing and twittering Ring-neckeds and Lesser Scaup, but soon left, apparently irked at all the diving going on. Pied-billed Grebes submarined around and a dozen Tundra Swans flew over. I watched with awe as two female Common Mergansers about 15 yards away helped each other devour

Osprey with

"Black Duck"



by Ryan Yoder, Grade 4  
Crystal Springs School  
Middlebury, Indiana

"Common Loon"



by Lavon Graber, Grade 3  
Little Acorn School, LaGrange, Indiana

"Canvasback"



by Jonathan Wayne Wickey, Grade 4  
Indian Trail School, Howe, Indiana

"Mallard"



by Dale Lamar Slabaugh  
Grade 4, Pine Grove School  
Etna Green, Indiana

"Taking Flight"



by Jay Dee Schrock, Grade 7  
Creekside School, LaGrange, Indiana

a bluegill with their serrated beaks. A flock of Buffleheads decided to change their location and with black and white wings flashing and red feet gleaming, they landed basically at my toes and spewed water in every direction.

Two years ago I had never dreamed that these things existed so close to me, unnoticed, but now I sit here, awestruck. What about you? What experiences did..... Oops, my feet are soaked. My boots leak. I better go change my socks before they start stinking again. Signing off with a quack and a rush of wings.

*The Birds of North Twin* and its accompanying artwork was originally printed in *School Echoes* magazine, May, 2013.

Permission is granted to Indiana Audubon Society to reprint any or all of the material in the Audubon Society's newsletter.

Permission granted by the author, Benjamin Miller, and *School Echoes Publication*, 6425N 100W, Howe, IN 46746. Phone: 260-562-2155 voicemail ext. 4.

## Lightning Strikes (twice)-Finding the Spotted Redshank by Kirk Roth

On Thursday, March 28, I had field work to accomplish in Greene County, but not until the late afternoon. I had most of the morning to myself, so I figured that Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area would be a great way to spend it. I'd look for shorebirds for a couple of hours and have plenty of time to make my way to work. I was working on an Indiana Big Year, so I needed to squeeze in all the birding I could around a demanding job in environmental consulting. Just a quick peek at some flooded fields, then I'd be on my way, right? I recall being quite excited – I might get my first Black-necked Stilt of the year!

Goose Pond isn't a quick trip from my house on the north side of Indianapolis, so I didn't arrive until a bit after 10 am. Field E was my first stop, because good shorebirds had been reported there from the day before, including my target the stilt. Sure enough, a single Black-necked Stilt was foraging in the distance, plain as day and easy to see. Check! Target achieved, I did a scan of the field to see what other shorebirds may be lurking in the flooded field. The sweep revealed some yellowlegs of both species and Pectoral Sandpiper. Just after completing the scan, another small group of yellowlegs flew in, so I thought I might as well check them out too. It really draws your attention when you see one with orange legs!

My first thought was to the Spotted Redshank illustration in the *National Geographic Guide*, a book I had practically grown up with and continue to flip through constantly. However, the next thought was of a different publication – Kenn Kaufman's *Kingbird Highway*. In it, Kenn recounts a cautionary tale of a redshank chase across the country to the east coast in which he was surprised to be the only person who showed up to see it. It turned out that his bird was not a redshank at all, but rather a yellowlegs with the unfortunate luck to be discolored by oil. Before announcing this bird's presence, I had to be certain that it wasn't an aberrant yellowlegs!

Fortunately for me, the lighting was good and the bird was patient enough for some study. The next thing I noticed was red in the base of the bill, and this is when I got really excited. I checked field marks against the *Sibley Guide*, and a wide supercilium, spotting on the secondaries, and lighter overall color



Figure 1. The first Spotted Redshank Photo Pond 28 March 2013. Photo by Ben Cvengros

than yellowlegs were one-by-one confirmed. I also noted that the size was between the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, which were politely standing by for good comparison. Yes, I was convinced! Now it was time to make the call. Just as importantly, I had to get someone to document it. My camera is too modest for "shorebird distances," so I would need at least a witness to assure other birders that this wasn't just a tall tale.

Just as I was fumbling for my phone, a truck slowed hesitantly down the road. The driver, Steve Cvengros, later told me that he was worried about disturbing my birding; nothing

could be further from the truth! Especially after I discovered that his son, Ben, had a camera with a lens the size of my arm. I think my part of the conversation went, “Are you a birder? I need you to see something!” This counts as a “hello” in our world.

I got Ben on the Redshank through my scope and got him to confirm the field marks – to make sure I wasn’t hallucinating. After he, too, was convinced of the bird’s identity, Ben went about getting the first pictures of a Spotted Redshank in Indiana. I should mention here that Ben Cvengros is not only a great photographer, but showed terrific “photographer’s manners,” keeping an appropriate distance from all the birds (not just his target) and being certain that I was comfortable with his actions before he made any moves at all. As lucky as I was to see the redshank, I was doubly fortunate to have Ben and his dad pop in at the time they did.

Keep in mind that all of the events described above occurred within 10-15 minutes. I was still wound-up when I called Lee Sterrenburg, the “keeper” of Goose Pond and its birds. Being the birder I see at Goose Pond the most, I thought he could be nearby. He soon contradicted my logic when he admitted to being in Huntington, watching the Green-tailed Towhee that had been spending the winter! After a brief and excited description for the distant Lee, I knew that the IN-Bird listserve was my surest bet to get local birders here fast. So I promptly fired off a sloppy and typo-rich email to compose what probably amounts to one of the more ungraceful announcements of a new state-bird in Indiana.



**Figure 2. Inconspicuous Redshank (3rd from left) Lesser Yellowlegs 28 March 2013. Photo by Ryan Sanderson**

Fortunately, more eloquent birders eventually arrived to view the Spotted Redshank and widely post details about it. First they came from local birders, then folks from around the state, then from farther afield. By the time I had to rip myself away to go to work, I was getting calls and emails from Bloomington and Indianapolis. When I returned later in the evening, there were a line of birders all along Field E, with stories of many others which had come and gone while I was at work. During the four-day surge, Lee Sterrenburg, estimated that over 500 birders had seen the Redshank. I had found rare birds before, but never one that generated this much attention. The bird's presence was published everywhere from private blogs to the Greene County Daily World. Ryan Sanderson's photo of the bird recently appeared in the ABA's *Birding* magazine.



Figure 3. View along CR 400 S, Saturday 30 March 2013. Photo by Michael Brown



Figure 4. 29 March 2013-Basic Plumage. Photo by Michael Brown

Goose Pond had become an epicenter of birding activity, and besides the thrill of a mega-rarity lurking the marshes, it was just plain fun to have that many birders in one place. I returned on the evenings that I had free, not only for birding but also to see people. As the redshank got more attention, so did I, and “the Redshank guy” was often asked to recount the story of finding the bird or to give out tips about location and ID. I got to see old friends and meet plenty of new people along the way. I eventually met

birders from Pennsylvania and California as well as all around the Midwest. It is certainly the mark of a good bird when people travel such distance to see it, but I also enjoyed seeing the “repeat” local birders present on multiple days. I knew that, like me, they wanted to take in the Spotted Redshank while they had the chance. Rarities like this come on a limited time basis.

Or so we all thought. Nearly a month later, on 30 April, I was at Goose Pond again, looking for a White-faced Ibis that had recently been reported. I had poked around in several promising units without success when I headed toward Field E and noticed a small group of birders. Scopes pointed in the same direction, it looked like a good sign! Sure enough, there was the ibis foraging in plain view and dwarfing the nearby shorebirds. After some satisfying scope views of the feeding ibis, I thought I’d scope the shorebirds, even though I didn’t expect anything vastly different than what I’d been seeing all day. Until I saw the black one.

“Hey guys, did you notice this black shorebird? I think it’s the redshank again.” Their understandable disbelief gave way to amazement as good scope views were obtained by all. Despite some backlighting, it soon became clear that this tall shorebird, again amongst the yellowlegs, was the Spotted Redshank – this time in velvet-black alternate plumage! Views were good enough to notice the white eyelids as it blinked. Not only had the entire body darkened to a sooty black, but so had those orange legs gotten duskier. The tiny white spots which give the species its name stood out like stars in the night. But no matter, when you see the Spotted Redshank in its breeding plumage, mistaking it is impossible. Although I suppose that overlooking it is possible when there is a big, rare ibis on the other side of the field!

I repeated the notification exercise – call Lee Sterrenburg, then post on the internet. This time, I was a lot less shaky in my call to Lee (“Hey Lee, remember how you wished you could see the redshank in alternate plumage?”). I couldn’t have asked for better luck. A photographer asked whether I have the habit of keeping redshanks in my pocket. I’d like to take this opportunity to assert that no, I do not have a Spotted Redshank farm nor some scheme to introduce this species to the Midwest.



**Figure 5. “The black shorebird” 6 May 2013 in now famous Field E. Photo by Marty Jones**

I had less free time to linger around at this second sighting (after all, May migration was just starting!), but I was still able to meet some excellent birders who were drawn in from places like Texas, New Jersey, and Maine. Despite the new and bold plumage, the redshank was surprisingly cryptic this time around and must have discovered some excellent hiding spots. My last search for the bird was an unsuccessful day-long excursion along every visible shorebird spot I knew of. The redshank certainly knew the ins and outs of Goose Pond better than I did.

It is unfortunate that fewer birders were able to see the Spotted Redshank in its alternate plumage. However, I still think we were all incredibly lucky that this rare bird, which has no

particular interest in visiting Indiana, let alone being seen by hundreds of large gawking mammals, was able to bring so much joy and excitement to us.

My guess is that the redshank stayed hidden somewhere in the vast marshes of Goose Pond while it was waiting to molt. Changing all the feathers is a great energy expenditure, and a bird would certainly be better off waiting before embarking on a journey that could be thousands of miles. However, I would expect that Goose Pond would make an excellent stopover for this rare bird. During both occasions described above, I saw the redshank pull up some very large earthworms on multiple occasions. Despite being so far away from its normal range, the bird appeared healthy and active, except for the occasional one-legged snooze. During its month-long sighting hiatus, it must have had plenty of available hiding spots in the over 8,000 acres of habitat.

I must admit that I have enjoyed the “fame” that has come along with discovering the Spotted Redshank. I’ve logged a lot of travel for my Big Year (Spotted Redshank = species 150), and I’ve found that I’m much better recognized all over the state during the “post-redshank era.” Even several months after the sighting, I have had new birding acquaintances exclaim, “So you’re the guy who found the redshank!” This is all much to the chagrin of my poor wife, who has diagnosed me with the chronic disease: inflated ego. But in my defense, I am quick to point out that it was the bird that did all the hard work; I was only at the right place and time. The most common question I hear about the Spotted Redshank is how I found it; in fact, John Kendall asked me that very question to spur the article above. But believe me, there is no great secret to finding rare birds. The lesson the redshank teaches is a simple one: Check every bird you can. That next rarity might be hiding in plain sight and you won’t want to overlook it!



p.s. I encourage everyone to read an excerpt from Kenn Kaufman’s *Kingbird Highway*, in which he details the story of his own ill-fated chase for a Spotted Redshank and lessons learned along the way: <http://mag.audubon.org/articles/birds/spots-eyes>

**Figure 6. Family outing to see the Spotted Redshank, 30 March 2013. Photo by Lee Sterrenburg**

## Perspectives - Part II The Spotted Redshank in Goose Pond FWA Context

By Lee Sterrenburg

I am providing some additional details on the birders who came to see the Spotted Redshank. My comments also discuss the importance of the Spotted Redshank record for Goose Pond FWA. As Kirk notes, I was up in Huntington on the morning of March 28, 2013, along with Amy Kearns and Dawn Hewitt, when his call about the Redshank came in. We had gone for the comparatively more mundane but still very good Green-tailed Towhee. Once Kirk described the Spotted Redshank over the phone, “excitement” would probably be too mild a word to capture our mood. We saw the Towhee well after an hour vigil. We hustled back to Bloomington. Amy and I got our vehicles, and we drove over to Goose Pond FWA in Greene County.

