



Nature News & Notes

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August/September 2020

Volunteers Needed

No events Scheduled.

Save the Date!

Annual Fall Picnic
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 6:30pm
At Dobbs Park Nature Center

Join us in the amphitheater for our Annual Fall Picnic. It will be done a little differently this year, due to Covid-19. We will observe social distancing and wear a mask when that is not possible.

This will not be a carry-in to share food. We ask that you bring your own food, drink, and table service. We will have a fire to cook on if you would like to do so.

Elections will be held during this gathering for the 2020/2021 term. See page 4 for more election details.

We have not been able to gather since February, so this is a good outside opportunity to do so.

For more information or to let us know you are coming call 812-877-1095.

Photo from the 2018 Fall Picnic by Carissa Lovett

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Upcoming Events

Annual Fall Picnic

Wednesday, September 16th, 2020

See page 1 for more details.

14th Annual Bat Festival

Saturday, September 19th, 2020

Cancelled.

Second Annual Bird Festival

Saturday, October 10th, 2020

Cancelled

October Member Meeting

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020

To be determined.

November Member Meeting

Wednesday, November 18th, 2020

To be determined.

Birding with WVAS

Saturday, November 21st, 2020

To be determined.

Birding with WVAS

Saturday, December 5th, 2020

To be determined.

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December ?, 2020

The nation's longest-running community science bird project . Birders will be out counting the birds of Vigo County during this national event. If you would like to join in the hunt, contact Peter Scott at peter.scott@indstate.edu.

Member Photo Night

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

6pm at Dobbs Park Native American Museum

You don't have to be a member to share your photos of the wildlife you have encountered or that special natural place you visited. Load your images to a external drive and bring it along. Please keep presentations to 5 to 10 minutes in length.

Completed Events

Date	Title	Presenter
March 20th, 2019	Racing Pigeons	Dr. Thomas G. Morgan
April 6th, 2019	1st Annual Terre Haute Bird Festival	
April 17th, 2019	Annual Banquet at MCL	Lorie Heber
May 11th, 2019	Big May Day Bird Count	
May 15th, 2019	Annual Spring Picnic at Dobbs Park	
September 18th, 2019	Annual Fall Picnic at Dobbs Park	
October 16th, 2019	Bugs After Dark	Bob Bruner
November 20th, 2019	Let's Talk About Rocks!	Corienne Bruner
December 14th, 2019	Christmas Bird Count	
December 18th, 2019	Member Photo Night	
January 15th, 2020	Butterflies of Indiana and Native Plants to Attract Them	Phil Cox
February 19th, 2020	Sustainability at Indiana State University	Nick McCreary
March 18th, 2020	White-throated Sparrow Parasitology Cancelled	Zoe Delefortrie
April 15th, 2020	Annual Banquet at M. Mogger's Restaurant - Cancelled	Dr. Barny Dunning
May 9th, 2020	Global Big Day	
May 20th, 2020	Annual Spring Picnic at Dobbs Park - Cancelled	



Pictures from the 1st Annual
Terre Haute Bird Fest.





Officer and Board Member Elections

Due to the cancelation of the **Wabash Valley Audubon Society Annual Meeting/Banquet**, the election for officers and board members for the 2020/2021 term will be held during the **Annual Fall Picnic on September 16th, 2020** in the **Dobbs Park Nature Center Amphitheater at 7:30pm**. The proposed officers and board members are listed below.

Officers:

President - Nick Gabry

Vice President - Open

Secretary - Courtney Wiesepape

Treasurer - Phil Cox

Board Members at Large:

Lucinda Berry - Membership Chair

Carissa Lovett - Terre Haute Bird Festival Chair

Ellen Lunsford

Ray Peck

Madison Reff



Eastern Box Turtle \\
by Carissa Lovett

Terre Haute's 60th Christmas Bird Count, Dec 14, 2019

By: Peter Scott (peter.scott@indstate.edu)

With this year's count we reached another milestone: 60 consecutive CBC's, beginning in 1960. Nationally, the CBC began in 1900 and now marks its 120th year, so Terre Haute has been part of it for exactly half of CBC history. Quite a few of us birding now overlapped with those who built the count tradition in Terre Haute. The number of participants has fluctuated between 12 and 41, averaging 24 between 1960 and 1996, 35 between 1997 and 2012, and 29 since 2013.

For the first 30 years (1960-1989), the count averaged 55.5 species, ranging from 49 to 63. For the last 30 years (1990-2019), the average is 80.0, and the range 67 to 91. Many interesting changes can be seen in the historical spreadsheet: decline of Bobwhite, increase of Wild Turkey, Turkey Vulture, and Pileated Woodpecker, replacement of Purple Finch by House Finch, increase in waterfowl diversity, appearance of Eurasian Collared-Dove 9 years ago, recovery of once-threatened Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, the end of occasional winter incursions by Evening Grosbeak (last appearance 1996), and so on.

Count total: We had 81 species on this year's count – close to our recent average of 82.2 species for the last 10 years. No new species were added to the all-time list of 145 (the last addition was Black Vulture in 2015). All species seen were ones that have been recorded in the last 10 years, during which time 118 species have been found (**Table 1**). The rarest species this year was **Double-crested Cormorant**, followed by 5 species with 3 records in the last 10 years.

Table 1. Species seen in 2019 and their frequency in last 10 years (including 2019).

# years seen	# species in category	Species names
10	57	(too many to list)
9	7	Greater White-fronted Goose, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Horned Owl, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle
8	3	Eurasian Collared-Dove, Peregrine Falcon, Red-br. Nuthatch
7	2	Snow Goose, Eastern Meadowlark
6	4	Common Goldeneye, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow
5	1	Ruddy Duck
4	1	Rusty Blackbird
3	5	Ross's Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Brown Thrasher
2	1	Double-crested Cormorant
Total	81	

Although we didn't get any sensationally rare species this year, we also didn't miss many of the usual ones (**Table 2**). However, Purple Finch, Northern Shoveler, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer and a few others were "misses" that we usual find. The simplest way to reach 90 species is to have a long waterfowl list. This year we had 14 goose, swan, and duck species; on the peak counts of **91 species** in 2006 and 2004, we had 22 and 19 waterfowl, respectively.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Table 2. Species seen in last 10 years (118 species cumulatively) that were **missed in 2019** (37 species).

# years seen	Species
8	Purple Finch
7	Northern Shoveler, Rough-legged Hawk
6	Killdeer
5	American Coot, Lapland Longspur, Pine Siskin
4	Lesser Scaup, Horned Grebe, Short-eared Owl, Chipping Sparrow
3	Cackling Goose, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Common Merganser, Wilson's Snipe
2	Redhead, Sandhill Crane, Herring Gull, Eastern Phoebe
1	Tundra Swan, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, White-winged Scoter, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Least Sandpiper, Merlin, White-eyed Vireo, American Pipit, Snow Bunting, Palm Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, Red Crossbill

Participants: Twenty-seven birders participated, operating in 12 field parties that were active for at least 4 hours (the average being 7 hours of daytime birding). Three participants were new -- **Meredith Hoggatt, Marc Rufener, and Mark Vukovich** – and five returned for a second time, a good sign. The remaining 19 participants are veterans of at least 6 Terre Haute counts; twelve have done 15 or more, led by Mary Beth Eberwein (35 counts).

Weather: Count day “dawned” with a nearly full moon and much haze and fog, which did not lift until 11 am. It was also calm until then, after which winds of 6 to 12 mph blew from the west, southwest, or northwest. Temperatures ranged from 31 to 42 degrees F. Still water was partly or wholly frozen. Bigger lakes were mostly open, and there was no ice on the Wabash River. There was occasional drizzle, and no snow cover.

Waterfowl: We had 4 kinds of geese: 743 **Greater White-fronted**, 700 **Snow**, 1 **Ross's**, and 1518 **Canada**. Steve Lima had been watching the **Ross's Goose** for a week as it mingled with Canadas along Darwin Road. White-fronts have now occurred on 9 of the last 10 counts, and Snows on 7 of the last 10; we can almost count on 3 goose species, a change from the late 20th century. Bill Mitchell and Denise Sobieski found 7 **Trumpeter Swans** along Swalls Road just northeast of the roundabout, in a field used in previous winters. The swans flew right over them; later six reappeared for Carissa Lovett and Ellen Lunsford.

