

Newsletter for the Indiana Audubon Society **CARDINAL**

August 2015 | USPS 129-810 Vol. 45, No. 3 | ISSN 0162-8186

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual Indiana Young Birders Conference
Cool Creek Nature Center
Carmel, IN
August 22, 2015

IAS Fall Festival
Allison Mansion at Marian University
Indianapolis, IN
October 2-4, 2015

Get more info at indianaaudubon.org or
facebook.com/IndianaAudubonSociety

IN THIS ISSUE...

EMERGING HOTSPOT PROFILE

BEVERLY D. CRONE RESTORATION AREA

(PAGE 2)

RECOVERY SUCCESS

OSPREY NUMBERS ON THE RISE

(PAGE 3)

PROGRESS UPDATE

GOOSE POND VISITOR CENTER

(PAGE 3)



Dickcissel • Beverly D. Crone Restoration Area • Photo: John Lindsey

From Trash to Treasure

Landfill site restoration success in South Bend

By John Lindsey

A few years ago, reports from an old landfill site in South Bend began popping up on eBird as hosting birds that were on my needs list for the year. I was very excited to see that several grassland species that I would normally have to drive an hour or more to see were suddenly being reported within my home range. Henslow's Sparrow was on my annual list at the time, so I decided to make the short trip to South Bend in hopes to get a few year birds. Upon arrival, my first impression of the Beverly D. Crone Restoration Area was that it looked like a typical landfill. Nothing too special by any means. You will shortly find out how wrong first impressions can be. As soon as I opened my vehicle door, I was surprised to hear the insect-like vocalization of the Henslow's Sparrow. I had not gone as far as stepping a foot on this property and I was already treated to this elusive annual bird. It only gets better. After a short walk around the gravel trails, my wife and I had logged 6 Henslow's Sparrows, 2 Savannah Sparrows, a Juvenile Horned Lark, 2 Eastern Meadowlarks, 3 Dickcissels and a single adult Bobolink. We were hooked. Since then, the site has produced exciting species such as Sedge Wren, Blue Grosbeak as well as Vesper, Lincoln's and Grasshopper Sparrows. Local birder, Mike Bourdon, had this to say about the restoration area; "Walking trails make for easy access to see and hear a variety of grassland birds. I don't know of any other public area that finding Henslow's Sparrows is almost a gimme".

I have compiled data taken from eBird regarding this location for some of the more sought after species. I hope you can find time to visit this wonderful habitat. The parking area is on the corner of Jackson and Linden Road in South Bend, Indiana.



Henslow's Sparrows arrive the first week of May and stay through the first week of August. Their highest numbers can be observed in mid-July after the young birds have fledged. This is a know breeding species for this area and can be heard throughout their stay. The high count for this species is 19 on the 3rd of June, 2015 by John Lindsey.



Savannah Sparrows arrive in late April and stay through the last week of July. Their highest numbers can be observed at the beginning of July. After mid-July the species seemed to leave this area. They can be heard and seen in several locations along the south central portion of the property. The high count for this species is 21 on the 11th of May, 2015 by Casey Zillman



Dickcissels can be seen and heard singing starting in mid-May. They leave the first week of August. This is an easy bird to get at this property and while they are here are abundant throughout the park. The high count for this species is 26 on the 29th of July, 2013 by Casey Zillman



Bobolinks start showing up the first week of May and leave the first week of August. Breeding was extremely successful in 2015 at this site and the average count for this bird went from 2 to 9 by the end of the season. The high count for this species is 25 on the 31st of July, 2015 by Jeff Timmons.