



Potawatomi Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1632, LaPorte, Indiana 46352

www.potawatomiadubon.org

Birds are our beginnings, and Audubon remains dedicated to birding as the basis for our mission to conserve and restore our natural resources, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and earth's biological diversity.

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to spring as I know you may be as well. It has been a challenging winter for us as well as for our feathered friends. There have certainly been a lot of birds at the feeders as well as a few other visitors. Have you seen anything unusual this year? If so, please let us know!

I am honored to have been asked to be the president of Potawatomi Audubon and I look forward to my new role. I am very thankful for the guidance and help given to me by Joan Wisniewski, as well as Pennie Lombard.

Cindy Fontaine

2014 Schedule of Activities

Wednesday Field Trips

All Field Trips will begin at 9 AM. We will carpool to places outside of LaPorte County. We look for birds as well as identify plants, butterflies and other living things. Binoculars and a field guide are helpful, but not necessary, and be sure to dress for the weather. Call Cindy at 877-7409 or email cjfontaine@gmail.com or Pennie at 873-6753, or email pennielombard@yahoo.com for more information. More information will also be provided before each hike.

March 26	Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area, LaPorte County
April 9	Heron Rookery, Porter County, National Park Service
April 23	Bendix Woods, St. Joseph County Park
May 28	Purdue North Central, Westville, IN
June 11	Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles, MI
June 25	Hoosier Prairie State Nature Preserve, Lake County
July 23	Pinhook Bog, LaPorte County, National Park Service

August 13	International Friendship Gardens, Michigan City, IN
August 27	Spicer Lake, St. Joseph County Park
September 10	Potato Creek State Park, North Liberty, IN
September 24	Sarett Nature Center, Benton Harbor, MI
October 8	Red Mill County Park, LaPorte County
October 22	Jasper - Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area, Medaryville, IN – view Sandhill Cranes

Other Events

January 25 – 11th Annual Gardening Show, Porter County. Joan Wisniewski, Pennie Lombard, and Cindy Fontaine manned a booth at this event which is sponsored by the Porter County Master Gardeners and the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. It was a cold day, and attendance was down, but a great success for us. We met many people and had several great conversations about birds. We provided information on birds that nest in bluebird houses, and the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count. We sold 24 oriole feeders and 13 bluebird houses. A big thank you to Warren and Denise Holmes for building and providing the oriole feeders! We plan to go back next year.

May 12-16 Soil and Water Conservation Days, Luhr County Park - We will man the “Birding” station for this annual event. Fifth grade students from schools throughout LaPorte County come for the day to visit different stations to learn about the environment. At our station, students will learn about common birds, including what they look like, their sounds and the nests that they build.

July 7-14 LaPorte County Fair- We will have a booth in the LaPorte County Council Conservation Building. We will have informational activities as well as a craft for children to make.

Meetings

These meetings will be held at the Michigan City Public Library at 6 pm. Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. The topics of each meeting will be publicized ahead of time.

April 17, 6pm

May 15, 6 pm

June 19, 6 pm – Annual Picnic, Bluhm County Park, Westville, Indiana – Our annual picnic gives us an opportunity to enjoy a meal while visiting with fellow birders. Bring a dish to share your

own drink and table service. Meat will be furnished. Bring your binoculars, as we will also hike in the park to look for birds.

Educational Programs

So far we have the following programs scheduled for the year, but there are bound to be others as we get requests and make arrangements.

January 30, February 6 Lake Hills Elementary, Michigan City, Pennie Lombard has taken the lead on this after school program and will help students become familiar with Winter Birds.

February 3, Lake Hills Elementary, Michigan City STEM Celebration of Learning for parents and the school community.

Potawatomi Audubon Website

We have a new web address and you will note that the site is under construction. When you visit, please remember that updates will be made so that it has relevant and current information. This should be completed early in the spring, so you may want to check it out at www.potawatomiaudubon.org

Great Backyard Bird Count

If you are not already planning to participate in the **17th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**, which is being held February 14-17 this year, you may want to check it out by going to www.birdcount.org . Show the birds some love this Valentine's Day and become a citizen scientist. This event is sponsored by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Studies Canada and Wild Birds Unlimited.

2014 Officers

President- Cindy Fontaine cjfontaine@gmail.com 877-7409

Vice President- Pennie Lombard pennielombard@yahoo.com 873-6753

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2014 Board of Directors

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