We had 9 duck species: in descending order of abundance, **Mallard, Ring-necked, Gadwall, Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, Ruddy,**



Greater White-fronted Geese (Mark Vukovich)

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American Black, Common Goldeneye, Wood Duck. The best sites were Hulman Street Reservoir (7 species) and J.I. Case Wetland by Hawthorn Park (4 species), which fortunately had plenty of open water.



Wild Turkeys (Mark Vukovich)

Gallinaceous birds: Wild Turkeys did not appear until afternoon, when three groups were seen, including 44 by Nick Brown. We had no **Northern Bobwhite** — it is 12 years since we've detected them on the CBC. Quail were regular from 1960 to 1989, averaging 32 birds/count over that span (high count: 106). A few may still occur within the circle but we know of no accessible spot, though there are some in outlying parts of the county. **Wild Turkey** shows the opposite pattern: first detected in 1992 (after reintroduction),

common only since 1998. The contrasting trends for these 2 species are well documented across the state.

Grebe, Cormorant, Heron: Seven **Pied-billed Grebes** lingered (and will soon be gone): 5 at Hulman Lake, 1 each at JI Case and Davis Road Pond. No Horned Grebes were found. A single **Double-crested Cormorant** with an injured wing soldiered on at JI Case. **Great Blue Herons** (13) were uncommon, but we do not currently have access to the warm-water discharges at Duke Power Plant, where 15 to 20 sometimes occur.

Vulture, Hawks and Eagle: A high count of **159** was established for **Turkey Vultures**, eclipsing by far the previous record of 53 individuals. (Would you believe that prior to 1993, Turkey Vulture was a great rarity? A grand total of 4 vultures were found in those 34 years; since 1993, the average is 20/count.) It was a strange day weather-wise for so many vultures to be seen. Steve Lima watched 68 fly to a roost in late afternoon. A high count was also established for **Red-shouldered Hawk** (55), while **Red-tailed Hawk** abundance (39) was normal. Ten **Bald Eagles** were counted, hinting at the county's impressive population; Jim Sullivan watched two eagles disrupt the gull flock at Hulman Street. An adult **Cooper's Hawk** flew into a densely branched tree on the Vigo County Public Library grounds and frustrated Peter Scott's efforts to photograph it; an immature bird posed cooperatively for Sarah Moore. Only 2 **Northern Harriers** were seen.

Shorebirds, Gulls: We found no shorebirds. Killdeer (especially) and Wilson's Snipe are possibilities, but November's sharp freeze (to 9 degrees F for 2 days) may have sent them all south. **Ring-billed Gulls** were unusually abundant: 470 were seen in 5 localities, most at Hulman Street Reservoir where a large flock has foraged for about 3 weeks. They plunge to the surface, getting some small prey item, and spend all day there, leaving at sunset for an unknown roosting site. It was our second highest count in 60 years. The flock was scrutinized in vain for other gull species.



Ring-billed Gulls (Peter Scott)

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The gulls attracted interest from Watertree subdivision residents and passers-by on Hulman Street. A TV station filmed them, and Austen Leake of the Tribune-Star took a marvelous photo on Dec. 16 of a second-winter bird on the water, wings raised, with snow falling thickly.

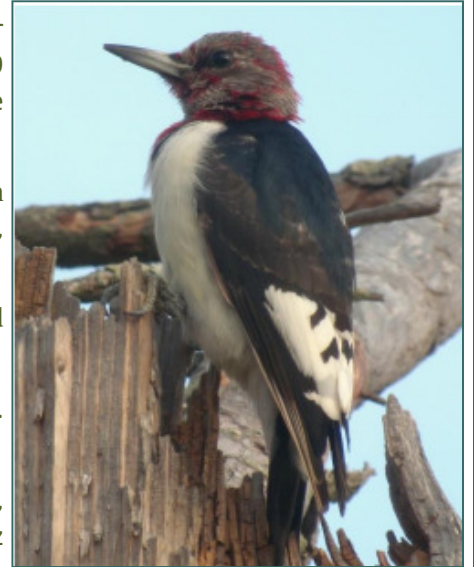
Pigeons and Doves: 35 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were counted near Graham Grain, with two more in Carissa's neighborhood, continuing their 9-year presence in the city. **Rock Pigeons** and **Mourning Doves** were common.

Owls: Steve Lima's pre-dawn efforts yielded (with difficulty) 1 **Eastern Screech-Owl** and 1 **Great Horned Owl**. He also had two **Barred Owls**, and the Vukovich-O'Keefe party added another by day.

Woodpeckers: We found the usual 7 species, including 4 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers**. We had 32 **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, the most since 2003.

Falcons: A **Peregrine Falcon** was perched on Blumberg Hall at ISU. Fourteen **American Kestrels** were seen.

Jay to Warbler: The count of **384 Blue Jays** was the highest since 2002, perhaps explained by a large acorn crop. At dusk, Peter and Mary Liz cruised neighborhoods between Woodrow Wilson Middle School and 7th Street trying to count **American Crows** in their roosting areas. They saw about 200 per tree on a dozen trees, 500 or more on warehouse roofs, adding up to some 10,000 birds; with other counts during the day, our total was **15,716**. For the past 10 years, the total has ranged between 3K and 16K (with uneven counting effort); from 1997 to 2009, counts ranged from 20K to 67K. It seems that the roost has diminished in the last decade, but the crow is still our most abundant bird.



Molting **Red-headed Woodpecker**
(Mark Vukovich)



Carolina Wren, still vocal in December (Mark Vukovich)

Only 3 **Horned Larks** were found; fifty is a typical count, but snow is needed to bring them to rural roadsides. Numbers for **Carolina Chickadee**, **Tufted Titmouse**, and **White-breasted Nuthatch** were normal. Only 1 **Redbreasted Nuthatch** was tallied, compared to last year's 11 birds; none were in the conifers at St Mary-of-the-Woods College, but Bill Mitchell found one in an old tree on his property. We had 2 **Winter Wrens** and 88 **Carolina Wrens**. Six parties each found one **Brown Creeper**. Steve Lima found the only kinglets -- 2 **Golden-crowned** and 1 **Ruby-crowned**.

Eastern Bluebird and **American Robin** were the common thrushes, though robin numbers were below average. Two parties had **Hermit Thrush**. Besides **Northern Mockingbirds** scattered across the circle, Steve found a rarer relative, **Brown Thrasher**, at a spot where he had seen one a week earlier along with an even rarer relative, Gray Catbird; but the catbird did not stay for our count. **European Starlings** were the second most common passerine (3,473), after **American Crow**. **Cedar Waxwing** flocks were found by 3 parties. **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was our only member of that family; four parties had 1 or 2 birds.

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Sparrows to Finches: We had 10 sparrow species, counting **Eastern Towhee**, including the challenging **Savannah** and **Fox sparrows**. The three most common species – **Dark-eyed Junco**, **White-throated Sparrow**, **Song Sparrow** – were seen by almost all parties. The count for **Field Sparrows** (23) was rather high, while that for **American Tree Sparrows** (57) was low. **Swamp** and **White-crowned Sparrow** rounded out the list.

Northern Cardinals were widespread as usual. Each party reported at least 10, with Nick Brown tops at 74.

No huge blackbird flocks were encountered. Instead, **Common Grackle** (725), **Brown-headed Cowbird** (579), and **Red-winged Blackbird** (301) were each seen in good numbers by one or a few parties.



Rusty Blackbird (Michael Brown)

Clockwise from upper left: Ellen Lunsford, Carissa Lovett; Meredith Hoggatt, Liz Beilke, Sarah Moore; Joy O'Keefe, Mark Vukovich, David Bakken, Laura Bakken; Peter Scott, Mary Liz Wright, Dan Weber.