Amy arrived at Field E at Goose Pond FWA in late afternoon on the 28th. I got there in early evening. A wave of birders had already come and gone by the time we got there. Perhaps several waves came. Don Gorney reported in a posting at 3:58 PM that a large number of birders were viewing the Redshank. For an article by Dawn in the Bloomington *Herald Times* Don estimated that some 40 birders were present while he was there. Around 20 birders were there when I arrived in the evening, many or most of them new arrivals. I stayed until the end. I wrote in my last posting of the day. “The Spotted Redshank remained in Goose Pond FWA, Greene County Indiana, Field E this evening (March 28) until 8:30 PM at 22 minutes after sunset. It took off with 59 Lesser Yellowlegs and presumably went to a night roost elsewhere on the property.” The prospects looked good for the next day. And eventually they were.

Word was out. Spotted Redshank was a mega rarity. People were coming from near and far. The wider social media kicked into gear in ways that could not have been possible in decades past. Notices appeared on the in-bird-1 Indiana birding listserv, the American Birding Association Rare Bird Facebook, the regular American Birding Association blog, and the North American Rare Bird Alert. The in-bird-1 notices and updates appeared on many secondary and linking sites as well. There were updates and “likes” and shares on individual Facebook sites. Ryan Sanderson, Kirk, and I, and others did frequent updates. The huge electronic media attention helped to make the Redshank into a major and national birding event.



Figure 1. A phalanx of birders at GP 30 March 2013. Photo by Lee Sterrenburg

John Puschock posted his American Birding Association Rare Bird blog on March 29, summing up the events from the day before. The blog began: Indiana's Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) is hosting another continental-level rarity. You may recall a Hooded Crane was here last year. Now it's the temporary home of a Spotted Redshank (Code 4), found by Kirk Roth on March 28 and seen throughout the day by others.

This original blog is still worth checking out: <http://blog.aba.org/2013/03/abarare-spotted-redshank-indiana.html>

Later, the “Sightings” column for March in the May/June 2013 issue of the ABA *Birding* journal wrote:

IN’s first **Spotted Redshank** drew hordes of birders to muddy Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, *Greene* 3/28-31, where it was a spectacular find for the Midwest, previous far inland records are from KS, NM, NV, OH, ON, SK, and TX.

A more complete inventory of North American coastal and interior records, with some dates, appears in John Kendall’s Spring Field Notes elsewhere in this issue.

Spotted Redshank is a very rare bird, and birders knew it. They quickly arrived in large numbers.

The Redshank’s first visit in basic plumage lasted four days and featured two spectacular almost full days on Friday March 29 and Saturday March 30. The two days were very different. Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> was fair, bright, and mostly clear skies. The Redshank alternated between Field E and Field B. People had long and satisfying views in both places, especially out in Field B. In the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> I ran into Jay Lehmann. I had not seen Jay since we were on Attu together in 1989. He was still wearing a faded Attu cap. Jay is doing a Big Year and of course he had to come for the Redshank. It was also a life bird for him. He wrote in his web report for the day: “The Spotted Redshank is life bird number 794 for the ABA Region.” Even very experienced birders and travelers to the Aleutians were missing Spotted Redshank for North America.



**Figure 2. Jay Lehman gets a lifer during his Big Year, 29 March 2013. Photo by Lee Sterrenburg**

Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> began with high expectations and it was the day with the most birders, being the first weekend day. The number of birders eventually ranged into the several hundred. The day started amid thick, dank fog. Some of us stood on levee of Field E for three and a half hours, scopes at the ready and waiting for the fog to lift. It did not. We could hear Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs calling tantalizingly out of view in the fog. Basically we could see nothing. At long last a call came in from Susan Hengeveld after 10:30 AM. The Redshank was out the Field B levee, half a mile away. Some 50 to 60 of us walked out as fast as we could. After standing shrouded in thick fog for over three hours we now embarked on a frenzied back and forth chase of the flying Redshank. Many of us arrived at Field B and were barely setting up our when a call came in from Field E. Jim Sullivan now had the Redshank back on the highway. Another

attempted speed walk. I was within a hundred yards of the parking lot cable, when, you guessed it, Susan called again. The Redshank had flown back out to Field B. Another half mile walk. Now going somewhat more slowly. Just as we got to Field B, it happened again! The Redshank was now back out the highway. We started back again. This time I was walking with Michael Retter. Apparently we were

the only two walkers watching the shorebirds flying by. We were about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way back to the highway when Michael and I saw the Spotted Redshank flying by going in the opposite direction along with 2 Greater Yellowlegs. I watched the Redshank with binocs and Michael got his scope on the bird. The Redshank landed out in Field B. We turned the weary crowd around and we followed the Redshank back to Field B.

Thankfully the Redshank now stayed in Field B for hours on end. The walkers saw the bird well. Some of us were pretty giddy or euphoric. Lots more people arrived and joined us most of whom had not done our crazy walk. People came and left. After my first long sighting of the day, with Michael and a contingent from Chicago, I walked back along the line and counted heads. I tallied 68 birders watching the Redshank or just packing up to leave. Going further I counted another 34 more birders coming my way and just arriving. That amounted to 102 birders in our line or about to join it. Much of the rest of the day continued apace. Michael Brown's photo of vehicles lined up on CR 400 S was from that day. I counted some 70 vehicles in the line on one of my hikes back to the highway. As Kirk mentions, my estimate for the first appearance by the Redshank was over 500 visiting birders. Goose Pond FWA was becoming more famous by the minute.

The second appearance of the Spotted Redshank occurred off and on from April 30 through May 6. The bird was now in splendid black and white high alternate plumage. Some people who had seen it before in basic came again to see the bird in high alternate. The Spotted Redshank now had even more charisma. The reporting media cranked up again. After the first couple of days the Spotted Redshank became sporadic. One day the sighting lasted only 15 minutes. The Redshank went out in a blaze of glory however. According to my notes and tally, it was present and in view on May 6 in Field E for 8 hours and 20 minutes. Everyone who arrived in later afternoon onwards saw it. How often does this happen anywhere in North America? A Spotted Redshank in spiffy high alternate plumage in view in one spot for 8 hours and 20 minutes?

Part of the attraction and pleasure of the Spotted Redshank's visit for me personally was interacting with and helping out some of the hundreds of birders who came to see the gorgeous bird. Another attraction was the Redshank's place in the Goose Pond FWA birding history and shorebird history. The Spotted Redshank was shorebird species number 35 in the history of the Goose Pond wetland restoration dating back to the start of the physical work in 2001-02. Previous property shorebird highlights have included records for 3 Whimbrels, 3 Curlew Sandpipers, 1 Piping Plover, property high counts of 21 American Avocets, 84 Black-necked Stilts, 28 Hudsonian Godwits, 7 Marbled Godwits, and Indiana state record high counts for Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and Stilt Sandpiper. The Spotted Redshank opened up new horizons. As we put it, the Spotted Redshank raised the bar for what was possible imaginable at the Goose Pond restoration.

All this shorebird activity was in restored wetlands that up through 1999 had been regular agricultural corn and soybean fields. Actually, Fields E and Field B, the two main places in which the Redshank hung out and was observed, still are agricultural fields. They are regular farm lease fields and comprise part of the 8014 acre Goose Pond FWA. Those two fields, however, do have water control devices installed that allows them to be flooded and managed for ducks, geese, cranes, and shorebirds during winter and early spring, and then drained for agricultural use from late spring onwards. The water control system for the 200 acre Field B complex was financed by Ducks Unlimited, a grant from the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act, and other contributing organizations. In a real sense, we

birders were able to see and appreciate the vagrant Spotted Redshank thanks to duck and goose hunters. The DU plaque for Field B says the improvement projects “will benefit nesting, migrating, and wintering waterfowl as well as a multitude of other wetland dependent species.” DU probably did not have Spotted Redshank in mind when they wrote this. But we’ll take it. And so will the migrating shorebirds generally speaking.



**Figure 3. Birders who came to chase the charismatic Spotted Redshank got the added benefit of seeing the largest wetland restoration site in Indiana history. Just under 4000 acres of the 8014 acre property are official restored wetlands.**

shorebird for Goose Pond FWA. I don’t think I ever thought much about it happening during spring. My fantasy Spotted Redshank was a fall bird going out of alternate plumage. When it finally happened and a breeding plumage Spotted Redshank did show up, it was a dream come true and almost too good to believe. Though of course we did believe and we reveled in the amazing looking bird. Ken Brock had a similar experience to mine. When Ken came for the second time now to see the bird in black alternate plumage he remarked that he had talked about the Spotted Redshank with Jeff McCoy. Ken said they concluded that the Spotted Redshank was the top rarity in all of Indiana birding history. Ken was quick to qualify. He noted in a subsequent email that the “opinion that Jeff and I arrived at was 100 percent subjective.” His rationale for top state rarity of all time ran as follows:

Although the Kelp Gull and Hooded Crane are superb contenders, they both bring along issues about ID or provenance. Other possibilities might be White-winged Tern or Black-tailed Gull; however, both of these were seen by only a handful (or fewer) of birders. The Red-necked Stint and Ross's Gull are both more common than the Redshank.

Ken then reviewed the scarcity of inland records and noted how few there were in recent years. He concluded:

Additionally, for years I have salivated over illustrations of the Spotted Redshank, longing to see one; indeed, that species was at the very top of my dream list. That no

During several seasons, the wetlands are even larger because of flooding and standing water outside the levees.

Furthermore, seasonally managed agricultural Fields such as Fields E and B do not count toward the overall official NRCS wetland acreage figure. All these wetlands benefit migrating shorebirds. Many visitors were impressed at the size and quality of the Goose Pond early successional wetlands. Several remarked that “there is nothing like this” in their states.

On a more subjective side, Spotted Redshank had been my own personal fantasy and dream



**Figure 4. Ken Brock watching his top all time Indiana dream bird. Field E, Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, Greene County, IN March 29, 2013. Photo by Lee Sterrenburg**

doubt contributed to my decision to opt for the SPRE.

The dream came true.

We all owe a huge thanks to Kirk Roth for finding the Spotted Redshank not just once but twice. Kirk has already spelled out a major moral of the story in his Perspectives piece above: "Check every bird you can. That next rarity might be hiding in plain sight and you won't want to overlook it!"

#### References:

Davis, Ann. 2013. Sightings March 7-31 2013. *Birding* 45:3. p 24. American Birding Association.

Lehman, Jay. Jays's Big Year. <http://jaysbigyear2013.blogspot.com/2013/03/friday-march-29-spotted-redshank-yes.html> (Accessed 7/2/2013)

# Field Notes - Spring 2013 (March - May)

John C. Kendall, jeffro595@yahoo.com

Cool, wet spring weather delayed migration, frustrating birders throughout much of Indiana. Deluges were relatively common, flooding Goose Pond and included a nearly 7-inch rain in NE Indiana to close out the season. In just one year, internet reports had retreated from one of record early warblers, swallows and thrushes to late dates for many species. Consequently, many expected arrivals, such as shorebirds were hard to find. In April and May, there were many consecutive days of north winds on the Lakefront, which seemed to stall passerine movements and stymie birders, as well. Jim Haw reported a wave of grounded warblers in *Allen*, beginning 9 May after a cold front.

However, this spring will well remembered for its outstanding rarities, beginning with a continental-quality code 4 ABA bird; a Spotted Redshank, that had birders hands trembling and fumbling through various field guides. In addition, Indiana's popular second Rock Wren arrived at the Miller farm in *Lagrange*.

Other rarities included a Brant, two (long missing from reports) Eurasian Wigeons, three Pacific Loons, Glossy and White-faced Ibis', two Swallow-tailed Kites, three Swainson's Hawks, four Prairie Falcons, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits and the continuing Green-tailed Towhee.

A note of thanks to Jim Haw, who took the time to submit an individual and regional summary. Also, a special note of thanks to Ken Brock, without whose Indiana Spring Bird Report would make this report very difficult. e-Bird was also used (for the first time by this Editor) to investigate and report on various items deemed to be of interest.

