

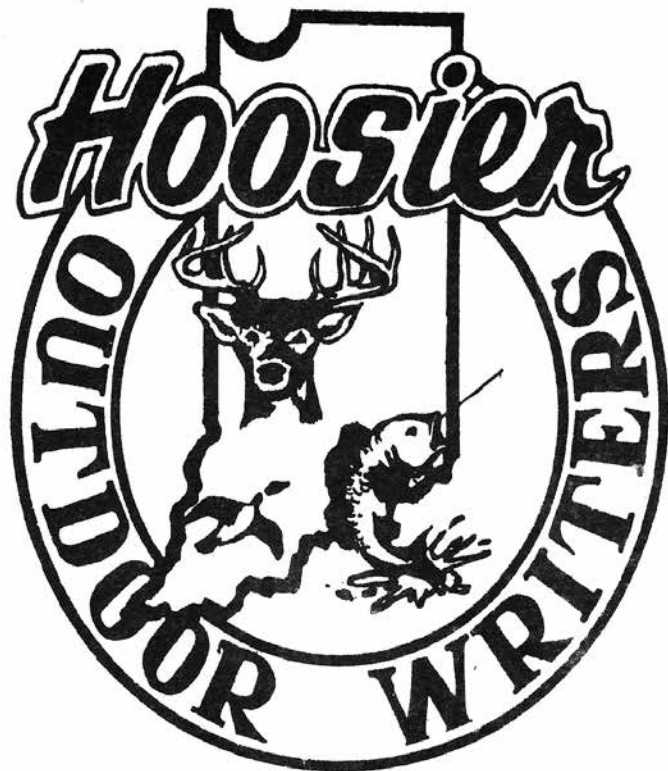
The Blade

July - August 2021

The Official Publication of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers



"Loon Family Dinnertime", photo by Tom Berg



Hoosier Outdoor Writers

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

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On the cover: A pair of common loons with two very young chicks float comfortably on the surface of a calm lake. One chick snoozes contentedly on one parent's back while the other chick prepares to eat a small minnow caught by the other parent. Photo by Tom Berg.

President's Message

by Kenny Bayless (The Redneck Quaker)

Mysterious Avian Illnesses

With all the illnesses going around, our wildlife has problems of their own. A mysterious illness has infected birds throughout Indiana and surrounding states. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources continues to ask Hoosiers to put away bird feeders in an attempt to slow down the disease (**Update:** As of August 9, a total of 76 counties have been given the green light to allow bird feeders again). The IDNR has been investigating the increase in dead birds throughout the state since May.

State Ornithologist Allisyn-Marie Gillet said we're just assuming that it is contagious because we don't know whether it is or not. That means we want people to take down their bird feeders so that they do not attract birds to a certain location where they are congregating. This reduces the potential for spreading the disease.

Brad Bumgardner, executive director of the Indiana Audubon Society, said the spread has increased from 15 to 65 Indiana counties. Fox 59 reports that this has been happening in other states such as Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania as well.

Even though it is summertime and birds are nesting, 95% or even 99% of the birds that were coming to your feeders are feeding their babies caterpillars and insects. None of these guys are really dependent on seeds, Bumgardner said. So, temporarily stopping any feeding in the summer months is not going to have any effect on the birds.

There had been presumptions that cicadas had something to do with the dead birds, but the cases have been reported since May, some as early as April. This year, billions of Brood X cicadas emerged after 17 years, compared to millions in previous years. This kind of cicada lives underground and their last appearance happened in 2004.

According to Fox 59, birds have tested negative for more than 10 different viruses, and researchers with the DNR will continue to look for the cause of the illness. Gillet said that Indiana's DNR is also working with multiple agencies, including the Ohio DNR and Kentucky DNR, alongside federal groups and the National Wildlife Help Center.

Blue jays and grackles seem to be the birds most affected by the unknown illness, but other species such as the American robin and northern cardinals have also been found dead and sick. Does this make you think Covid-19 could have something to do with this?

Let me end these depressing words with a little poem:

Birdy, birdy in the sky, dropped some white wash in my eye. I'm not sad and I don't cry, I'm just glad that cows can't fly!