Eastern Meadowlark were found by 3 parties, yielding a higher count (13) than usual. A flock of 26 **Rusty Blackbirds** (found by Brown, Bonness, and Weber) was unusual; we rarely get more than a few.

House Finches and **American Goldfinches** were seen by most parties, but **Purple Finch** eluded us. **House Sparrows** were seen by all parties.



Dark-eyed Junco, dubbed "Country Boy" (Mark Vukovich)



At Moggers Restaurant, we filled four tables and discussed the day's highlights. Official results are already posted (12/17/19) on the National Audubon Society's CBC web page: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>

On the following two pages, count totals are given for this year's count and the first Terre Haute count in 1960.

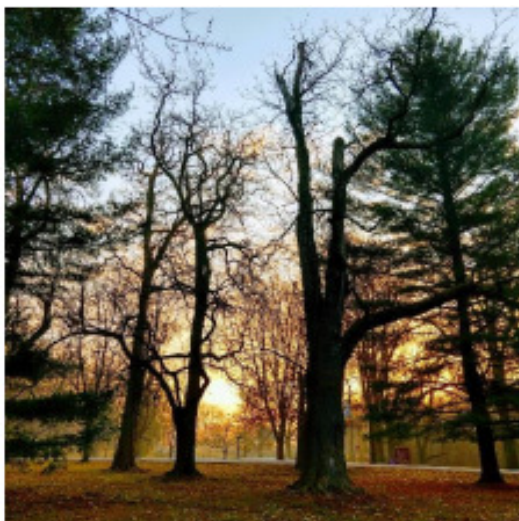
Thanks to Dan Weber for co-compiling, Steve Lima for weather data, Joy O'Keefe for formatting Moggers' photos, and Mike Brown, Joy O'Keefe, and Mark Vukovich for sharing photos from count day.

Complete list of species and individuals, with notable species in **bold** (seen in 2 or 3 of last 10 years), and unusually high counts of individuals in **red**. Terre Haute, Ind. CBC, 2019.

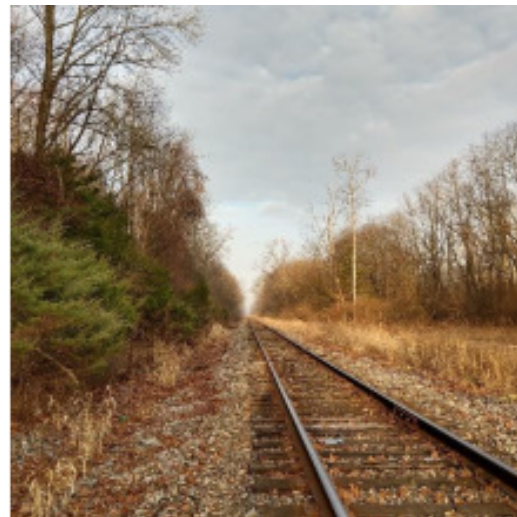
Gr. White-fronted Goose	743	Blue Jay	384	Count week only:
Snow Goose	700	American Crow	15,716	<i>American Coot</i>
Ross's Goose	1	Horned Lark	3	
Canada Goose	1,518	Carolina Chickadee	177	
Trumpeter Swan	7	Tufted Titmouse	145	
Wood Duck	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	
Gadwall	20	White-breasted Nuthatch	68	Participants, 2019
American Black Duck	4	Brown Creeper	6	N = 27
Mallard	246	Winter Wren	2	David Bakken
Ring-necked Duck	87	Carolina Wren	88	George Bakken
Bufflehead	9	Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	Laura Bakken
Common Goldeneye	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Liz Beilke
Hooded Merganser	20	Eastern Bluebird	105	Ann Black
Ruddy Duck	10	Hermit Thrush	5	Bruce Black
Wild Turkey	62	American Robin	75	Dick Bonness
Pied-billed Grebe	7	Northern Mockingbird	14	Mike Brown
Double-cr. Cormorant	1	Brown Thrasher	1	Nick Brown
Great Blue Heron	13	European Starling	3,473	Joe Dickson
Turkey Vulture	159	Cedar Waxwing	32	Mary Beth Eberwein
Bald Eagle	10	Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	Meredith Hoggatt
Northern Harrier	2	Eastern Towhee	17	Steve Lima
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	American Tree Sparrow	59	Carissa Lovett
Cooper's Hawk	5	Field Sparrow	23	Ellen Lunsford
Red-shouldered Hawk	55	Savannah Sparrow	2	Bill Mitchell
Red-tailed Hawk	39	Fox Sparrow	2	Margaret Moga
Ring-billed Gull	470	Song Sparrow	104	Sarah Moore
Rock Pigeon	207	Swamp Sparrow	10	Joy O'Keefe
Eurasian Collared-Dove	37	White-throated Sparrow	142	Marc Rufener
Mourning Dove	226	White-crowned Sparrow	60	Peter Scott
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	Dark-eyed Junco	451	Denise Sobieski
Great Horned Owl	1	Northern Cardinal	343	Jim Sullivan
Barred Owl	3	Red-winged Blackbird	143	Frank Tillman
Belted Kingfisher	9	Eastern Meadowlark	13	Mark Vukovich
Red-headed Woodpecker	32	Rusty Blackbird	26	Dan Weber
Red-bellied Woodpecker	89	Common Grackle	808	Mary Liz Wright
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	171	
Downy Woodpecker	85	House Finch	92	Compilers:
Hairy Woodpecker	16	American Goldfinch	76	Peter Scott
Northern Flicker	43	House Sparrow	340	Dan Weber
Pileated Woodpecker	18			
American Kestrel	14	Total species	81	
Peregrine Falcon	1	Total individuals	28,169	

Totals for Terre Haute's first Christmas Bird Count: December 27, 1960.

Common Goldeneye	13	Tufted Titmouse	132	
Northern Bobwhite *	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	10	
Northern Harrier	14	Brown Creeper	5	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Carolina Wren	17	
Cooper's Hawk	2	Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	
Red-tailed Hawk	6	Eastern Bluebird	14	Participants, 1960
Rough-legged Hawk *	2	American Robin	4	N = 14
Killdeer*	5	Northern Mockingbird	17	Merrill Carr
Wilson's Snipe*	2	European Starling	1507	Ruth Erickson
Mourning Dove	398	Cedar Waxwing	71	W. J. Eversole
Great Horned Owl	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	Mrs. Fred Haughton
Barred Owl	1	Eastern Towhee	22	Joe Hennen
Belted Kingfisher	2	American Tree Sparrow	165	Mrs. Joe Hennen
Red-headed Woodpecker	18	Field Sparrow	23	William Hopp
Red-bellied Woodpecker	68	Fox Sparrow	12	Alice Kieweg
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	Song Sparrow	131	Alta Koch
Downy Woodpecker	66	White-throated Sparrow	6	Vula Malooley
Hairy Woodpecker	12	White-crowned Sparrow	31	Amy Mason
Northern Flicker	25	Dark-eyed Junco	542	James H. Mason
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Northern Cardinal	290	Jack Munsee
American Kestrel	15	Eastern Meadowlark	21	Mrs. L. E. Sawyer
Blue Jay	202	Common Grackle	58	
American Crow	99	Purple Finch*	1	Compiler:
Carolina Chickadee	102	American Goldfinch	12	Amy Mason
		House Sparrow	537	
Red font* = species missed on 2019 count		Total species	51	
		Total individuals	4,685	



St. Mary-of-the-Woods campus (Joy O'Keefe)



Hermit Thrush site (Joy O'Keefe)

Vigo County, Indiana, May 9, 2020 Bird Count Summary

By: Peter Scott (peter.scott@indstate.edu)

Contents:

1. Unusual circumstances: eBird submissions and covid-19
2. New compilation methods: from 74 checklists to a spreadsheet
3. Vigo count results, 2020: brief overview
4. Zooming out: Vigo vs. other counties, Indiana vs. neighboring states
5. WVAS birders in neighboring counties
6. Zooming far out: National and Global totals
7. Summary of Vigo count in taxonomic order
8. Exploring results on eBird (instructions)
9. Observer list
10. Acknowledgements

Unusual circumstances: eBird submissions and covid-19

The spring of 2020 brought changes to a 60-year-old tradition of counting birds within Indiana counties in a Big Day competition that is timed to coincide with peak migrant bird diversity in the Midwest. The Wabash Valley Audubon Society joined the effort (started by the Indiana Audubon Society) early and has missed only 2 years since 1966. This year marked our 52nd count. Indiana has used the second Saturday of May as count day, making the range of possible dates May 8 to 14.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Mike Brown)

For more than 4 decades, statewide results for 40-50 participating counties were published (6 months or more after the count) in the Indiana Audubon Quarterly, on pages measuring 5.5" x 8.5". A spreadsheet of species versus county totals was ingeniously arranged so that, turning the journal on its side, one could see the totals for all counties on two facing pages, about 30 species per 2-page unit; there was a column for number of counties recording a species, and the high count. One could easily compare counties and learn much about species abundance, variability, and distribution, and also the strength of the various birding communities. During Ed Hopkins's long tenure as May Count editor, there was a map with the counties of the state, labeled by name and in bold if participating, with 3 summary numbers: total species, birds, and observers. This made it easy to visualize the active birding areas of the state, gaps in coverage, and south to north differences.