## Abbreviations:

CBC = Christmas Bird Count

FWA = Fish & Wildlife Area

NWR = National Wildlife Refuge

SP = State Park

SF = State Forest

SRA = State Recreation Area

BOP-Bird Observation Platform Indiana Dunes State Park

## Species Accounts:

**Brant**:- One showed up at the Levi Yoder property near Middlebury (Elkhart Co) on 25 April. Many saw the bird and John Harley obtained fine photos. E-Bird data suggests that this was one of only a handful of interior records this spring.



Figure 1. Brant, 26 April 2013. Yoder farm. Elkhart, photo by John Harley

**Ross's Goose** –One lingered to at least 31 March in *Cass* Landon Neumann, Bud Dodrill

**Eurasian Wigeon**: - A male was discovered at Monty's Station (Patoka River NWR) on 12 Apr (Edward M. Hopkins). It was observed by many and last reported on 14 April (Chuck E. Mills and Ben Fritz). Ryan Sanderson, Kim Higdon, and Ryan Hamilton found a male at Grant St. wetland on 7 May, providing the lakefront's first record since 1981. This individual lingered

through 10 May (Jeffrey J. McCoy and Doug Gerbracht) and was seen by many.



**Figure 2. Eurasian Wigeon, 7 May 2013, Lake Photo by Ryan Sanderson**

**Northern Pintail:-** Amy Kearns established a record on 2 March when she tallied (10,000) at Goose Pond FWA. This number exceeds the next highest spring count by almost 4000 Pintails.

A rare feat occurred when all three scoters were observed at one time away from Lake Michigan on 29 March-30 March, Grandview Lake, *Bartholomew* Amy Kearns, Gary Dorman, Jim and Susan Hengeveld.

**White-winged Scoter - White-winged Scoter:-** It was an unprecedented spring for this sea duck, with large numbers across Indiana, but especially on Lake Michigan. The season's total was more than 10 times the STYM. The 4 March

Grandview Lake "Scoter Trifecta" included an adult female and two first-cycle birds. William H. Buskirk and Ron Williams observed (2) adult males on Brookville Res. on 22 March. On 23 March Barny Dunning tallied a state record (165) at two lakefront sites: 140 at Michigan City Harbor and 25 off Beverly Shores.

**Hooded Merganser –** Spring breeding records included: Female + 9 downy chicks in Orange Co 23 Apr (John S. Castrale). Female + 10 downy chicks at Muscatatuck 16 May (David Crouch). Female + 7 downy chicks at the Dillin Bottoms 19 May (Lee W. Sterrenburg & Kathy McClain).

**Red-throated Loon-** A record Indiana count was set 4 April when Brendan J. Grube counted (169) during a longshore flight watch at the B.O.P. The previous maximum was logged at this location on 9 February 2013. For the season some 569 were tallied. (Ken Brock).

**Pacific Loon-** Remarkably, three were recorded during the B.O.P. longshore flight watches. On 4 April Brendan J. Grube observed an apparent young bird on Lake Michigan off the B.O.P. It was swimming with a flock of 70 Red-throated Loons. Jeffrey J. McCoy discovered another Pacific Loon at this location on 14 April and a third was observed on 18 May (Brendan J. Grube). Additionally, a fourth bird (molting) was seen off Beverly Shores on 19 May (Jeffrey J. McCoy & Brendan J. Grube).

**Eared Grebe - One** was at Morse Reservoir 23 March (Landon Neumann).

**Western Grebe –** On 15 March Eddie Huber found (1) in Indiana waters of the Ohio River at the Jeffersonville Waterfront overlook, providing the first Clark Co record since 1975. Many others saw this bird. Two were observed at Port of Indiana, *Porter* 31 March (Penny Starin).

**American White Pelican –** This species was observed virtually statewide and throughout the period, with a high of 550 at Goose Pond 23 March (Peter Scott). New county records are being added annually.

**Waders:** It was a slow spring for most wader species.

Species	Observed
AMBI	48
LEBI	13
GBHE	2167
GREG	409
SNEG	8
LBHE	2
CAEG	26
GRHE	156
BCNH	35
YCNH	1

Source: Ken Brock, Spring 2013 Indiana state bird report

**Glossy Ibis:-** An adult was identified at Goose Pond FWA (Beehunter 3) on 11 May (Donald R. Whitehead, Bob Dodd, and Jim Goodson).

**White-faced Ibis** - There were a few reports of this increasing species, including the Lakefront's first record 5 May at Grant St. Wetlands, *Lake* by Ed Hopkins, Kankakee Sands (Jeff McCoy). David Rupp and Amy Kearns identified (2) at Goose Pond FWA on 22 April, a new early spring arrival date and subsequent appearances in Field E.

It was a good spring for raptors, particularly considering the fine efforts put in by Brendan Grube at the Indiana Dunes State Park Bird Observation Platform (B.O.P.).

Species	Observed
OSPR	192
MIKI	14
BAEA	334
NOHA	598
SSHA	503
COHA	241
NOGO	2
RSHA	242
BWHA	118
SWHA	3
RTHA	1010
RLHA	76
GOEA	10
AMKE	404
MERL	58
PEFA	29
PRFA	5

Source: Ken Brock, Spring 2013 Indiana state bird report

**Black Vulture** – Black Vultures continue to push northward, evidenced by a rare sighting at the BOP Migratory Count Watch 22 April (Brendan Grube). Additional northern sightings on e-Bird included 8 in *Hamilton* 14 April (Kevin y Olivia Cornell de Rojas), two birds in *Allen* 26 April, (Greg Majewski) and four in St. Joseph 3 May (Gabrielle Gopinath).

**Swallow-tailed Kite** – The first lakefront sighting of this elegant raptor since 1948 occurred at the BOP count site on 18 May (Brendan J. Grube, Brad Bumgardner, and Alex Forsythe. (Ken Brock). A bird was found at the Arvin property 29 May by Kyle Arvin in *Tippecanoe* and remained into June (Ed Hopkins, Del Arvin m.ob.) and viewed by many birders over its multi-day stay.



Figure 3. Swallow-tailed Kitem, 31 May 2013, Tippecanoe, Photo by Michael Brown

**Mississippi Kite** – This species continued to be seen in new areas, including several sightings in *Warrick* areas and northward again to *LaPorte*.

**Osprey** – A record 18 birds were seen 14 April at the BOP site (Brendan Grube), along with a record 90 **Northern Harriers**.

**Northern Goshawk** - An immature/subadult was seen in Dunes S.P. on 15 April (Brendan J. Grube & Brad Bumgardner) and another was seen 26 April at the B.O.P. during a longshore flight watch (Brendan J.

Grube, Brad Bumgardner, John Kendall).

**Swainson's Hawk:-**

On 22 April John Pohl photographed a mystery hawk in Sullivan Co. The bird appears to be an intermediate morph adult. On 27 April at 12:20PM Brad Bumgardner identified a light morph adult with a Red-tailed in s. Lake County. Thirty-four minutes later John and Elaine Harley photographed an



**Figure 4. Swainson's Hawk 22 April 2013, Sullivan, photo by John Pohl**

adult light morph, (also with a Red-tailed) 18 miles farther south in Newton Co along Ind. 14 between I-65 and US 41; however these were almost certainly different birds. Based on observation times the Bumgardner bird would have had to travel *southward* at 30 mph to be the same individual observed by the Harleys. This species nests sporadically as far east as N. Illinois. E-Bird data reveals a fairly regular, low-density pattern of dozens of Great Lakes and East Coast observations, only a few sightings in the S and SE states and regularly migrating and/or wintering birds in Florida and the gulf coast.

**Golden Eagle** – The 52 Merlins reported this season constitutes a new high spring total for the lakefront (TYM=10.9). The peak daily total was (10), tallied by Brendan J. Grube during the 18 April longshore flight at the B.O.P.

**Prairie Falcon** - Following a three-year hiatus, four Prairie Falcons were reported this spring (Ken Brock). Amy Kearns found the first in Posey Co on 16 March, providing a first county record. Lee W. Sterrenburg studied another (both in flight and perched) at Goose Pond FWA on 20 March. The third sighting also occurred at Goose Pond FWA on 3 April (Donald R. Whitehead, Bob Dodd, and Jim Goodson). The latter provided Indiana's first April record. The most amazing record involved an adult seen in Greene Co on the 11 May count (Donald R.

Whitehead, Bob Dodd, and Jim Goodson), which provided the state's first May and latest spring record. Most records are during winter, as this species winters in very low numbers at southern Indiana's general latitude with increasing rarity when looking at e-Bird records eastward from the extreme western great plains and Rocky Mountain breeding areas.

**Peregrine Falcon** – John Castrale reported that a female born in Whiting wintered in Heredia City, Costa Rica this winter.

**King Rail**-Unreported this spring.

**Piping Plover** -Two unbanded birds were observed and photographed at Miller Beach, *Lake 28 April* Jeff McCoy.

**Black-necked Stilt** – Extralimital records included: a singleton at the Chinook Mine (Vigo Co) 21 April (Peter E. Scott), an unexpected (3) in Adams Co on 1 May (Terri Gorney), (2) at McCool Basin (Porter Co) on 17 May (Jeffrey J. McCoy), and (2) in Kosciusko Co on 29 May (Al Crist et al.). All of these constituted first county records.



**Figure 5. Three Black-necked Stilts, 3 May 2013, Allen, Photo by Willy DeSmet**

the third North American record since 1998, only the 4th record after 1990. and 2<sup>nd</sup> interior US record since 1998. The distribution of records in e-Bird is; 5 on the east coast of US, 4 in Ontario, 4 non-Ontario interior records, and 10 west coast sightings.

Regarding shorebird rarity: Using e-Bird data, for Red-necked Stint in the US, there are over 20 US West Coast records, 13 on the East Coast and despite breeding in Alaska, only 6 interior records (1 (IN) in the Midwest east of the Mississippi River). If you take out the Alaska to west coast migration pattern, that would leave 19 Red-necked Stint records, so it is perhaps of similar rarity here to the Spotted Redshank. Among mega-rare shorebirds not found yet in Indiana, Little Stint in the US follows a similar, but scarcer pattern; 13 west coast records, 10 on the east coast and 3-4 interior records. There are now 7-8 Wood Sandpiper records in the US, with none in the interior. Common Ringed Plover is similar in rarity. Of course, although not a shorebird, there is only two accepted Hooded Crane records in North America. There are over 20 Midwest records of Western US- Breeding Green-tailed Towhee. Birders can access their own favorite sources and debate where the Redshank's rarity falls. It certainly became the favorite of many.

**Whimbrel** – Unreported this spring, as was the case in neighboring states per e-Bird.

**Hudsonian Godwit** – e-Bird charts reveal the striking pattern of this species' direct spring flight path to Hudson Bay. This species is quite rare east of the Illinois/Mississippi River basins to the IL/IN border in spring. Two were found at Cane Ridge WMA 11 April (Heath Hamilton) and (2) more were discovered in Whitley Co on 13 April (Jeffrey J. McCoy).

**Marbled Godwit** - During a 27 April Indiana Young Birder's Club's birdathon, Rob Ripma, Chad & Ceth Williams, and Landon Neumann found (14) at Goose Pond FWA. This effort tied Indiana's seventh largest single party count. Interestingly, nine of Indiana's ten largest counts have occurred within the 11-day interval 19 to 29 April. The following day Evan Speck counted (5) at Monty's Station in Gibson Co. In addition Edward M. Hopkins reported a singleton at the rain-pool on Newton CR 225N on 2 May.

**Ruddy Turnstone** - Sixty-six were reported, the highest tally since 1982 (Ken Brock). The peak daily tally was (18) logged away far from Lake Michigan by Charles E. Mills at Lake Gibson, *Gibson* on 23 May.

**Baird's Sandpiper**- On 10 April John and Elaine Harley, along with Gary Keister, obtained excellent photographs of a Baird's Sandpiper at the Wakarusa facility. This is Indiana's third earliest spring record.