The Hoosier Outdoor Writers

New Members, Past Presidents and Memorial Section

HOW Extends a Warm Welcome to our Growing Ranks of Outdoor Communicators:

Alan Clemons (Active)
Hampton Cove, AL
Sponsor: Tom Berg

Memorial to Deceased HOW Members Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

Jack Alkire – HOW President 1979
Bill Beeman – Executive Director
 Don Bickel
 Ed Blann
 Charlie Brown
 Gary Carden
Jim “Moose” Carden – HOW President 1982-83
 George Carey
 John Case
Bill Church – HOW President 1972
 Jack “Big Jake” Cooper
 Mark Cottingham
 Jerry Criss
 Gary “Dox” Doxtater
 Dick Forbes
Tom Glancy – HOW President 1977
 Dale Griffith
 Fred Heckman
Marty Jaranowski – HOW President 1996
 Jack Kerins
Mike Lyle – HOW President 1981
Ralph “Cork” McHargue – HOW President 1976
 Dick Mercier
 Bob Nesbit
 Hellen Ochs
 Jack Parry
 Harry Renfro
“Bayou” Bill Scifres – HOW President – **6 Terms**
 George Seketa
 Hal Shymkus
 Al Spiers
 Robert “Doc” Stunkard
 Butch Tackett
 John Trout, Jr.
 Joe West

Past Presidents of HOW

“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1969
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1970
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1971
Bill Church	1972
Rick Bramwell	1973
Jack Ennis	1974
Phil Junker	1975
Ralph McHargue	1976
Tom Glancy	1977
Bob Rubin	1978
Jack Alkire	1979
Louie Stout	1980
Mike Lyle	1981
Jim “Moose” Carden	1982
Jim “Moose” Carden	1983
John Davis	1984
John Davis	1985
Ray Harper	1986
Ray Harper	1987
Ray Dickerson	1988
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1989
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1990
“Bayou” Bill Scifres	1991
Jack Spaulding	1992
Jack Spaulding	1993
John Rawlings	1994
Phil Bloom	1995
Marty Jaranowski	1996
John Martino	1997
Mike Schoonveld	1998
Jack Spaulding	1999
Jack Spaulding	2000
Sharon Wiggins	2001
Phil Junker	2002
Larry Crecelius	2003
Bryan Poynter	2004
Phil Bloom	2005
Brian Smith	2006
Brian Smith	2007
Brent Wheat	2008
Bryan Poynter	2009
John Maxwell	2010
Brandon Butler	2011
Josh Lantz	2012
Ben Shadley	2013
Bob Sawtelle	2014
Alan Garbers	2015
Ken McBroom	2016
Don Cranfill	2017
Troy McCormick	2018
Mike Schoonveld	2019
Kenny Bayless	2020

HOW Conference Announcement

2022 HOW Conference Site, Conference Dates Chosen

We are pleased to announce that the 2022 HOW Conference is scheduled to be held in west-central Indiana at **Turkey Run State Park** in Parke County. Of course, everything depends on what happens in the coming months concerning Covid-19, but we are hoping the group can meet and socialize as usual.

As everyone knows, the 2021 conference was cancelled due to restrictions and lockdowns caused by Covid-19. Things are looking better now, and we have confirmed the new dates with personnel at Turkey Run. The 2022 HOW conference will take place on the weekend of April 1-3, with the main meeting taking place at the Turkey Run Inn on Saturday, April 2.

The date of this conference was selected very carefully to minimize conflicts with Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and the start of turkey season, so hopefully most HOW members will be able to plan their schedules in advance and attend. And as we have all learned (painfully), everything still depends on what is happening at the time with Covid-19. But think positive! And be sure to **SAVE THE DATE!**

We chose Turkey Run State Park as the next conference site as part of our ongoing effort to move the conference around the state and give our members a chance to experience parts of Indiana that they have not yet seen. Also, it has been 11 years since we had a conference at Turkey Run – believe it or not. Time sure flies!

Of course, Turkey Run State Park is a very beautiful park with plenty to see and do. Whether you enjoy canoeing, hiking, fishing, bird-watching, photography, nature watching or just about any other outdoor activity, Turkey Run can fit the bill. HOW members should definitely head for Parke County next spring and join the fun!

As usual, we will have plenty of interesting seminars and speakers at this conference. We will also announce the winners of our annual awards-in-craft contests and elect new officers.

For everyone who has come to love the HOW Raffle over the past several years, we are planning to make it even bigger and better this year. It will be hard to top the quality and quantity of the last few years, but we will do our best! If you haven't attended a conference recently, come see what it's all about!

More details will be forthcoming in future editions of *The Blade*. Besides our annual Fun Shoot on Friday, April 1, we will have a Friday evening BBQ and we hope to have a fishing/canoeing outing on Sunday, April 3. Whether you plan to attend the entire weekend or just the annual meeting on Saturday, the trip to Turkey Run State Park will definitely be worth it. **Don't miss the 2022 HOW conference!**



The Turkey Run Inn will welcome HOW members next April at the start of our 2022 conference. Make your plans to attend now! Photo by Tom Berg.