These fascinating hard-copy documents ceased appearing after 2013, as the Quarterly was faced with increasing costs and complications of publishing in the digital age. Older birders will remember the same thing happening with the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count issues. For the last several years, we local compilers (Dan Weber and I for Vigo) still submitted totals to the statewide compiler, Matt Kalwasinski, who summarized results in electronic format. But the county by county, species by species numbers were no longer as easy to find (most years), and one wondered if there would be a permanent, accessible database for the counts.

Early this year, Matt notified compilers that the IAS board had decided to stop compiling and reporting May counts in the traditional way, and instead urged Indiana birders and societies to participate in eBird's Global Big Day. eBird is "a project of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology," as its website says. That tradition is now 6 years old, the inaugural date being May 9, 2015. This effort was and is truly global. In 2015, 719 species were reported on 27,450 checklists from the 50 United States, and 6207 species worldwide from 39,243 checklists.

There are several advantages of shifting to eBird. The burden of compiling and vetting observations is lifted from

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Indiana Audubon Society, saving someone weeks of effort. The data are preserved digitally “forever”, eBird having proved itself a reliable, well-managed archive over a decade of existence. For practiced eBird users, data are instantly accessible (beginning on count day) at all levels: each local checklist in every county, state- or worldwide, can be examined as soon as it has been uploaded by the observer. Species totals for each county, state, region, nation, and continent are provided, all on a separate Global Big Day page for each year.

Participation, however, requires that each birder or birding party report their own species totals and other information directly to eBird. This means setting up a personal account (free and fairly easy), and reporting observations in the manner eBird requires (not quite so easy). In particular, a birding party has to get used to the “site” or “hotspot” concept: reporting species (and time and mileage) for a given, well-defined area, at most no larger than a county township. The old approach of keeping a running total all day for some fairly large area of the county doesn’t work, especially if one jumps around the county.



Indigo Bunting (Mike Brown)

Any checklist submitted on Global Big Day automatically gets included in totals for the county and state, whether or not the birder knows she or he is participating in Global Big Day. This year several lists were submitted by Vigo birders who may not have known about the organized local effort; they are included here. WVAS members adapted to the new protocol, several birders setting up new eBird accounts.

The second new factor affecting this year’s count was the pandemic covid-19 coronavirus disease. The state’s restrictions on social gatherings and closure of restaurants were in place. Common sense prevented us from meeting at lunch to compare lists, or at dinner to compile and celebrate. Several parties texted me throughout the day, which helped target sites and species. In coming years without a pandemic, there is no reason why we cannot continue the social interactions we’ve always had on count day, which help build and maintain community birding spirit.

2. From 74 checklists to a spreadsheet

The “Global Big Day, May 9, 2020” page on eBird compiles results in several ways. First is a list of species recorded, which can be sorted by taxonomic order, High Count, and other options. On the right side of the page is a section “Recent Visits”, listing 10, which can be expanded (“More Recent Visits”); this opens a page listing all checklists (74 in our case) submitted, ordered by time of day. Also available on right side of page are “Top eBirders” for the day and “Top Hotspots” (Wabashiki FWA and Farmersburg Mine were our most productive spots).

However, eBird does not compile the total number of individuals seen of each species, either across the whole day or for individual observers. I wanted those numbers (totals for species especially) to add to our multi-year Big Day spreadsheet. So I made a spreadsheet of 74 columns for each checklist and typed in the data. Just the sort of thing using eBird is supposed to spare us!

3. Vigo County results this year: brief overview

Please see the **Excel spreadsheet** named “vigo-mayday-all parties-2020”. This sheet contains only information for 2020. There is a column for species, and about 90 columns to the right. First is column summing all individuals

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observed of each species. Next come the 74 checklists, sorted by the reporting observer, in alphabetical order by last name and by time of day per observer. Beyond that is a single column for each of the 18 reporting observers with totals for that person and/or their party. At the beginning of the latter section is a column labeled “# of parties detecting sp.”.

Eighteen birding parties (of 1 to 4 people, a total of 27 observers) submitted 74 checklists on May 9. Our **species total was 151**, with 8415 individuals. Distance traveled while birding was 227 miles, total party-hours 106. Most of the numbers are typical of the last 10 years, though party-miles are a bit low and number of parties high (due to the 6 “independents”). The species total for the last 10 years has ranged from 149 to 173, so this year’s sum of 151 is on the low side. We missed Steve Lima’s presence, always good for several “exclusives”. He spent the day birding Clark County, IL, which borders Vigo County. Steve did get **Eastern Whip-poor-will** for us on his way home.



Egyptian Goose near Prairieton (Peter Scott)

The day was chilly, 30 degrees Fahrenheit at dawn and 58F for the high temperature. Wind was from the west-northwest at 4 to 9 mph. There was no precipitation. For those who birded most of the day, species totals ranged from 62 to 121. Nick Brown had the top number, birding at his home, Fowler Park, Farmersburg Mine, and Wabashiki FWA. We added one new species -- **American White Pelican** -- to the cumulative 52-year list, which is now **242 species**. Please see the second **Excel spreadsheet**, named “**vigo-mayday multi-year 2020**”. Three pelicans were on a pond in northern Farmersburg Mine (Peter Scott and Diana Hews). In April, scores of pelicans “stopped over” on county lakes, more than ever before, but most had moved on by May 1. One other new species was seen, a lone **Egyptian Goose** (Kennett and Arbuckle Rd mitigation site, Scott and Hews), but this was blocked by eBird as an exotic species. It is exotic, but would qualify as countable (in my book) if it were a self-propelled migrant from one of the established populations in Texas, Arkansas, or Florida.

Because of prolonged cool weather leading up to the count, we surmise, our count day avifauna had an “early” profile. We missed several of the late-arriving species, most notably **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (found on 48 of the previous 51 counts), as well as **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** and **Canada Warbler** (although we did have one **Mourning Warbler**). Our total of 174 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, the first warbler to arrive in spring, was an all-time high. Other common warblers included the relatively early **Nashville** and **Northern Waterthrush**. Our total of 24 **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, a late-arriving but abundant summer resident, was the lowest in 10 years; the chilly day likely suppressed their calling as well.

We matched or set high counts for the following species: **Double-crested Cormorant** (199), **Wood Duck** (193), **Yellow-rumped Warbler** (174), **Great Egret** (112), **Great Blue Heron** (100), **White-breasted Nuthatch** (54), **Black-throated Green Warbler** (30), **Northern Waterthrush** (29), **Nashville Warbler** (28), **Barred Owl** (16), **Ovenbird** (14), **Fish Crow** (6), and **Lincoln’s Sparrow** (6). The counts for cormorant, egret, and heron may be inflated by more than one count of a flock. These high counts were balanced by numerous species for which the total was a “10-year low”, as detailed later.