**Wilson's Phalarope** – This species was found in good numbers, with 41 reported (Ken Brock).

**Red-necked Phalarope** – Four were reported this spring.

**American Avocet** – A fine count of (16), mostly in alternate plumage, was logged at Monty's Station (Gibson Co) on 28 April (Evan Speck). The following day Edward M. Hopkins counted (22) at this site. This latter total ties Indiana's third largest count.

**Spotted Redshank**- The bird found March 28 at Goose Pond by Kirk Roth was observed regularly through the 31 March. It later was relocated in alternate plumage 30 April-Kirk Roth) and found quite sporadically through at least 6 May. e-Bird data now shows 23 North American records; this individual representing

**Laughing Gull** – Two were reported this spring.

**Franklin’s Gull** – Eight were reported this spring, including one 31 March at Turtle Creek Reservoir, *Sullivan* by Steve Lima.

**Bonaparte’s** – Many observations of very small groups were reported across the region. The highest count was fifty-two 14 April at Kankakee Sands, *Newton* (Jed Hertz).

**Iceland Gull** – The adult at Hammond, *Lake* was last reported 9 April (Amar Ayyash).

**Terns:**

The tern migration was quite good this spring.

Species	Observed
LETE	103
CATE	1870
BLTE	31
COTE	91
FOTE	198

Source: Ken Brock

**Snowy Owl** – On 15 March John Skene photographed (1) in White Co. This individual was seen by many through 19 March, but then disappeared.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – This species was reported in several locations during migration, following a strong fall and winter appearance, including a high count of four at the Arvin’s *Tippecanoe* property 1 April.



Figure 6. Northern Saw-whet Owl 17 March 2013 in odd Porter (Beverly Shores) location, found by Randy Pals. Photo by John Kendall

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - An Indiana record count was set 7 April when Brendan J. Grube counted (346) flying past the B.O.P. Michael Gerringer and Katie Spice counted (40) in Terre Haute (also on 7 April).

**Rufous Hummingbird** - On 18, 19 and 20 April an adult male visited Kim Harmon’s feeder in Hammond. Identifiable photos were taken. This is the lakefront’s first record of this western hummer.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - A daily Indiana record count was set 7 April when Brendan J. Grube counted (346) flying past the B.O.P.

**Least Flycatcher** - Brendan J. Grube counted (28) in the High Dunes during the 10 May fallout, which constitutes Indiana’s second highest daily count.

**Loggerhead Shrike**- Most encouragingly, Lee W. Sterrenburg and Amy Kearns found (4) adults in Orange

Co on 15 April. They also located a territorial pair at a new location in Daviess Co on 24 April.

**Northern Shrike** - Michael Topp logged the season’s latest report at Miller Beach on 6 April. This sighting provided Indiana’s sixth latest spring record.

**Bell’s Vireo**- Numbers remain quite high. This spring’s peak tally was (38) recorded by Donald R. Whitehead at Dugger FWA on 16 May.

**Blue-headed Vireo**- A new state record count was set when Brendan J. Grube tallied (12) during the 10 May fallout in the High Dunes. Brendan also held the previous maximum of ten.

**Warbling Vireo** – Two at Eagle Slough (Vanderburgh Co) on 10 April (John Meredig) tied five other reports for the state’s third earliest arrival date.

**Blue Jay** - An Indiana record count of (7264) was recorded at the B.O.P. on 1 May (Brendan J. Grube).

**Rock Wren** – Indiana’s 2<sup>nd</sup> record of Rock Wren occurred 16 May near Howe in *Lagrange* when Benjamin Miller identified a “different” bird that his younger brother, John Allen had noticed on their family’s farm. The result was a 4-day stay, with many birders visiting and signing the hosts’ guest book. Thanks to the Millers for their generous hospitality. E-bird records show this to be one of only perhaps ten sightings in the greater Midwest. Benjamin also received a congratulatory letter from Richard Crossley, as his id. was aided by his use of *The Crossley ID Guide: Eastern Birds*.

**Carolina Wren** – On 17 April William H. Buskirk conducted a six-hour road survey in southeastern Indiana and counted (52) Carolina Wrens, which is the state’s second highest single party count.

**Sedge Wren** – e-Bird shows a fairly low count of nine birds during the season.

**Fish Crow** – This species was quite regular in s.w. Indiana during the spring. Two reports, both seen and heard by Heath Hamilton, exceeded Indiana’s previous earliest spring date: 16 March in Evansville and 20 March in Patoka River NWA, Pike Co (with Steve Gifford). The previous earliest date was 21 March 2012. The northernmost report came from Dobbs Park in Terre Haute where Michael Gerringier observed a calling bird on 9 April.

**Northern Mockingbird** - On 15 April Lee W. Sterrenburg and Amy Kearns tallied an incredible (92 mockingbirds, 87 in Orange Co and 5 in Lawrence Co). This total more than doubles Indiana’s previous maximum count.

**Cedar Waxwing** – Brendan J. Grube logged a wonderful flight of (11,373) at the B.O.P. on 29 May. This tally is Indiana’s second largest daily count.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**- The bird that wintered at an Elkhart Co feeder was still present on 4 March (Leland Shaum & Gary Chupp). During the 10 May fallout in the High Dunes Brendan J. Grube tallied (13) individuals. This is a record spring count that exceeds twice the previous maximum spring tally.

**Nashville Warbler**- A state record count of (88), tallied in the high dunes on 10 May (Brendan J. Grube), more than doubled Indiana’s previous daily maximum.

**Northern Parula**- On 17 April Amy Kearns counted (70) at Patoka Lake (40 in Orange Co, 20 in Dubois Co, & 10 In Crawford Co). This is a new high count for Indiana (by 15 birds).

**Prairie Warbler** - The 380 reported this season is an all-time high for the state. Amy Kearns established a new daily count record on 17 April when she tallied (46) in three counties at Patoka Lake, plus one in Mitchell.

**Black and white Warbler**- The (45) that Brendan J. Grube tallied in the High Dunes during the 10 May fallout constitutes a new high count for the state.

**Hooded Warbler**- An early migrant, seen by Vern W. Wilkins on 10 April, tied three other records for Indiana’s second earliest.

**Green-tailed Towhee** - The Green-tailed Towhee in *Huntington* lingered to at least 22 March (Leland Shaum, et. al.).

**Clay-colored Sparrow** – A nice count of seventeen were reported through the period.

**LeConte’s Sparrow**- One seen in Neal Miller’s prairie, Marshall Co on 28 March (Leland Shaum, John Harley, & Elaine Harley), provided the second earliest record for the northern tier of counties.



**Figure 7. One of 5 Clay-colored Sparrows reported from the same area of Forsythe Park, Lake 4 May 2013. Photo by John Kendall.**

**Harris's Sparrow** - On 1 May Ryan J. Sanderson and Elizabeth Cope found an adult in Field-E at Goose Pond FWA.



**Figure 8. Harris's Sparrow, Goose Pond FWA, 1 May 2013, Photo by Ryan Sanderson**

Scott Co on 27 & 28 April (Brian and Melinda Lowry), provided a second county record.

**Rusty Blackbird** - Scattered groups numbering in single digits were the only reports.

**Brewer's Blackbird** - Seven were observed 20 March GP, Lee Sterrenburg, et. al.

**Baltimore Oriole** – Twenty-two were found in *Elkhart* 29 March by Leland Shaum. A singing male in Fort Wayne on 8 April (John Winebrenner) tied Indiana's fourth earliest arrival date.

**Evening Grosbeak** - The peak count was (6), seen 20 April at the Brown Co feeder of Iva and Keith Uridel and the last reported bird lingered in Beverly Shores until 10 May (Jeffrey J. McCoy).

**White-winged Crossbill** – Peak count was 12-15 in Lindenwood Cemetery, Ft. Wayne, *Allen* 16 March (Sam Plew fide Jim Haw).



**Figure 9. Evening Grosbeak, Beverly Shores, Porter, 22 April 2013, Photo by John C. Kendall**

**Smith's Longspur**- Some 262 were reported for the season (STYM=360), suggesting a slightly below average flight. The peak daily count was (85) that Jeffrey J. McCoy found in Newton Co on 21 April and a group 31 March at The Burn, *Montgomery* (Ed Hopkins).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** - At Grant St. *Lake*, Matt Kalwasinski photographed one. A female appeared at the Mt. Vernon feeder of Lowell and Jean Hess on 30 March (31 March Sharon Sorensen). Surprisingly this bird lingered at the feeder through 20 April. An adult male photographed in

**Pine Siskin** - An enormous, and unprecedented, movement occurred in mid-May when Brendan J. Grube logged (863) on the 14th and a staggering (1612) the following day. The latter count is Indiana's second highest daily tally and exceeds the next largest spring count by more than 1400 Siskins. For the season 3310 Siskins were logged (Ken Brock).



**Figure 10. Kentucky Warbler, Parke, 3 May 2013, Photo by Ben Cvengros**



**Figure 11. "Western" Red-tailed Hawk at BOP, Lake 14 April 2013, Photo by Pete Grube**



**Figure 12. Northern Parula, 22 May 2013, Vigo, photo by Jim Sullivan**



**RESULTS OF THE INDIANA 2012-2013 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
**Gary and Lisa Bowman, 2805 Prospect Ave., Vincennes, IN 47591**

The 2012-2013 Indiana Christmas Bird Count took place from 14 December 2013 through 5 January 2013. We received or were able to obtain reports or partial reports of 49 counts this year which is one less than last year. One additional count was evidently held this year but we were unable to get any data for it and one count was not held for an unknown reason. No new counts were established this year.

Weather conditions for nearly the first ten days of the period were excellent. After that, conditions were much worse for the most part. Temperatures were almost balmy during the first part of the count with above normal temperatures for nearly all of those earlier counts. Many counts held on or after December 25th experienced cold and/or windy conditions although the winds weren't as bad as they have been for some counts the last several years. The snow storms that covered much of the state late Christmas Day and again later in the week also played havoc with many of the counts conducted after that. Even with the cold weather for some, most counts experienced open or nearly open water on creeks, ponds, and ditches and many lakes except for any later northern counts. The Knox County count claimed the Cold Spot award for the second straight year with +1 degree and with only 25 for a high. It also had the highest amount of snow cover with 15 inches. Spring Mill and Whitewater tied for the Hot Spot award with a down right balmy 60 degrees. This year twenty counts had snow cover which was up from eleven counts the previous year. But that is still far less than the 33 the year before that. Five counts recorded up to ten inches on the ground. Rain hampered half a dozen counts and light snow on count day bothered another half dozen and Hancock County received two inches of snow count day.

We were able to get complete data from almost all counts unlike last year and the one fewer report had a negligible effect on the result comparisons from the past. This year's total of field observers of 905 is only 33 less than last year. Hours spent by teams in the field decreased from the previous year by 96

hours to 1917.99 from 2,114.17 the last year. Teams spent 853.85 hours walking, 1,058.54 driving, 1 boating, and 4.5 by horse and buggy. As one would expect, the miles that teams covered also decreased. This year, teams covered 11,586.09 miles, which was nearly a 300 mile decrease from last year but not too much different than two years ago. Miles totals were 702.64 walking, 10,889.15 driving, 2 by boat, and 6.75 by horse and buggy. The number of feeder watchers reported was a doubling of the number of last year to 166. Likewise the number of hours watching doubled to a total of 335 hours. This is possibly due to the inclement weather of the last two weeks of the count period.