Save The Date!
Conference: April 1-3, 2022
Annual Meeting: April 2, 2022

HOW Awards-In-Craft Winner

1st Place in the Writing Contest (Conservation category) – Under 1000 Words

“The American White Pelican”

by Jack Spaulding

For some, pelicans bring to mind Nigel, a cartoon character in the movie “Finding Nemo”, or vacations along seashores and coastal regions, but not floating on a lake in Indiana.

The beautiful, large, white-plumed birds weigh almost 30 pounds and have wingspans exceeding 9 feet. Seeing a large bird with white wings and black tips sometimes leads to misidentification as a snow goose, another Indiana migrator.

Don't miss your chance to see one here in Indiana. They stay around just long enough to rest in our waters and eat a lot of fish before moving on to their breeding grounds.

Regular sightings of pelicans occur at Mississinewa Lake, Salamonie Lake, Summit Lake State Park, Raccoon SRA, and Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area. Discover the properties at stateparks.IN.gov.

American white pelicans cooperate when feeding. Sometimes, large groups will gather in wetlands. They coordinate their swimming to drive schooling fish toward the shallows. The pelicans easily scoop up the corralled fish from the water.

American white pelicans must provide roughly 150 pounds of food to nourish a chick from its birth to the time it's ready to forage on its own.

Contrary to cartoon portrayals and common misconceptions, pelicans never carry food in their bill pouches. They use them to scoop up food but swallow their catch before flying off.

Pelicans are skillful food thieves. They steal from other pelicans trying to swallow large fish and are successful about one-third of the time. They also try to steal prey from double-crested cormorants bringing fish to the surface. In their dense nesting colonies, some birds even steal the food a parent on an adjacent nest has disgorged for its young.

Pelican chicks can crawl by 1 to 2 weeks of age. By 3 weeks they can walk with their bodies off the ground and can swim as soon as they can get to water. Older chicks move up to running, then running with flapping their wings, and by the age of 9 to 10 weeks, they can fly.

White pelicans forage almost exclusively by day on their wintering grounds; but during breeding season, they commonly forage at night. Even though it's hard to see, nighttime foraging tends to result in larger fish being caught than during the daytime.

American white pelicans and double-crested cormorants are often found together. They sometimes forage together (though they mainly hunt different fish and at different depths). Cormorants even nest individually or in groups within pelican colonies.

Pelicans are big birds prone to overheat when they're out in the hot sun. They shed heat by facing away from the sun and fluttering their bill pouches – which contain many blood vessels to let body heat escape. Incubating parents may also stretch their wings wide to aid cooling.

American white pelican embryos squawk before hatching to express discomfort if conditions get too hot or cold.

The oldest known American white pelican lived to at least 23 years, 6 months old and was banded in North Dakota in 1983.

In 1910, Dixon Lanier Merritt penned his longstanding limerick about the pelican:

A funny old bird is a pelican.
His beak can hold more than his bellycan.
Food for a week
He can hold in his beak,
But I don't know how the helican.

Watching Others Catch Fish is Fun, Too

By Larry LaGrange

I enjoy catching fish. That said, I also enjoy being with others who are catching fish. It's an uncomfortable situation when I'm catching them and my buddy or buddies are not. That's happened quite a few times over the course of my fishing career. Of course, at times the other guy is catching them and I'm not. That's uncomfortable too.

One incident that stands out was years ago when a good friend and I were fishing at a private lake in early spring. We found a brush pile that was loaded with crappie, and the boat position offered us both a reasonable shot at the honey hole. I tossed a tube jig to the spot and hauled out a nice crappie. My friend tossed his similar jig to the spot. His line jumped, but he didn't set the hook. What? Didn't see the line? Waiting for a tug? I watched him miss bite after bite and wondered if I should say something. Or would that offend him? I caught 19 crappie from that spot, and he caught two. Same lure, same everything, except he didn't have the touch. After a while of my catching and him not, I offered him some advice, something like, "You're getting bites. Just watch your line." That bit of wisdom was met with stony silence. Ok. I'll shut up.

Last year at the bluegill mecca called West Boggs Lake, a friend started fishing the bottom with a little black jig. He began catching fish, nice ones, while I struggled to get consistent bites with a bobber. I quickly inquired about his lure. He showed me a 1/32-ounce black hair jig that he tipped with a little live bait. I watched him awhile and saw him catch and also lose some fish or miss bites. I dug through my box and found a smaller 1/64 black jig and gave it a toss. It worked well. The jig size fit nicely into bluegill mouths. The point is that I waited about five seconds before inquiring what my boat guest was doing. I can swallow my pride in a heartbeat when it comes to the right method of catching fish.