Missed species found on 20 or more previous counts included, besides Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the following: **American Coot**, **Cerulean Warbler**, **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Ring-necked Pheasant**, **Black-billed Cuckoo**, **Eastern Screech-Owl**, **Hooded Merganser**, **Lark Sparrow**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Henslow’s Sparrow**. Twentyone

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additional species were seen by only one party, a standard feature of our single-day counts.

Rarities found this year, besides American White Pelican, included 9 species which have been seen on count day no more than 7 times in the previous 51 years: **Fish Crow, Horned Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Forster's Tern, Bufflehead, Gadwall, Pine Warbler, and Marsh Wren.** The 3 days after the count yielded at least 2 species

not previously recorded on our Big Days, **Red-necked Grebe** and **Neotropic Cormorant.** — More detail on the count is provided later in this summary (section 7).

4. Comparison of Vigo with other counties, and Indiana with neighboring states

Indiana's collective total was **236 species.**

There were reports from 83 of the 92 counties, but only about 40 counties had 20 or more checklists. The top 10 counties are as follows: **Gibson** 152 species (34 checklists), **Vigo** 151 (74), **Tippecanoe** 148 (141), **Hamilton** 145 (94), **Greene** 144 (55), **Dubois** 143 (38), **Marion** 143 (112), **St Joseph** 142 (88), **Monroe** 141 (118), and **Lake** 135 (75). So we did well.

The statewide total of **236** is in line with previous state totals compiled by Indiana Audubon Society. From 1995 to 2011 (17 years), the mean was **240.4** species, with a range from 228 to 251. This suggests that statewide birder effort using the eBird protocol is on a par with past effort using the old arrangement, and will likely improve as we get used to it.

Compared with neighboring states, Indiana (236 species, 1727 checklists) beat Kentucky (189 species, 713 checklists), tied Michigan (236 species, 3461 checklists), and trailed Illinois (255 species, 3205 checklists) and Ohio (239 species, 2605 checklists).

5. WVAS birders in neighboring counties

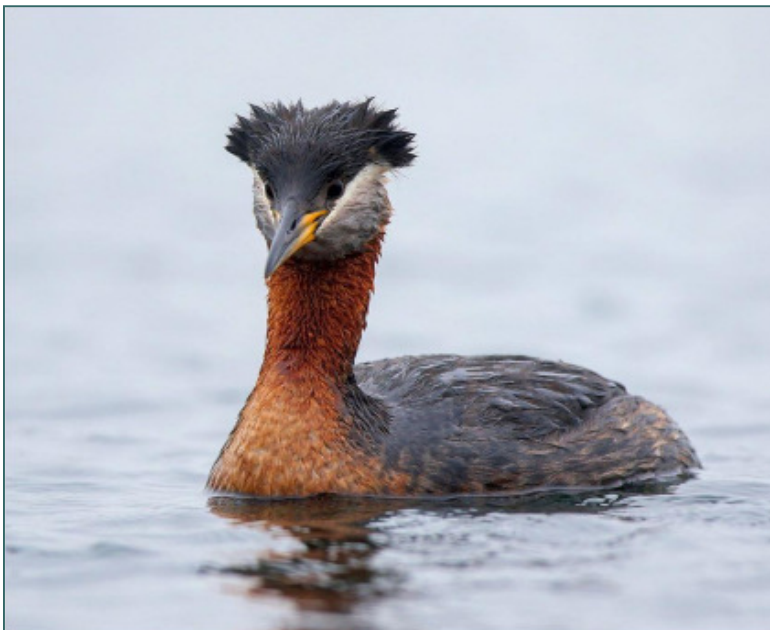
Mary Liz Wright of Paris, IL, who has joined us in recent years for Christmas Counts, birded her farm and put Edgar County on the Global Big Day map, getting 30 species, including a **Purple Finch, Great Horned Owl, 6 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks,** and **Wood Thrush.**

Ben Cvengros, cramming for Dental School finals at home in Parke County, made time for birds on May 9 and got 87 species, notably a **Hooded Merganser** mom with 7 young and a **Sedge Wren**, both species we missed in Vigo. On May 10 he photographed a *Neotropic Cormorant* at Chinook mine.

Steve Lima birded Clark County, IL, and got 125 species; Vicky and Gordon Tucker were also active there. Steve's highlights included 10 shorebird species, **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Wren,** and 23 warbler species.

6. National and global totals

In the **United States** as a whole, **712** species were seen May 9 (67,950 checklists). The leading state was Texas with 387 species. Indiana ranked 19th.



Arrived a day late: Red-necked Grebe at Chinook (Jim Sullivan)

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Worldwide, 62% of the 10,508 bird species recognized by eBird were seen (**Table 1**). Birding effort was greatest in North America (74% of checklists; 56% from the US alone). eBird is most popular in North and South America; other databases are preferred in Europe, for example. Still, over 12,000 checklists were submitted from Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa, so the claim to be “Global” has some basis and the aspiration is laudable.

Table 1. World regional totals for Global Big Day May 9, 2020. Data from eBird. Regions are listed in descending order of birding effort (number of checklists).

Region	Species	Checklists	Top countries
World	6,496	121,208	Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, U.S.A.
North America	1,629	89,278	United States 712; Mexico 701
South America	2,591	17,163	Colombia 1,445
Europe	436	6,282	Spain 264
Asia	1,460	4,901	India 479
Australia	468	1,628	--
Africa	1,101	571	Kenya 608



Baltimore Oriole (Mike Brown)

7. Summary of Vigo count in taxonomic order

Back to our Vigo birds, this review is based on the two spreadsheets.

Waterfowl: We had 8 species: 3 breeders in good numbers (**Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard**), and 5 migrants (13 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 1 each of **Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted**

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Merganser). Missed: Hooded Merganser, an uncommon breeder.

Galliformes: Northern Bobwhite were heard or seen in 3 areas: Farmersburg Mine (11), north Nevins Township along Lambert Rd (4), and South Chinook Mine (6). Only 10 **Wild Turkeys** were detected, but it was the last weekend of hunting season, so their secretiveness made sense. Missed: Ring-necked Pheasant, usually present in the northwestern fringes of the county.

Grebes: We had 3 **Pied-billed Grebes**, a common early migrant and rare local breeder, and 1 **Horned Grebe**, a rare early migrant. On May 10 a *Red-necked Grebe* turned up at Chinook Mine, a day late for glory.

Columbiformes: We didn't bother much with **Rock Pigeons** (only 23 counted), but Carissa Lovett and Ellen Lunsford made sure to get **Eurasian Collared-Dove** along Center Street. **Mourning Doves** (145) were ubiquitous.

Cuckoos: We missed both **Yellow-billed** (seen on 48 of 51 previous counts) and **Black-billed** (28 previous counts).

Caprimulgiformes: Our nocturnal representatives of this reconstituted order were **Common Nighthawk** and **Eastern Whip-poor-wills**. I received a welcome 6:00 am text from Mike Brown reporting 3 nighthawks at Honey Creek Mall. Steve Lima got Whip-poor-wills as the last species of count day at the old mine habitat along Certain and Switzer roads.

As for diurnal Caprimulgiformes, **Chimney Swifts** were back in town with 85 tallied, and 21 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were seen.

Gruiformes: Our only species was **Sora**, with 3 at North and South Chinook Mine. Missed: American Coot and 3 rarities – Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, Sandhill Crane.

Shorebirds: we had 9 species, including 116 individuals not named **Killdeer**. Nothing unusual: **Semipalmated Plover**; **Least, Pectoral, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpiper**; **Short-billed Dowitcher, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**. The best spots were the Wabash Valley floodplain at Kennett and Arbuckle Roads (visited by 4 parties), interior ponds at Wabashiki FWA, and North Chinook Mine (Swalls Road). Missed regulars: American Woodcock, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe.



Solitary Sandpiper, Kennett and Arbuckle Rd (Peter Scott)

Gulls and Terns: Only a single **Forster's Tern** was seen, which was just the fifth count record of this species. Missed: Ring-billed Gull and three other terns are rare possibilities (fewer than 10 previous counts).

Loons: A **Common Loon** showed at Chinook, much appreciated by our Wisconsin native D. Sobieski.