556,768 birds were identified on count days. This is down over 100 thousand seen last year. Another 12,548 were identified as to family or group but not to species. A total of 158 species plus non-countable Whooping Cranes as well as hybrid Mallard were identified on count days. This is five species more than the number recorded last year and fourteen more than two years ago. This is four more than the highest total in the last ten years and very likely the highest total of species ever for an Indiana Christmas Count. The higher species total reflects the presence of several uncommon gulls, several species of warblers, a good variety of common as well as rare sparrows, a good winter finch year, and others that we have not been able to record the last several years. A total of 29 Whooping Cranes were reported on a couple counts. There were three new species added to the Indiana CBC list this year after adding three species last year. This year's additions were **Trumpeter Swan**, **Clay-colored Sparrow** on the Indiana Dunes West count, and **Nelson's Sparrow** on the Goose Pond count. Trumpeter Swan was a new species by virtue of the Indiana Bird Record Committee's accepting it as a viable and therefore countable species. 191 Trumpeter Swans were seen with most, as usual, at Newport. Other seldom seen Indiana CBC species included Evening Grosbeaks at Mary Gray, both crossbills; Red at Pigeon River and Terre Haute and White-winged at Elkhart, and a Greater Yellowlegs on the Western Gibson count for the their fourth record. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported at Lafayette for its second state CBC record and another was a count week addition on the Posey County count. This bird was photographed. The second state Baltimore Oriole in three years and the third ever was seen on the Farmland count. For the first time in several years, Indigo Bunting was not reported. One very notable bird seen during count week but not countable by CBC rules was a Cinnamon Teal shot within the Knox Count circle the day before their count. Although it is not countable because it was not seen alive by any CBC participant, it would have represented the first Indiana CBC record of that species and only the fourth greater Midwest CBC record and only the seventh east of the Mississippi River away from coastal states.

As always, this year's species numbers compared with last year are quite likely affected greatly by weather conditions both on count days and days preceding counts. Goose numbers except for Ross's Geese increased although Canada Geese only had a minor increase. White-fronted Goose numbers continued to show marked increases every year, while Snow Geese numbers tripled their numbers while Cackling Geese had a ten-fold increase. Mute Swan numbers rebounded while Tundra Swan numbers were even. Trumpeter Swans doubled their total from the previous year. Many of the expected duck species' numbers were down this year with the exception of Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser. Some of these increases came after decreases the previous year. It is probable that the warm weather preceding the early counts kept much of the waterfowl farther north. Wild Turkeys continued to increase their numbers as did Red-throated Loon numbers which were up dramatically. Grebe numbers remained about even except for Pied-billed Grebes which were up by a forth. Double-crested Cormorant numbers doubled. Although American White Pelicans have been seen during the winter, none were seen during the count period.

Great Blue Herons were up and one Great Egret was reported. Black Vulture numbers decreased by a third this year, after continuing increases in previous years. Turkey Vulture numbers continued their rebounded very well after being down markedly two years ago. Bald Eagle numbers again continued their rise reaching a record high of 258 which was above the 248 record set last year. The five Golden Eagles reported were about the average for the last four previous years. Both accipiter and buteo numbers were for the most part level. Falcon numbers were mixed. Virginia Rails made a decent showing with two. Coot numbers were again up after the large increase the year before. And Sandhill Crane numbers were good as they remained with the good weather. After a strong showing the previous year, shorebirds were found in more normal numbers and variety with the exception of a large number of Least Sandpipers and Wilson's Snipe. Killdeer numbers went down after a huge increase the year before. For the second straight year, Greater Yellowlegs were recorded. Gull numbers were all up except for Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull. Variety was greater also. Eurasian Collared-Dove again continued increasing. This year their numbers reached 91. Owl numbers for the most part were even or slightly larger and but the case of Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Northern Saw-whet up double. There were two Snowy Owls were observed. Belted Kingfishers showed a good increase for the second year in a row. Woodpecker numbers were mixed to slightly lower with the exception of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker which rebounded after it's plummet of last year and Pileated which was up 10 percent. Corvids were mixed with Blue Jays down and Crows up. Chickadees, titmice, and White-breasted Nuthatches were mixed while Red-breasted Nuthatches was up three fold after last year's large decline. Creepers were even and Carolina Wrens were up. Two Marsh Wrens showed up this year. Kinglet numbers were mixed with Ruby-crowned up slightly and Golden-crowned down greatly. No unusual thrushes were reported and the numbers of regular ones pretty much stayed the same or a little higher. The Mimics again represented itself well with three count day Gray Catbirds, 395 Northern Mockingbirds, and eleven Brown Thrashers although Starlings were down considerably. After a large increase last year, pipit numbers were way down this year while waxwing numbers rebounded strongly. Five species of warblers were represented this year including a huge increase of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The other four warbler species were two Common Yellowthroat, one Yellow-throated, two Pine, and one Palm. Sparrow numbers were greatly mixed but of particular note were the first Indiana CBC documentations of Clay-colored and Nelson's. All sparrow species including Harris' were reported with the exception of Lincoln's. Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting numbers were both way up after the previous year's decrease. No Indigo Bunting was seen for the first year in several. Blackbird numbers were mixed but of note was that for the second straight year a large increase of Rusty Blackbirds. Finch numbers were all up to way up with the exception of American Goldfinch. Included were both species of crossbills for the first time in many years. Evening Grosbeak made a presence for the first time in years also.

For the first time, Western Gibson led all counts in the number of species recorded. Its total this year was 107 plus non-countable Whooping Cranes. There was serious competition among the top three counts with all three counts breaking the century mark. This is the second straight year those three counts have done that. Goose Pond finished second with an excellent total of 105 species plus non-countable Whooping Cranes just short their record high of 108. The Oakland City count was the other to have at least 100 species. They were in third place for the second straight year with a 101 total, again breaking their previous record high. Lake Monroe and Sullivan County rounded out the top five with 95 and 92 respectively while three counts totaled in the eighties. The count species average of 64.94 was statistically large increase over the previous year's 62.68 average. The median was again up; this year to 64 from 63.5 the previous year.

The state map shows the location of each count circle. As can be seen, there are still many areas of the state that are not covered by any counts.

We were again this year happy to receive a number of great pictures of great and rare birds. We continue to encourage submission of pictures in jpeg format of any birds as well as of birders and activities during Christmas counts. A big thank you is in order to all those who shared their pictures this year. Please, keep this in mind for the 2013-2014 count.

The COUNT CIRCLES section gives information on the species total and total bird numbers seen on the count as well as any birds seen count week only, any documentations and other information the count compiler brought to our attention such as species high or low counts or new species to their count as well as listing the name of the compiler and the names of participants in the count except when the compiler requested that we not publish participant names or when we were unable to obtain them. This is also the section in which we report any exotics. Even though not countable, compilers should report them so that we can include them in the article for archival purposes.

The data tables show species information as well as participant numbers, miles covered, time spent, and weather conditions encountered. This is similar to how it was presented in the past but we are including in the list, species not seen this year but seen in the last nine or ten years as well as the non-countable Whooping Crane. Data for this non-countable species is marked in "red". In a few cases, when we were unable to obtain data from the compilers, "ns" is marked for "not submitted" or in obvious cases left blank.

Thanks to all of the compilers and observers for their work in making this compilation possible. Thanks also to all of the observers who submitted their documentations and photos of their unusual birds. The report forms, downloadable on the Indiana Audubon web site, show which species need to be fully documented or briefly detailed explaining how the identification was determined. If in doubt whether a bird needs to be documented or detailed or not, please, always do it. It makes evaluation much easier and is important to be archived for future reference. Thanks especially to National Audubon Society's state editor, John Cassidy, for his collaboration and assistance in acquiring some of the detail reports and documentations.

## Count Circles

### 1) Adams County (INAC):

**Species: 34 Individuals: 3,890 Compiler:** Larry Parker **Observers:** Earlene Moser, Dorothy Moser, Jerry Moser, Rose Moser, Jerry Parker, Larry Parker, Elaine Bluhn, Gene Bluhn

### 2) Big Oaks NWR (INBO):

**Species: 52** plus American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, and Killdeer seen count week  
**Individuals: 1,661** Northern Shrike was documented **Compiler:** Joe Robb **Observers:** Stephanie Bishir, Beth Black, Russ Brink, Sara Brink, Kerry Brinson, Annie-Marie Bruyninckx, Walter Bruyninckx, Kevin Carlson, Paul Carmody, Todd Gerardot, Rod Goforth, Amber Fields, Andrew Huffman, Joe Robb, Walt Seeds, Jeff Sells, Gary Stegner, Ben Walker, Alex Wardwell

**3) Brown County State Park (BCSP):**

**Species: 43 Individuals: 664 Compiler:** Jim Eagleman **Observers:** Jonathan Bauer, Don Glass, Mike Carney, Jim Eagleman, Julia Ferguson, Jeff Riegel, Rosemary Sauer

**4) Eagle Creek Valley (INEC):**

**Species: 76 Individuals: 6,255 Compiler:** Kevin Carlsen **Observers:** not submitted

**5) Elkhart County (INEH):**

**Species: 78 Individuals: 16,126** Merlin and White-winged Crossbill were documented and photos submitted. **Compiler:** Ronda DeCaire **Observers:** Jennifer Balwin, Ruth Beasley, Vonda Bell, Anita Bentley, Trice Berkley, Janeen Bertsche-Johnson, Don Bontrager, Robyn Buenger, John Davis, Ronda DeCaire, Maxine Dubbs, Glen Dyksen, Lorrie Edds, Christine Egendoerfer, Tom Enright, Gwen Ferland, Judy Ferrell, Larry Ford, Suzanne Gray, Tom Grubaugh, Becky Gute, Robert Guth, Elaine Harley, John Harley, Marilyn Horvath, Liz Jacobs, Mary Kauffman-Kennel, Gary Keister, Melissa Kinsey, Craig Kirkwood, Evie Kirkwood, Karen LaChance, Merlin Lehman, Kerrie Lyle, Mary Martin, Julia Mast, Lynn Matthews, Marcus Miller, Neal Miller, Tina Miller, Carole Mitchell, Sammy Mohler, Scott Namestnik, Allen Peachy, Alex Pettit, Mia Pettit, Alice Posely, Steve Posely, Marlene Pratt, Doris Rody, Sarah Sass, Steve Sass, Aaron Schwartz, David Schwartz, Leland Shaum, Katrina Smullen, Ray Troyer, Lori Twining, Patrick Wheeler, Emma Wynn, Enos Yoder, Leon Yoder, Myron Yoder, Perry Yoder, Ron Yoder, Casey Zillman

**6) Evansville (INEV):**

**Species: 75 Individuals: 24,511 Compiler:** Brian Taylor **Field Observers:** Carolyn Barron, Paul Bouseman, Ron Crawford, Mike Flake, Nancy Guse, Heath Hamilton, Cinda Hamilton, LD Harry, Steve Heeger, Ted Hitch, Dave Hodges, Linda Hoffman, Sarah Karges, Al Langen, Chris Langen, Jim Lodato, John Meredig, Marica Onnybecker, Chris Pace, Carol Pettys, Vivian Ruff, Sharon Sorenson Brian Taylor Feeder Counters: Jim Bratt, Greg Gordon, Grant Hartman, Nancy Hitch, Judy Lynch, Carol Pettys, Kathy Solecki, Marilyn Swonder

**7) Farmland (Farm):**

**Species: 37 Individuals: 7,084** Baltimore Oriole was documented **Compiler:** Connie Howell **Observers:** Connie Howell, Nina Howell, Stephen Howell, Tom Howell, Ben Shreves, Kay Ulrey

**8) Fort Wayne (INFW):**

**Species: 63** plus count week Pied-billed Grebe, Sandhill Crane, and Red Crossbill **Individuals: 6,054** Chipping Sparrow was detailed. Northern Shoveler was seen for the first time on the count and is the 125<sup>th</sup> species for the count and the Bonaparte's Gull numbers by far beat their previous high count. **Compiler:** Jim Haw **Observers:** Margit Codispoti, Jim Haw, Frannie Headings, Ted Heemstra, Valerie Pelz, Cynthia Powers, Ed Powers, Casey Ryan, Don Ryan, Sandy Schacht, Carole Smith, Stephanie Wagner, Ann Walton, Bob Walton, Jacob Wixom, Phil Wixom, Galen Yordy

**9) Goose Pond (INGP):**

**Species 105** plus 23 non-countable Whooping Cranes **Individuals: 31,176** The Nelson's Sparrow is a first Indiana CBC record. Ross's Goose, Virginia Rail, Barn Owl, Northern Shrike, Marsh Wren, Northern Shrike, Common Yellowthroat, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson' Sparrow were either detailed or documented. First count records of Virginia Rail, Long-eared Owl, Common Yellowthroat, and