Cormorants and Pelicans: The count reflects the remarkable spring we've had for cormorants and pelicans. Good numbers (60 or so) of **Double-crested Cormorants** showed up in late March, peaked in April (>400), and on count day were still numerous (199). The majority were seen at Hawthorn Park (where they mainly roost) and at Chinook Mine lakes along Swalls Road (where they fish). Since 2002, we often have had a good passage of this species (which does not breed in the county) but it is usually not as prolonged or large as this year. **American White Pelicans** had similar timing, arriving March 22 and numerous (up to 125 at Chinook Mine) till April 22, when most departed. It was a thrill to find 3 at Farmersburg Mine on count day so we could add this species to the all-time list. Pelicans have "exploded" as a new, conspicuous migrant in Indiana in the last decade as their migration route between the Gulf Coast and Great Plains shifts eastward. Cormorant flocks paid close attention

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to foraging pelicans and benefited from their presence; Great Blue Herons did the same with both cormorants and pelicans.

A final cormorant note: we confirmed **Neotropic Cormorant** for Vigo County in early April, when up to 3 were roosted with Double-crested at JI Case Wetland (Hawthorn Park). A bird or two continues to be seen into mid-May, but we could not confirm the species on count day; a close look with scope or large camera lens is required.

Herons and Egrets: We had 100 or more **Great Blue Herons** and **Great Egrets**, and 13 **Green Herons**. One of the best spots for waders was Kennett and Arbutle roads in the Wabash floodplain. Missed: American Bittern and Cattle Egret have been seen on 20-30% of previous counts.

Vultures, Hawks, and Eagles: We had 6 species, **Turkey Vulture** being most common (191). **Bald Eagles** were plentiful and widespread with 21 seen by 8 parties. Marty Jones had 7 along the Wabash, northside. At least 2 nests were observed, with large young present. A single **Northern Harrier** flew over a marsh in South Chinook at sunset, a species we record about every other year. **Red-shouldered Hawks** outnumbered **Red-tails** 26 to 18.

Missed: Black Vulture (several records before and after the count, though rare); Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawk, both always a challenge.

Owls: **Barred Owls** were easy: 16 individuals by 9 parties. Peter found a good area for **Great Horned Owl** in northern Nevins Township, hearing 2 from the intersection of Kyle and Lucas Roads. Missed: Eastern Screech-Owl. More owling hours would turn one up.

Belted Kingfisher: Breeding now and requiring banks along rivers, kingfishers are a bit hard to come by unless one is floating the Wabash; five parties each had 1 or 2.

Woodpeckers: We got the usual 6 breeding species in close to the usual order of abundance (**Red-bellied** tops, **Hairy** least common), but **Red-headed** Woodpecker was more common than usual: 60 birds, not far behind Red-bellied (79), and more common than **Downy** (46). The record high for Red-headed is 79. At the compiler's home, Red-headed stayed all winter enjoying the good acorn crop and later sunflower seeds at feeders, and have stayed to breed. Missed: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (rare since migration peaks in early to mid-April, but we've had it on 12 previous counts).

Falcons: We had only 4 **American Kestrels**. A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** is nesting on the Sycamore Building downtown; Mike Brown spotted one on a tall radio tower near there at sunrise, and Nicole Castaneda and Meredith Hoggatt had 1 across the river at Wabashiki.

Flycatchers: Numbers of our 7 species were modest or low; the count of 24 **Eastern Wood Pewees** was the lowest in 10 years. As mentioned above, a cold spring and count day likely explain this. Missed: Olive-sided (6 counts), Yellow-bellied (9), and Alder Flycatcher (3) are all rare, the latter two passing through mainly in late May or early June.



Newly fledged Horned Lark, McNutt Drive (Mike Brown)

Vireos: Five vireo species were found by at least 5 parties (**White-eyed, Bell's, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Red-**

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eyed); Nick Brown got the only **Blue-headed Vireos**, tallying 6. Missed: Philadelphia Vireo (never common but found on 33 previous counts).

Jays and Crows: **Blue Jay** numbers (81) were normal, as were those of **American Crow** (145). It is a little strange to go from 20-40,000 wintering crows to the modest breeding season numbers (the 10-year range is 102 to 287). Crow excitement this year centered on **Fish Crow**, which has summered at Dobbs Park since 2018. A pair is now heard regularly at Hawthorn Park, and others in the Blackhawk area in south Vigo county. On count day two were found at Dobbs, one heard at Fowler, one at Farmersburg Mine, and two in western Pierson Township. The long-term Indiana base for Fish Crows has been Evansville, with an outpost in west Indianapolis since 2014. We can all help document its status and likely increase by listening for those distinctive nasal caws and double-note calls.

Chickadee and Titmouse: Most parties had **Carolina Chickadee** and **Tufted Titmouse**. Their totals were slightly below the 10-year means.

Horned Lark: Forty was a typical count day number. Mike Brown spotted a newly fledged lark.

Swallows and Martins: We had all 6 species, but numbers of Cliff Swallows (30) and Purple Martins (18) were low.

Kinglet, Nuthatch, Gnatcatcher: May 9 is well past the peak of **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** migration, an every-other-year bird for us, but three parties found at least one -- another reflection of a late spring. **White-breasted Nuthatches** (54) were found by nearly every party.

We had no county records for *Red-breasted Nuthatch* last fall or winter so it figured that we were blanked on count day. RBNU has occurred in 4 of the last 10 years, and 17 of 52 years overall. In fact, the last Vigo record for *Red-breasted* was May 13, 2019, our last spring count; the species is known for wide variation in annual seasonal movements. **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, in contrast, are dependably present each spring (115 by 11 parties this year).



Rough-winged, Cliff, and Barn Swallows rest along the Wabash River
(Marty Jones)

Wrens: As usual, both **Carolina** and **House Wrens** were abundant, with more Carolinas detected. Carolinas successful in the first round of nesting now have fledged young, whereas newly arrived House Wrens are still singing all day. The wren highlight was a **Marsh Wren** heard at JI Case Wetland by Laura Bakken.

European Starling: common, though the total (232) was the lowest in 10 years.

Mimids: **Gray Catbird** (84) and **Brown Thrasher** (30) numbers were normal, while **Northern Mockingbird's** (13) were the lowest in 10 years.

Thrushes: It was good to have **Wood Thrush** reported by 10 parties, and the total of 48 was one shy of the record high count. **Veery** also was counted in near-record numbers (19 by 6 parties; Nick Brown had 10). In contrast, **Eastern Bluebird** numbers (48) were the lowest in 12 years. **Swainson's Thrush** (87) was, as usual, the most

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The count's only Vesper Sparrow, McNutt Drive (Mike Brown)

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common of the 4 migrant *Catharus thrushes*; **Gray-cheeked** (15) came in third. **Hermit Thrush**, often gone by early May, was found by 3 parties. **American Robins** (430) were the third most common species overall.

Waxwing, House Sparrow: Only Nick Brown found **Cedar Waxwing** (2), a species not missed since 1999. A week later more appeared at ISU and along the Heritage Trail. **House Sparrows** (153) were plentiful. **Finches: House**

Finches and **American Goldfinches** appeared in normal abundance (50 and 143, respectively). Goldfinches have brightened and are singing nicely. Missed: Pine Siskin is a species we get about once per 5 years.

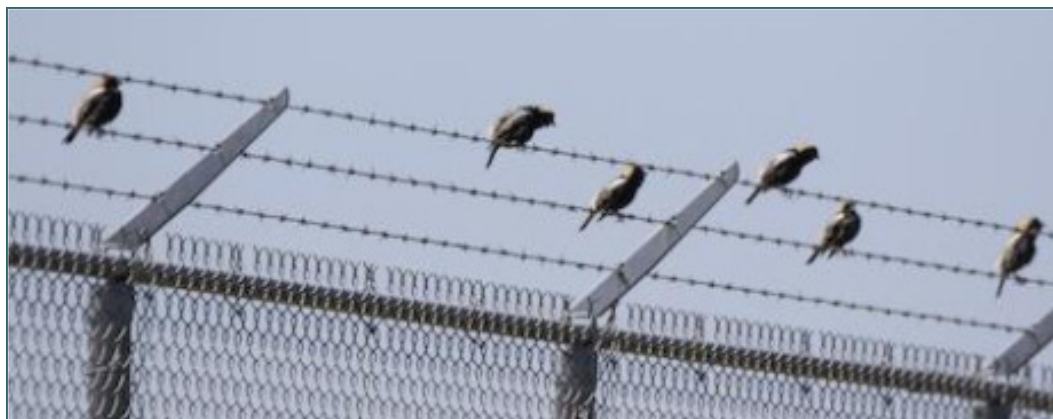
New World Sparrows: We had 11 species, **Song** (143), **Chipping** (84), and **Eastern Towhee** (50) being most common. **White-crowned** (36) and **White-throated Sparrows** (37) were more numerous than usual, their

counts being the highest in 8 and 12 years, respectively, again likely reflecting a cool spring. We had 6 **Lincoln's** and 2 **Swamp Sparrows**, both of which are species we miss every 3 or 4 years. Mike Brown found the only **Vesper Sparrow**, a 7 out of 10 year species. **Grasshopper** (12) and **Field Sparrow** (35) numbers were the lowest in 10 years.

We missed **Lark** and **Henslow's Sparrows**, as we do 2 or 3 years out of 10. **Lark** requires targeting in relatively vast rural areas, and **Henslow's** has limited old tallgrass habitat in the county at present, being much easier to find in Clay and Vermillion counties.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Five parties found a total of 16 talkative chats.

Icterids: A flock of **Bobolinks** is a never-diminished spring count highlight. Flocks were seen by four parties, including 12 on Farmersburg Mine by Mary Beth Eberwein, and 7 at Hulman Airfield by Marty Jones. Our counts have ranged from 6 to 92 over the last 10 years, and this year's total of 29 is near the average. Numbers for **Orchard** and **Baltimore Orioles** (30 and 103, respectively) were also near their means. Eastern Meadowlarks (52) were at less than half the 10-year mean, while **Red-winged Blackbird**, **Brown-headed Cowbird**, and **Common Grackle** numbers were normal. As usual, Red-wings were the most common species on the count.



Bobolinks on airport perimeter fence (Marty Jones)

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New World Warblers: We had 26 species, a shade below the 10-year mean of 27.7. However, total individuals (699) was the highest in 10 years (mean: 584). Nick Brown counted 250 individuals of 24 species.

Table 2 shows the 10 most common species on count day, averaged over the last 10 years, and compares mean abundance with 2020 totals. Two species with big increases above normal were **Yellow-rumped** (setting a record high) and **Palm Warbler**, both early migrants among warblers. Those with substantial decreases were **Blackpoll**, **Tennessee**, and **Yellowthroated Warbler**; the first two are later migrants, while Yellow-throated is an early-arriving breeder.

Warbler species	10-yr mean abundance	2020 total	Difference (2020 – 10yr)	2020 Rank
Common Yellowthroat	119	107	- 12	2
Tennessee W.	64	37	- 27	6
Northern Parula	56	56	0	3
Yellow W.	48	37	- 11	7
American Redstart	46	38	- 8	5
Blackpoll W.	39	15	- 24	12
Yellow-rumped W.	37	174	+ 137	1
Yellow-throated W.	26	13	- 13	14
Prothonotary W.	15	16	+ 1	11
Palm W.	14	49	+ 35	4

As noted earlier, high counts were set for **Yellow-rumped** (174), **Ovenbird** (14), **Northern Waterthrush** (29), **Nashville** (28), and **Black-throated Green Warbler** (30). In the “just squeaked by” category, we had only 1



Northern Waterthrush – note streaked throat, dull pink legs (Marty Jones)

Louisiana Waterthrush (10-yr mean = 6, maximum 12). Although Louisiana breeds on several permanent creeks in the county, pairs arrive in early April and tend to be quiet in May; Peter made a point to hike to a known territory on Otter Creek, where it took some persuading to make the male appear and give a whisper-song. In terms of rarities, the best finds were **Pine Warbler** (9 previous counts; by Nick Brown) and **Mourning Warbler** (13 previous counts; by Mary Beth Eberwein).

Eight absent warbler species are ones we miss either frequently (*Orange-crowned*, *Black-throated Blue*, *Blue-winged*, *Golden-winged*, *Canada*, seen on 13 to 20 previous counts), or usually (*Connecticut*, *Worm-*

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Cape May Warbler in favored conifer habitat, Forest Park on Otter Creek (Marty Jones)

eating, Hooded; seen on 2 to 7 previous counts). A ninth, Cerulean Warbler, has been recorded on 36 counts, but since 1976 only 1 or 2 per year have been seen except one count of 4; thus it is a scarce migrant and even scarcer, probably erratic breeder in the county. The late Steve Kuntz found two breeding pairs on Coal Creek during the last Breeding Bird Atlas period, 2000-2005.

Cardinalids: What would spring counts be without **Scarlet Tanagers** and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**? Four parties had Scarlets (17 total) and ten had grosbeaks (46 total), well

below and above their 10-year means, respectively. In addition, we had the slightly less sensational **Summer Tanager** (11) and **Blue Grosbeak** (10), along with **Indigo Bunting** (168) and **Dickcissel** (65). Dickcissel, currently last in the taxonomic sequence, each year seems to show up barely in time and then be conspicuous on count day – although this year’s count was a 10-year low. **Northern Cardinals** held their own with 323 individuals, good for 4th place on the abundance list.

8. Exploring results on eBird

Here’s how to access our results on eBird. On the initial page, select “**Explore**” from the top left blue horizontal menu. Then, under “**Explore Regions**” (right side of new page), enter “**Vigo**” and click on the first option, “Vigo, Indiana, United States (US)”. On the new page at top, under “Vigo”, the default option next to the green button is “All Years”. Instead, use the downward arrow to select “**Global Big Day May 9, 2020**”, and hit “Set”.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Mike Brown)

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The default view on the new page is “Overview”, showing “150 species – 74 checklists” and a Species list ordered by “Last Seen”. On the right side of the page is “Recent Visits”, listing the 10 “most recent” checklists, i.e. those with the latest starting times on count day. **Below this in blue is “More Recent Visits”**. Click on this to open a page titled “Recent Visits”, which lists all the checklists submitted for count day, beginning with John Kite’s 2:50 am record of Barred Owl at bottom and ending with Steve Lima’s 21:55 pm checklist at top. By **clicking on the blue “Date”** for any checklist (which is “May 9” in all cases), you can open it and see the species list and other details.

If you need to edit one of your own checklists, you can do that by opening the checklist and clicking on any of four Edit boxes. One for “**Edit Species**” is at the upper right, which allows you to delete or add a species or change number of individuals. Naturally, you can only edit your own checklists. So, if you know that a correction needs to be made, please do so! Our species total, for example, is in a state of minor flux (150 rather than the 151 given in my spreadsheet), and a few sets of observations included in the spreadsheet still need to be uploaded to eBird.

9. Observer list

Vigo County observers (n = 27) are listed at the end of the spreadsheet entitled “vigomayday-allparties-2020”, but here they are in handier form, followed by number of years participating. **George Bakken 12, Laura Bakken 15, Dick Bonness 24, Michael Brown 19, Nicholas Brown 8, Nicole Castaneda 1, Joe Dickson 18, Mary Beth Eberwein 31, Rob Eberwein 1, Diana Hews 9, Meredith Hoggatt 1, Marty Jones 14, John Kite 1, Steve Lima 21, Carissa Lovett 10, Ellen Lunsford 9, Bill Mitchell 18, Sheila Mitchell 1, Karen Randolph 1, Peter Scott 17, Denise Sobieski 19, Jim Speer 1, Russell Stafford 1, Gordon Tucker 1, Vicky Tucker 1, Paul Wassel 9, Dan Weber 20.**



American Goldfinch (Michael Brown)

10. Acknowledgements

Many thanks to **Mike Brown, Marty Jones, and Jim Sullivan** for permission to include their photos; and to WVAS President **Carissa Lovett** for support.