Nelson's Sparrow. Photos submitted of Marsh Wren seen previous to the count and at the same location and Le Conte's Sparrow. **Compiler:** Lee Sterrenburg **Observers:** Don Allen, Bob Ball, Lou Anne Barriger, Jonathan Bauer, Steve Bell, Sandy Belth, Gary Bowman, Lisa Bowman, Jim Brown, Mike Clay, Bob Dodd, Jerry Downs, Steve Dunbar, Scott Enochs, Brad Feaster, Julia Ferguson, Maureen Forrest, Steve Gilstrap, Don Gorney, Tommy Grav, Jess Gwinn, Roger Hedge, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, Dawn Hewitt, Bill Holladay, David Hollinberger, Steve Housefield, Doug Johnstone, Amy Kearns, Jeff Kiefer, Bob Kissel, Gary Langell, Cathy Meyer, Kathy McClain, Falyn Owens, Larry Peavler, Rob Ripma, Chandler Roberts, David Rupp, John Schaust, Greg Simon, George Sly, Lee Sterrenburg, Travis Stoelting, Lynn Vernon, Marija Watson, Dan Weber, Mary Weeks, Don Whitehead **Feeder Watchers:** Marilyn Flanders, Ivy Karokus

#### **10 Hamilton County (INHC):**

**Species: 65** plus count week Lesser Scaup and Sandhill Crane **Individuals: 6,502** Gray Catbird was photographed and documented and Pine Warbler was detailed. **Compiler:** Amanda Smith **Observers:** Ken Badger, Bert Badger, Lou Anne Barriger, Lyn Berling, Terese Brost, Jeff Canada, June Delong, Norm Eden, Beth Eikenberry, Lynn Eikenberry, Scott Enochs, Kathy Feldman, Dave Fox, Tracy Duncan Fox, Judy Fredrick, Don Gorney, Jo Ingraham, Nick Keihl, Karen La Mere, Steve Lineback, Becky Lomax-Sumner, Kathryn Mascaro, Jim McGinity, Ken McGinity, Cindy Meyer, Ted Meyer, Polly Nicely, Larry Peavler, Eric Ripma, Rob Ripma, Chandler Roberts, Michelle Roberts, Victoria Rogers, Amanda Smith, Keith Starling, John Sumner, Janet Tuten, Laurie Voss, Martin Williams, Debby Wright

#### **11 Hancock County (HanC):**

**Species: 24** **Individuals: 116** Snow fell during the day on top of deep snow cover **Compiler:** Gail McNierney **Observers:** Bill McCleery, Gail McNierney

#### **12 Hanover-Madison (INHM):**

**Species: 45** **Individuals: 1,812** **Compiler:** Dick Davis **Observers:** Jack Bird, Kevin Carlson, Paul Carmony, Dick Davis, Matt Demaree, Kim Kirchner, Bill Poindexter, Annie Walker

#### **13 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (INID):**

**Species: 83** **Individuals: 13,650** Lesser Blacked-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Thayer's Gull were detailed **Compiler:** Brad Bumgardner **Observers:** Rob Albrecht-Mallinger, Alan Anderson, Bobbie Asher, Ken Brock, Brad Bumgardner, John Cassady, Tim Cole, Traci Cross, Susan Delfs, Tom Edwards, Carol Fialkowski, Conrad Fialkowski, Bummer Gacsko, Carolyn George, Donna Gonzalez, Brendon Grube, Matthew Herron, Matt Kalwasinski, John Kendall, Ron Klingensmith, Richard Knutson, Bernie Konrady, Erin Krueger, Patrick Krueger, Robert LeMay, Eric Lunquist, Jeff McCoy, John McDonnell, Don Mohar, Peg Mohar, Matt Myer, Scott Namestnick, Cora Sue Nicholas, Randy Pals, Nancy Reiter, Chuck Roth, Sarah Sass, Steve Sass, Kathleen Soler, Penny Starin, Chris Van Wassenhove, Jim Zervos

#### **14 Indiana Dunes West (INDW):**

**Species: 57** **Individuals: 10,175** The first state CBC Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed **Compiler:** Christine Gerlach **Observers:** Steve Cardwell, Gene Coleman, Maureen Foes, Kyle Hudick, Bonnie Johnson, Rip Johnson, Bill Kirkpatrick, Lynda Lancaster, Robert Langele, Colleen Rodriquez, Steve Rodriquez, Kay Sarti, Mary Thorne, Geoff Williams, Kenneth Wysocki

**15) Indianapolis Northeast (ININ):**

**Species:** 64 plus count week Hooded Merganser and Fox Sparrow **Individuals:** 11,024 Red-necked Grebe was documented **Compiler:** John Schaust **Observers:** Adam Barnes, Ann Bear, Linda Bishop, Lori Bishop, Mike Bishop, Tory Bishop, Lee Casabere, Cliff Chapman, Gordon Chastain, Brian Cunningham, Tracy Duncan-Fox, Scott Enochs, Cary Floyd, Dave Fox, Don Gorney, John Guggemos, Becky Lomax-Sumner, Andrew Mertz, Mike Molnar, Katie Neill, Rob Ripma, John Schaust, Lisa Schaust, Karl Selm, Anne Sharp, Marilyn Smith, Dave Strickland, Susie Strickland, Kevin Strunk, Doug Vine, Pam West, Chad Williams

**16) Jamestown (INJT):**

**Species:** 52 plus Red-breasted Nuthatch seen count week **Individuals:** 2,026 **Compiler:** Roger Hedge **Observers:** Mike Brittain, Peggy Harger-Allen, Frank Dumwright, Cloyce Hedge, Roger Hedge, Mike Homoya, Wes Homoya, Steve Housefield, Al Roush, Wilson

**17) Johnson County (INJC):**

**Species:** 60 **Individuals:** 3,410 **Compiler:** Mike Clay **Observers:** Don Allen, Jay Bolden, Megan Bowman, Bob Carpenter, Mike Clay, Ann Deutch, Tom Hougham, Art Howard, Chuck Lunsford, Karen Lunsford, Karl Werner, Don Whitehead

**18) Knox County (INKC):**

**Species:** 76 plus Common Goldeneye seen count week **Individuals:** 12,854 One new species for the count was Common Loon. 12 species count highs were recorded despite deep snow cover and record cold temperatures for the date. **Compiler:** Gary Bowman **Observers:** Gary Bowman, Lisa Bowman, Adam Cronk, Tom Cronk, Mark Crowley, Rene LaMontagna, Jane Nowaskie, Steve Nowaskie, Betty Schuur, Dave Schuur, Julie Irvin, David Staver, Bill Stedman. Feeder watchers were Jeff Frankum, Patricia Frankum, Judy Harrison, Jon Herr, John Pohl

**19) Lafayette (INLA):**

**Species:** 78 including the second state CBC record of Ruby-throated Hummingbird **Individuals:** 16,398 **Compiler:** Ed Hopkins **Observers:** not submitted

**19) Lake Monroe (INLM):**

**Species:** 95 **Individuals:** 16,274 **Compiler:** Jim and Susan Hengeveld **Observers:** Don Allen, Mike Apple, Jonathan Bauer, Carolyn Begley, Jeffrey Belth, Sandy Belth, Ben Brabson, Jim Brown, Mike Clay, Derek Coomer, Jiri Dadok, Bob Dodd, Jerry Downs, Milt Ducharme, Steve Dunbar, Julia Ferguson, Steve Gilstrap, Jim Goodson, Tommy Grav, Jess Gwinn, Donald Hall, Andi Haynes, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, Dawn Hewitt, Bill Holladay, Cindy Kallet, Geoff Keller, Dan Leach, Margaret Londergan, Andrew Madison, Nancy Martin, Kathy McClain, Greg Osland, Jen Richardson, Jeff Riegel, David Rupp, Rosemary Saurer, Greg Simon, Lee Sterrenburg, Rod Suthers, Alex Tanford, Scott Trey, Iva Uridel, Keith Uridel, Isabel Vernaza, Betsy Whitehead, Don Whitehead

**21) Mary Gray Sanctuary (INMG):**

**Species:** 48 **Individuals:** 2,096 **Compiler:** Carl Wilms **Observers:** Alan Bruner, Karen Henman, Karl Henman, Kathryn Henman, Ann Holmes, Bob Holmes, Colleen ?(sorry Colleen), Tim Tolford, Amy Wilms, Carl Wilms

**22) McCormick's Creek State Park (INMC):**

**Species: 63 Individuals: 5,114 Compiler:** Sandy Belth **Observers:** Bob Barber, Darlyn Barber, Jeff Belth, Sandy Belth, Bob Dodd, Jerry Downs, Milt DuCharme, Steve Dunbar, Maureen Forrest, Jess Gwinn, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, Bill Holladay, Bob Kissel, Nancy Martin, James Mitchell, Joe Phillips, Joan Tenhoor, Dan Weber

**23) Michaela Farm/Oldenburg (INMO):**

**Species: 53 Individuals: 11,238** Horned Lark set a new high count for them due to the deep snow cover **Compiler:** Wayne Wauligman **Observers:** Cathy Cooley, Ted Cooley, Chris Fox, Tracy Fox, Teri Glaser, Steve Glaser, Ned Keller, Kathy McDonald, Mike Minium, Karen Munchel, Bart Pfautz, Susan Marie Pleiss, Sr Ann Marie Quinn, Matthew Robbins, Mary Robertson, Mike Robertson, Paul Selkirk, Bella Troutman, Wayne Wauligman, Sr Claire Whalen

**24) Muncie (INMU):**

**Species: 56 Individuals: 3,273 Compiler:** Robert Williams **Observers:** Andy Bales, Elizabeth Champlin, Jason Courter, Chris Daniel, Willy De Smet, Lisa Dunaway, Rob Hall, Angela Hampton, Janet Hicks, Martha Hunt, Rose Jeffery, Randy Jones, Charlie Mason, John McKillip, Sarah McKillip, Nona Nunnely, Jeff Ray, Jody Rosenblatt-Nade, Barb Stedman, Robert Williams

**25) Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge (INMT):**

**Species: 73 Individuals: 7,122 Compiler:** Donna Stanley **Observers:** Erich Baumgardner, David Carr, Mike Clay, David Carr, David Crouch, Gary Dorman, Rebecca Dorman, Jerry Lippert, Donna Wagner, Steve Wagner

**26) Newport (Nwpt):**

**Species: 72 Individuals: 9,315** Ross's Goose was documented **Compiler:** Alan Bruner **Observers:** Alan Bruner, Phil Cox, Peter Scott, Patsy Steffen, Ed Timm, Ron Weiss

**27) Northeast LaPorte County (INNL):**

**Species: 64 Individuals: 5,476** Blue-winged Teal detailed **Compiler:** Dennis Richardson **Observers:** Susan Bagby, Jan Baumer, Robert Boklund, Margaret Buerger, Bruce Burmeister, Bruce Cummings, Rose Deutcher, Jason Erne, Chuck Ferczok, Cindy Fontaine, Dick Glassman, Mary Heath, Alcee Hacht, Pat Janz, Jim Jessup, Steve Laue, Don Lode, Pennie Lombard, Virginia Martin, Elizabeth McCloskey, Kip Miller, Cindy Pulver, Dennis Richardson, Marian Schoonaert, Frances Sipocz-Richardson, Allen Warren, Joan Wisniewski

**28) Oakland City (INOC):**

**Species: 101 Individuals: 9,720** Loggerhead Shrike was documented and picture taken. Golden Eagle and Barn Owl were documented. Details of Greated White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Merlin, American Woodcock **Compiler:** Heath Hamilton **Observers:** Amber Ball, Mr Ball, Neal Bogan, Dan Collins, Bobby Corrigan, Dan Eckstein, Ben Fritz, Nancy Gehlhausen, Steve Gifford, Susan Haislip, Heath Hamilton, Dave Howell, Bruce Hurley Bill Johnson, Jim Lodato, Bill McCoy, Charles Mills, Jeremy Ross, Marietta Smith, Evan Speck, Lee Sterrenburg, Brian Taylor, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Vicki Whitaker

**29) Ohio River (INOR):**

**Species:** 76 plus Killdeer seen count week. **Individuals:** 35,186 Osprey and Yellow-throated Warbler were documented **Compiler:** Paul Wharton **Observers:** Joe Bens, Jeff Burgess, Gene Dennis, Mark Gilsdorf, Joe Kappa, Donna Mellon, Jim Rettig, Gary Stegner, Jack Stenger, Rachel Stultz, Zach Stultz, Paul Wharton, Brian Wolker

**30) Patoka Lake (INPL):**

**Species:** 82 **Individuals:** 6,518 **Compiler:** John Castrale **Observers:** David Ayer, Jim Brown, John Castrale, Howard Detweller, Todd Eubank, Steven Gilstrap, Jim Hengeveld, Susan Hengeveld, David Howell, Dan Leach, William Morris, Susan Morris, Dana Reckelhoff

**31) Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife (INPR):**

**Species:** 62 **Individuals:** 6,326 **Compiler:** Gary Tieben **Observers:** Richard Coony, Chad Harber, Louis Harber, Jim Haw, Frannie Headings, Ted Heemstra, Dick Hurley, Peter Hurley, Dave Messman, Shannon Nodolf, Sandy Schacht, , Joe Smith, Gary Tieben, Mark Weldon, John Winebrenner

**32) Plymouth (INPY):**

**Species:** 23 **Individuals:** 349 **Compiler:** Kurt Garner, Mark Gidley, Tom Leggett **Observers:** Mark Gidley, Jean Green, Margaret Jurkewicz

**33) Pokagon State Park (INPK):**

**Species:** 74 **Individuals:** 9,762 **Compiler:** Fred Wooley **Observers:** Brad Bumgardner, Josh Christian, Tiffany Conrad, Alexandra Forsythe, Terri Gorney, Joyce Gotschalk, Frannie Headings, Eric Helrich, Mary Helfrich, Marjorie Hershman, Maggie Jaicomo, Mike Jaicomo, Dan Klopfenstein, Lauren Loffer, Jacob Lothamer, Holly Meyers, Kip Miller, Sam Plew, Cynthia Powers, Ed Powers, Graham Rowe-Bultinck, John Schaust, Sandy Schacht, Rita Smith, Susan Treesh, Tony Trozzolo, Fred Wooley, Myron Yoder, Perry Yoder, Fred Zilch

**34) Posey County INPC):**

**Species:** 81 plus Canvasback and Ruby-throated Hummingbird seen count week **Individuals:** 16,993 Merlin, Greater White-fronted Goose, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird were documented **Compiler:** Brian Taylor **Observers:** David Ayer, Jim Bandoli, Carolyn Barron, Pat Bartlett, Pat Burden, Sharon Byes, Larry Caldwell, Pat Caldwell, Dan Collins, Charlie Crawford, Ron Crawford, Tim Grimm, Travis Harris, Yvone Harris, LD Harry, Ted Hitch, Dave Hodges, Scott Jones, Al Langen, Chris Langen, Nick Langen, Patrick Langen, Ann McDonald, Bob Meier, Jessie Meier, John Meredig, Judy Moore, Andrea Neimeir, Marcia Onnybecker, Carol Petts, Vivian Ruff, Judi Russell, Rone Russell, Brian Taylor, Josie Taylor, Dick Vernier, Chuck Watson, Mary Ann Watson, Vicky Whitaker

**35) Putnam County (PutC):**

**Species:** 45 **Individuals:** 2,326 **Compiler:** Jerome Rud **Observers:** Dean Finley, James Gammon, Betty Graffis, Tom Graffis, Clint Maddox, Dana Maddox, Whitney Morrill, Roxanne Pannell, Emily Poor, Jim Poor, Jerry Rud, Don Williams

**36) Richmond (INRI):**

**Species:** 61 **Individuals:** 3,806 **Compiler:** Bill Buskirk and Jim Seaney **Observers:** Bill Buskirk, Jim Seaney, Ron Williams

**37) South Bend (INSB):**

**Species:** 63 plus count week Common Goldeneye, Bald Eagle, and Rough-legged Hawk **Individuals:** 9,396 Merlin was detailed **Compiler:** Victor Riemenschneider **Observers:** **Participants:** Field observers: Alice Bentley, John Bentley, Dan Brazo, Mary Beth Dickey, Joe Doherty, Dick Fessenden, Louise Fessenden, Robert Fessenden, Laura Fuderer, Justin Kintzele, Craig Kirkwood, Evie Kirkwood, Michael Klingerman and her young birders at St. Patrick's County Park, Bob Leliaert, Linda Leliaert, Kathy Maloney, Brian Miller, Scott Namestnik, Marge Riemenschneider, Vic Riemenschneider, Vicky Rydzynski, Lindsey Sas, Sarah Sass, Steve Sass, Joan Tweedell, Ken Tweedell, Lynn Vernon, Casey Zillman. Feeder watchers: John Fleming, Del Meyer, Nancy Meyer, Alice Poplawski, Carole Roos, Jim Spier.

**38) Southwest Dubois County (INSD):**

**Species:** 57 plus Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Cedar Waxwing seen count week **Individuals:** 1,474 **Compiler:** Theresia Schwinghammer **Observers:** Russ Mumford, Theresia Schwinghammer, Tom Schwinghammer

**39) Spring Mill State Park (INSM):**

**Species:** 75 **Individuals:** 9,427 details received for Golden Eagle and American Woodcock. The Barn Owl, Black Vulture and Eurasian Collared-Dove are all regular on the count. **Compiler:** John Castrale **Observers:** Bob Ball, Andrea Castrale, John Castrale, Howard Detweiler, Jess Gwinn, Amy Kearns, Noah Kearns, Dan Leach, Cathy Meyer, Bruce Miller, Terry Wise

**40) Sullivan County (INSU):**

**Species:** 92 **Individuals:** 11,365 documented were Greater White-fronted Goose, Merlin, Least Sandpiper, and Northern Shrike. Cackling Goose was detailed. Least Sandpiper photo was submitted. **Compiler:** Michael Brown **Observers:** Michael Brown, Mike Clay, Joe Dickson, Steve Lima, Kathy McClain, Peter Scott, Lee Sterrenburg

**41) Terre Haute (INTH):**

**Species:** 83 plus count week Wood Duck **Individuals:** 37,551 Blue-winged Teal, Great Egret (first record for the count), Least Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Red Crossbill were documented. Cedar Waxwings were a high for the count **Compiler:** Peter Scott **Observers:** Debbie Athey, George Bakken, Laura Bakken, Adam Betuel, Jenny Bodwell, Dick Bonness, Michael Brown, Nicholas Brown, Jennie Carr, Jane Chestnut, Susie Dewey, Joe Dickson, Mike Geringer, John Haag, Karne Henman, Kathryn Henman, Marty Jones, Zach Kaiser, Steven Lima, Carissa Lovett, Ellen Lunsford, Nan McEntire, Brenda Milliren, Phil Milliren, Bill Mitchell, Joy O'Keefe, Andy Prothero, Denise Prothero, Cheryl Schweizer, Joy Sacopulos, Jeff Schaffer, Peter Scott, Denise Sobieski, Katie Spicer, Dave Stanley, Henry Tamar, Margaret Tamar, Dan Weber

**42) Tippecanoe (INTI):**

**Species:** 67 **Individuals:** 13,328 plus 6 Mallard hybrid seen. **Compiler:** David Hicks **Observers:** Margit Codisoti, Al Crist, Beth Deimling, Constance Doud, Steve Doud, Steve Hammer, David Hicks, Deborah Hustin, Lana Jarrett, Brent Jones, Amy Miller, Greg Miller, Stanley Moore, Don Musselman, Jeanne Musselman, Lila O'Connell, Bruce Ruisard, Jennifer Saxinger, Jim Townsend

**43) Topeka (INTO):**

**Species: 68** Pictures were received of Pine Warbler **Individuals: 11,834** **Compiler:** Leland Shaum  
**Observers:** Don Beyeler, Joseph Bontrager, Myron Bontrager, Rosemary Bontrager, Freeman Eash, Gary Keister, Mark Lambright, Dennis Lehman, Jonathon Lehman, Luke Lehman, Christy Miller, Derek Miller, Larry Miller, Leroy Miller, Michael Miller, Perry Miller, James Raber, Matthew Raber, Floyd Schmucker, Lavon Schmucker, Verlin Schrock, Aaron Schwartz, David Schwartz, Leland Shaum, Thaddaeus Shaum, Kenneth Shrock, Timothy Shrock, Elmer Wingard, Jeff Wingard, Devon Yoder, Enos Yoder, Matt Yoder, Myron Yoder, Nelson Yoder, Norman Yoder, Orva W. Yoder, Owen Yoder, Perry Yoder, Ray Yoder, Wilber Yoder

**44) Tri-County Rochester (INTC):**

**Species: 22** **Individuals: 280** **Compiler:** Thomas Leggett and Michael Stephan **Observers:** Larry Beeson, Sylvia Bieghler, Gloria Buzzard, Scott Buzzard, Jeffrey Klinefelter, Michael Stephan

**45) Turkey Run State Park (INTR):**

**Species: 76** **Individuals: 5,121** **Compiler:** Alan Bruner **Observers:** Jay Bolden, Alan Bruner, Tom Burns, Mike Clay, Brant Cowser, Mary Beth Eberwein, Tony Gonczarow, Karen Henman, Greg Oskay, Peter Scott, Holly Settles, Amber Slaughterbeck, Karl Werner

**46) Wells County (WELS):**

**Species: 36** **Individuals: 1,788** **Compiler:** Ruth Oswalt **Observers:** Kathy Fuller, Carolyn Graham, Jerry Moser, Rose Moser, Jerry Parker, Larry Parker, Paul Sell

**47) Western Gibson County (INWG):**

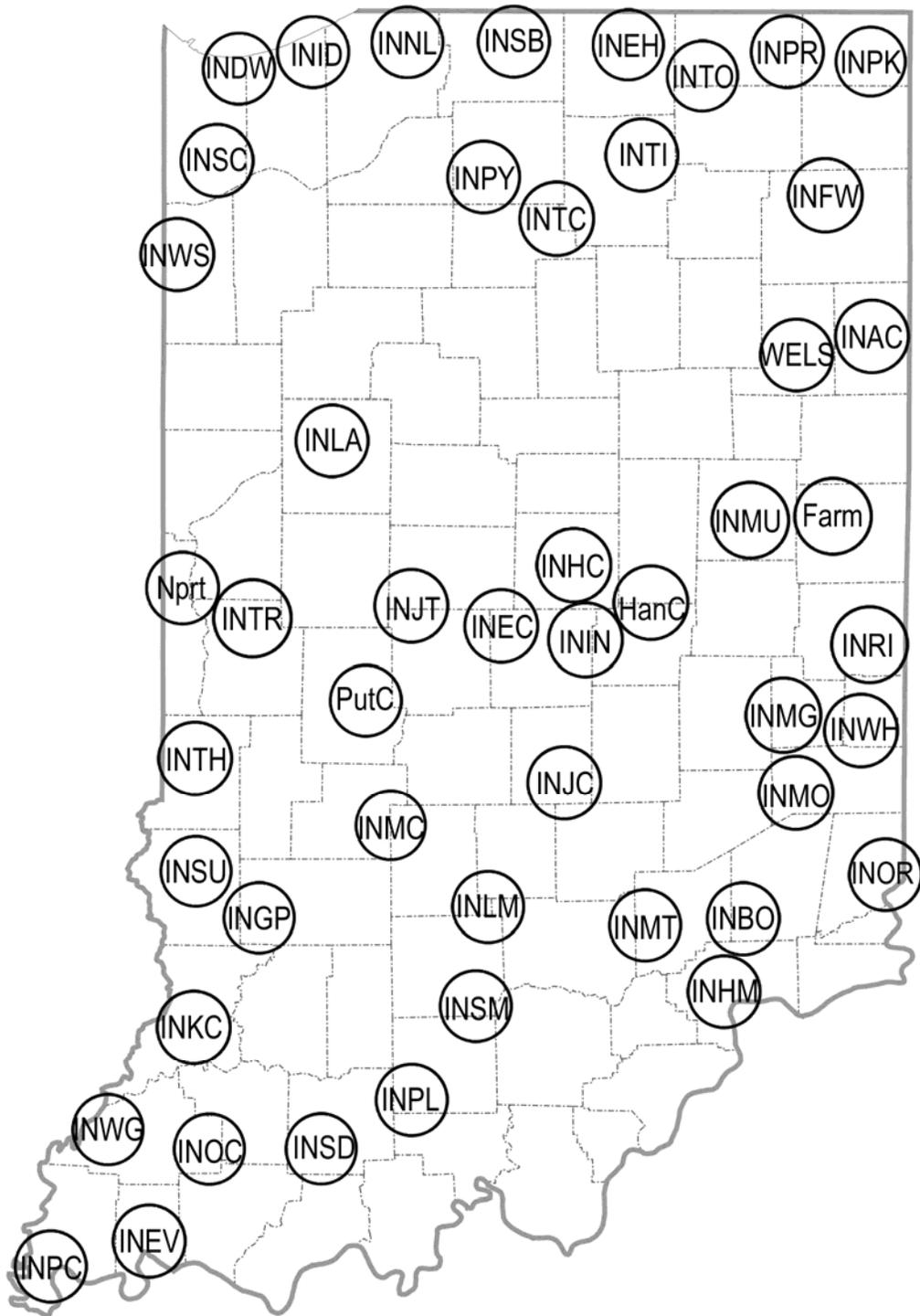
**Species: 107** plus six non-countable Whooping Cranes and count week a Golden Eagle **Individuals: 116,419** Ross's Goose, Golden Eagle, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Palm Warbler, and Le Conte's Sparrow were documented. Photos of Palm Warbler. **Compiler:** Dan Collins **Observers:** David Ayer, Gary Bowman, Lisa Bowman, Dan Collins, Adam Cronk, Tom Cronk, Ben Fritz, Nancy Gehlhausen, Steve Gifford, Tim Griffith, Heath Hamilton, LD Harry, Kathy McClain, Bob Meier, Jesse Meier, Mr and Mrs Bob Shelby, Ryan Slack, Marietta Smith, Evan Speck, Lee Sterrenburg, Brian Taylor, Terry Tichenor, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Vicky Whitaker, Dawn York