THE END

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Events at a Glance

Sept. 16th	5pm	WVAS Board Meeting at DPNC
Sept. 16th	6:30pm	WVAS Member Meeting Annual Fall Picnic
Oct. 21st	5pm	WVAS Board Meeting at DPNC
Oct. 21st	6:30pm	WVAS Member Meeting To be determined - May be cancelled.
Nov. 18th	5pm	WVAS Board Meeting at DPNC
Nov. 18th	6:30pm	WVAS Member Meeting at DPNC To be determined - May be cancelled
Dec. ?	All Day	Christmas Bird Count
Dec. 16th	5pm	WVAS Board Meeting at DPNC
Dec. 16th	6:30pm	WVAS Member Meeting at DPNC Member Photo Night - Free



In Memoriam

Jerome W. Lehman

April 28, 1936 - April 1, 2019

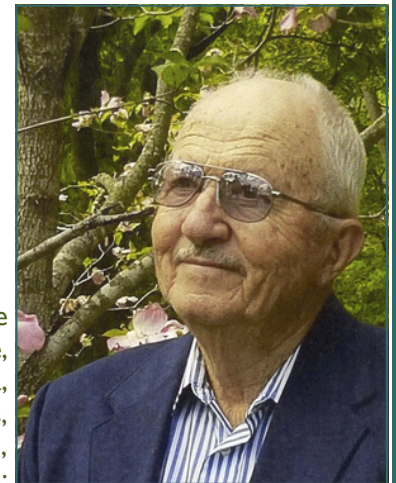
Jerome W. Lehman, 82, of Terre Haute, passed away on April 1, 2019, at Terre Haute Regional Hospital. He was owner of Motorola Service Stations (MSS) in Terre Haute, Bloomington, Vincennes and Evansville. He was born April 28, 1936, in Berne, Indiana, to Lewellyn and Florence (Graber) Lehman. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Barbara L. (Swettenam) Lehman; children, Charles Lehman, Mark Lehman (A.J.), Jennifer Lehman and Cynthia Carnes; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and sisters, Marilyn Spurgeon (Charles), Norma Brandenburg (Ralph) and Elaine Mikesell (Garry). He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jerome was a veteran of the United States Army. After retirement Jerry became interested in growing and hybridizing and sharing knowledge of persimmons and pawpaws. He was a member of Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association and Northern Nut Growers Association for many years. He was a member of the Canal Society of Indiana. He served as a volunteer photographer and member of Honey Creek Fire Department as well as being a board member.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at DeBaun Springhill Chapel, from 3 to 7 p.m., with a service to follow at 7 p.m., with the Reverend Stephen Gladding officiating. Burial will be in M.R.E. Cemetery in Berne, Ind., with visitation there on Friday, April 5, 2019, from 1 until 2 p.m., and a graveside service at 2 p.m. prior to burial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to your charity of choice in honor of Jerome. Online condolences may be left at: www.debaunfuneralhomes.com

Published on April 2, 2019

To plant a tree in memory of Jerome W. Lehman, please visit Tribute Store.



"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is NOT GIVEN by his fathers, BUT BORROWED from his children."

-John James Audubon

Wabash Valley Audubon Society

EDUCATION & PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

www.wabashvalleyaudubon.org



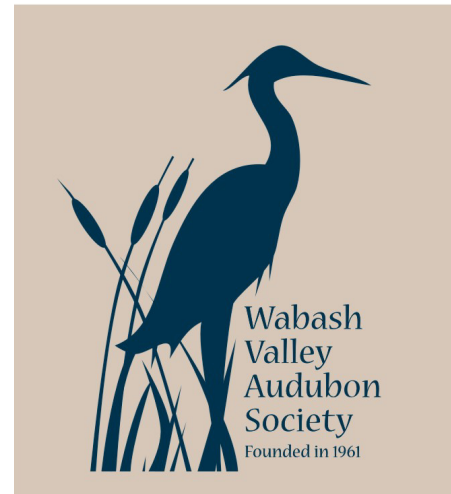
WVAS T-Shirt Sales

We now have t-shirts available for only \$10 each!

You can purchase a shirt at any one of our upcoming member or board meetings, or Dobbs Park Nature Center.

Cash or check only, please.

The color choices and design are pictured below.



SAND

DESIGN PRINTED ON: SAND

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Get Involved!

Wabash Valley Audubon Society Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is fun and not just for the members of the board! There are many easy ways you can help the organization. Here are a few:

Hospitality

Sign up to bring a snack to one of the monthly meetings. This does not have to be homemade, you can just pick something up from the store.

Dates for 2020: To prevent the spread of Covid-19, there will be no food or drink sharing.

Birding with Wabash Valley Audubon at Dobbs Park Nature Center

WVAS is providing public educational programs. Volunteer to help out at one of these programs as many have a craft component. Or volunteer to lead one of the hikes or presentations. For a list of the future program topics go to our Facebook page or email us.

Outreach

WVAS attends many educational events. We man a table and pass out information about WVAS and wildlife. Look for opportunities to help throughout this and upcoming newsletters.

Board Meetings

You are welcome to sit in on board meetings, which is a great way to find out more about the organization and ways to help out.

Dates for 2020: Sep. 16th Oct. 21st Nov. 18th Dec. 16th

To help out with any of the above or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Carissa Lovett at 812-877-1095 or carissa.lovett@terrehaute.in.gov.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Membership Reminder

**September started the new fiscal year for WVAS,
so please remember to renew your membership.**

We would like to see photos from our members. Here are some ideas, but you are not limited to this list.

- ◇ Take pictures while birding, hiking, or at our meetings
- ◇ Do you have an interesting bird visiting your feeders?
- ◇ Have you seen an animal you cannot identify?
- ◇ Do you have a nice picture of a weather event?
- ◇ Have you seen a cool reptile or amphibian?
- ◇ Take pictures of butterflies, trees, flowers, the sky is not the limit.
- ◇ We would like to include photos of our members enjoying the outdoors.



Luna Moth by Carissa Lovett

WVAS Mission

WVAS is involved in appropriate projects to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, interact with other local organizations and groups with similar concerns, and provide educational opportunities to the local community to increase their awareness, appreciation, and involvement in the natural world that surrounds them.



Audubon

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society
is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

The Wabash Valley Audubon Society (WVAS) serves Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo counties. The public is welcome to attend our activities, including monthly meetings, field trips and conservation projects.

*If you have a topic or photo you would like to share, please contact Carissa or Ellen.
All Wabash Valley Audubon Society events are open to the public.*

WVAS Officers for 2019-2020

President & Programs:

Carissa Lovett
carissa.lovett@terrehaute.in.gov

Vice-President & Field Trips:

Secretary:

Nick Gabry
n.t.gabry@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Phil Cox
philwcox@gmail.com

Membership:

Lucinda Berry
laberry@eiu.edu

Directors at Large:

Lucinda Berry
Ellen Lunsford
mabel819@aol.com

Bird Count Compilers:

Peter Scott
peter.scott@indstate.edu
Dan Weber
danleeweber@yahoo.com

Webmaster:

Carissa Lovett
Morgan Chaney

Newsletter Editors:

Carissa Lovett
Ellen Lunsford



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter
@THAudubon



Contact us at
Wabashvalleyaudubon
@gmail.com .

A reminder to our members who receive the NNN by mail:

The Nature News and Notes newsletter can be read and enjoyed in full color on our website, www.wabashvalleyaudubonsociety.org. Just click on the word "Publications" in the top row of links on the homepage to visit our archives.

JOIN AUDUBON Wabash Valley Audubon Society Code No. H05

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State: _____

Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Renewing National Member.....\$20

Includes Audubon Magazine, Nature News & Notes, National & Chapter Membership
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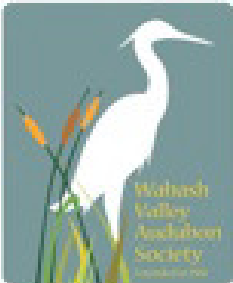
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Aug/Sep 2020