**48) Whitewater State Park (INWH):**

**Species: 79** plus a non-wild Ring-necked Pheasant and exotic male European Goldfinch **Individuals: 9,262** High counts recorded for Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow, **Compiler:** Bill Buskirk and Jim Seaney **Observers:** Bill Buskirk, Deb Chagares, Jim Chagares, Bob Holmes, Jan Holmes, Steve Kolbe, Rebekah Palmer, David Russell, Jill Russell, Jim Seaney, Kathleen Tiller, Tom Tiller, Ron Williams, Amy Wilms, Carl Wilms, Bill Wilson

**49) Willow Sough-Iroquois Preserve (INWS):**

**Species: 61** including a large falcon species and a shrike species plus Wood Duck, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, and Red-shouldered Hawk seen count week **Individuals: 3,491** **Compiler:** Ed Hopkins  
**Observers:** not submitted



**Figure 1 2012-2013 Indiana CBC Map**



~photo by Leland Shaum

**Figure 2. White-winged Crossbills – Elkhart CBC, 29 December 2012**



~photo by Carl Wilms

**Figure 3. Evening Grosbeak – Terre Haute CBC, 30 December 2012**



~photo by Steve Gifford

**Figure 4. Palm Warbler – Western Gibson CBC, 16 December 2012**



~photo by Evan Speck

**Figure 5. Loggerhead Shrike – Oakland City CBC, 22 December 2012**



~photo by Geoff Williamson

**Figure 6. Clay-colored Sparrow – Indiana Dunes West County CBC, 27 December 2012**



~photo by Leland Shaum

**Figure 7. Pine Warbler – Topeka CBC, 24 December 2012**



~photo by Steve Bell

**Figure 8. Marsh Wren – Goose Pond CBC, 19 December 2012**



**Figure 9. Ruby-throated Hummingbird – pre Posey County CBC, 21 December 2012**

## **INDIANA WINTER BIRD FEEDER COUNT – 2012-2013**

**John S. Castrale, 562 DNR Road, Mitchell, IN 47446**

The statewide feeder count sponsored by the Indiana Audubon Society was continued for the twentieth year during the winter of 2012-2013. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about the relative abundance and distribution of birds frequenting feeders during winter months in Indiana. Planned as an annual activity, changes and population trends in bird populations may be tracked. A secondary objective of this project is to increase enjoyment of winter bird feeding.

### **Methods**

A standardized form was developed that included 45 bird species expected to occur at feeders in Indiana. Space was also provided to write in additional, less common species. Survey periods were 6 consecutive days (20th-25th of the month) each during the months of November, December, January, and February. During these survey periods, participants were asked to record the maximum number of individuals of each bird species during any one observation period. Information about the feeder site, number of feeders, types of feeders, food provided, temperatures, and snow cover was also solicited from each participant.

The state was divided into north, south, and central regions in an identical way used in the Summer Bird Count (Kearns and Castrale 2010). Bird occurrence data were treated two ways. The maximum number of individuals of each species seen during each 6-day count period was averaged. Because this variable may be greatly influenced by a few feeders where a species may be unusually common or by flocking species, frequency of occurrence was also calculated. Not all count forms were usable. Some participants did not report total birds properly (cumulative total used instead of maximum count), so these figures were used only in calculating frequency and not average numbers. In rare cases, the identification skills of observers were questionable and the reports not used. Counts were analyzed by region, time period, and year. A statistical test (chi-square goodness of fit test) was used to determine differences in the frequencies in which species occurred by region and survey period. This test compares observed and expected (based on overall pattern of occurrence) frequencies and was only applied to species in which the expected number of occurrences in each cell was  $>5$ .

### **Results and Discussion**

The winter of 2012-2013 averaged somewhat warmer than usual with nearly normal precipitation. Temperatures were below average for November (-2.2 degrees Fahrenheit), near normal for February (-0.6), but above average for December (+6.2 degrees) and January (+3.7). During the count period, November minimum temperatures were generally in the low 20's with maximums in the 60's. Reported temperatures in December were mostly in the teens for lows and the 40-50's for highs. Most participants reported lows just above zero in January with highs in the 30's and 40's. These increased somewhat in February with lows in the teens and highs in the 40's and 50's. November was dry (28% of normal precipitation), January was wet (193% precipitation), while December and February had near normal amounts of precipitation (105% and 98% of normals, respectively). Days with falling snow were infrequent (three in November, seven each in December and January, and six days in February). During the count periods, no snow cover was reported in November with 0-3" sporadically reported in December. Snow amounts varied from 0-2" in January, while 0-1" was found southern and central Indiana during February with amounts of up to 7" reported in some areas of northern Indiana.

Participation in the Winter Bird Feeder Count for 2012-2013 was the lowest in its history, with the change mostly due to fewer counts in central Indiana (Table 1). Most counts came from northern Indiana and should be considered when comparing annual abundance for species with strong regional trends (i.e., chickadees, Carolina Wren). Counties with the greatest participation were: Allen, St. Joseph, and Steuben. Individuals submitting counts are listed in Appendix I.

The overall number of species detected annually has not varied greatly over the years, especially the number of species that were found on >3% of counts (Table 1). The order of abundance for most species was similar to previous years, with House Sparrow again most numerous and Northern Cardinal most prevalent (Table 2). Most woodpeckers were reported at or near record levels along with the Yellow-rumped Warbler. With the exception of the Purple Finch, all irruptive “winter finches” (including the Red-breasted Nuthatch), made a good showing in Indiana this year.

Other species occurring with a relative frequency of <3% were Canada Goose, Rusty Blackbird, Horned Lark, Red-tailed Hawk, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Evening Grosbeak, American Black Duck, Northern Shrike, Chipping Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. Rare and unusual species are seldom documented by participants.

As in past years, over half of the species displayed statistically significant differences in regional occurrence (Table 3). Feeders in southern Indiana generally have a greater variety of species and most species with regional differences are found at higher levels in the south. American Tree Sparrow is an exception, and along with Black-capped Chickadee and Common Redpoll were found in greater numbers in northern Indiana. House Sparrow and Pileated Woodpecker were most frequently encountered in the central part of the state.

Only four species showed significant differences in frequency among the four time periods surveyed (Table 4). Differences were mostly due to higher values in later winter, with Red-winged Blackbirds and other black showing greater frequencies in February due to northward migratory movements by the end of the count period.

Appreciation is extended to all participants in this count, especially those who donated to the printing costs.

### **Literature Cited**

Kearns, A. and J. Castrale. 2010. Indiana Audubon Society Summer Bird Count - 2009. *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* 88:26-33.

**Appendix I.** *Participants in the 2012-2013 Indiana Winter Bird Feeder Count.*

**North - Allen:** Fox Island County Park, Louise Larsen, Ed & Cynthia Powers, Marty & Don Ryan, Mark & Kim Weldon, Jada White, Phil Wixom; **Lagrange:** Elma Chapman; **Lake:** Matt Kalwasinski, Irmie Kohanyi; **LaPorte:** Dennis & Frances Richardson; **Marshall:** Carolyne Babcock, Steve & Cindy Odiorne; **Porter:** Indiana Dunes State Park; **Saint Joseph:** Brian Miller, Lindsay & Scott Namestuiik, Marge & Vic Riemenschneider; **Steuben:** Pokagon State Park, Bert Schulz, Jim Somers, Fred Wooley; **Whitley:** Stan Needham.

**Central** - *Adams*: Larry Parker; *Boone*: Cloyce Hedge, Roger & Michelle Hedge; *Cass*: Landon Neumann; *Fountain*: Harmon & Sally Weeks; *Grant*: Joy Sellers; *Hancock*: Gail McNierney; *Marion*: Gordon Chastain, Becky Lomax-Sumner; *Morgan*: Cindy Breedlove, Robert Gregory; *Tippecanoe*: Delano Arvin, Lynne Lesley; *Warren*: Susan Ulrich; *Wells*: Jerry & Rose Moser.

**South** – *Dearborn*: Connie McNamee, Greg Mendell; *Floyd*: John Graf; *Greene*: Maureen Forrest, Jess Gwinn; *Knox*: Gary Bowman; *Lawrence*: John Castrale, Amy & Noah Kearns; *Monroe*: Cathy Meyer; *Ripley*: Gary Stegner; *Vigo*: Diana Hews, Marty Jones, Peter Scott; *Warrick*: Tim Griffith.

The Indiana Audubon Quarterly is the official publication of the society. A limited, printed version and a web copy ( <http://www.indianaaudubon.org/>) of the Quarterly are available to members. The web version contains more in-depth information, and articles that are greater than 10 pages in length as a general rule. You are invited to publish your field notes and articles concerning wildlife or conservation. Material for publication should be sent to the Editor at: [jeffro595@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffro595@yahoo.com). **Articles and papers should be computer generated, preferably using Microsoft Word.** All dates should conform to scientific journal date format – date, month, year (e.g. 22 July 2010 not July 22, 2010). In matters of bird nomenclature, please conform to the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the American Ornithologist’s Checklist and its supplements. Art work and photographs are encouraged but must be of sufficient quality suitable for publication, typically >300 dpi.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I have checked the type of membership desired and attached my dues.

- Individual membership, \$30.00 annually
- Student membership, \$20.00 annually
- Family membership, \$35.00 annually
- Contributing membership, \$50.00 annually
- Life membership, \$675.00 in one or two payments
- Cardinal Club, \$100.00 annually
- Subscription to the Indiana Audubon Society Quarterly by public  
Library or foreign resident, \$30.00 annually

Dues include an electronic subscription to the *Indiana Audubon Quarterly* and *The Cardinal* Newsletter, and member-only access to portions of the website.

Make membership checks payable to Indiana Audubon Society, Inc. and mail to:

Sally Routh, 12284 Daugherty Dr, Zionsville, IN 46077-9308