Another time I recall inviting a friend from a good distance to come all the way down to southern Indiana to try the golf at Country Oaks and the bluegill fishing at Boggs. He wanted some fish to take home. We both used bobbers on a warm, sunny day. The bite was slow, but still I managed to pull a nice gill in fairly consistently. Not so my friend. I thought we were fishing the same rig: bobber, sinker, and hook with red or meal worms. After I had a half dozen or so fish in the cooler, I asked him if I could examine his setup. I quickly saw that the bobber, sinker, and hook were all too large. That day the bite was finicky, so one needed the exact right gear: tiny bobber and a tiny split shot sinker a foot above a very small long shanked hook. I told him what I thought and showed him my rig. He explained that he had always caught bluegill with his setup and thought he'd stick with it. Ok by me. For two hours of effort, we ended up with 14 bluegills, my 12 and his 2. He was also very quiet after I offered my advice. Next time in a similar situation I'll wait until my fishing partner asks for my input.

It's especially enjoyable to watch my granddaughter catch fish. She's 12 and eaten up with fishing fever. In mid-June we headed out for an evening at another private lake that has numerous small bass and some nice bluegill. I showed her a diving minnow plug that had worked for me in the past, and she was quickly into fish. Not big ones, but fun nonetheless. One thing that impressed me about her was her patience with the inevitable snarls, tangles, lures in trees, etc. At one point she was hung on a snag and our anchor was pinned to the bottom at the same time. That resulted in a loud snap and the loss of all her line. She was unperturbed and went to her backup outfit, which worked fine. At another point we were both catching fish when she tangled her lure in another rod. She patiently went to work on detangling and eventually worked it out. It was an impressive show of patience and perseverance. She was adamant that a curly tailed grub would work, and I agreed it looked like a good bait. It got her some fish, but it didn't take her long to realize the diving minnow bait would get her more bites. She switched and got more action. Good for her. Making adjustments is a key part of achieving success in any pursuit, especially fishing.

New Great Lakes Record Chinook Salmon Caught

by Tom Berg

On Saturday, August 7, 2021 history was made on a charterboat fishing Lake Michigan out of Ludington, Michigan. A new Michigan state record chinook salmon was caught by a young angler, which weighed an astounding 47.86 pounds and measured 47.5 inches long. The angler's name is Luis Martinez, of Ortonville, MI. He and his family were fishing with Capt. Bobby Sullivan of Icebreaker Charters, aboard the 28-1/2-foot Baja Cruiser, the IceBreaker II.

Martinez's fish hit a Moonshine Lures Magnum spoon (Raspberry Carbon color), trolled at 60 to 65 feet deep in 200 feet of water. The battle lasted 45 minutes and the big fish was netted and in the boat by 7:01am. When the fish finally hit the deck at the back of the boat, Martinez said "They were all screaming, and I was like, what did I do?" Capt. Sullivan said "You don't realize what you just caught." Sullivan knew this fish was a possible record-breaker.

Martinez is 19 years old, and surprisingly, said this was the first salmon he ever caught. In fact, this was the first time he ever went salmon fishing. His Mom and Stepdad had booked the charter and invited him and his sister to come along, too. In the past the siblings always declined, but this time they agreed to go.



The huge salmon is not just a Michigan state record, but it is also a Lake Michigan record for chinook salmon. And better than that, it is a Great Lakes record as well. It is the largest chinook salmon ever caught in any of the five great lakes! That's saying a lot, because besides Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario is known for producing huge chinook salmon, too.



The new record salmon! **From L to R:** Capt. Bobby Sullivan, angler Luis Martinez, Jay Wesley (Michigan DNR) and Scott Heintzeman (Michigan DNR).

The previous state record chinook salmon for the state of Michigan weighed 46.6 pounds and was caught way back in 1978. It was caught in the Grand River by snagging, which was legal there at the time.

The largest chinook salmon ever recorded from Lake Ontario weighed-in at a very hefty 46.38 pounds and was caught near Oakville, Ontario, Canada.

Martinez's salmon beat them all, which makes it a pretty special fish, indeed. It is at the taxidermist shop right now!

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For immediate release: July 12, 2021

Indiana DNR Begins Brown Trout Rearing Program

The Indiana DNR is expanding its inland trout program to include rearing brown trout in-house at state hatcheries.

In June, Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife officials received nearly 2,500 brown trout from the Ohio DNR. Most of those trout were stocked into streams in northern Indiana, including Pigeon River, Little Elkhart River and Solomon Creek, but 400 were held back at Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station to develop as broodstock. These are adult trout used for egg production. Once mature, the adult trout will produce enough fertile eggs to meet the demands of the new rearing program.



“There has been a great deal of angler demand for brown trout here in northern Indiana,” said Matt Horsley, Indiana DNR fisheries biologist. “Hopefully now we can meet those demands with our own source.”

Indiana has not had its own brown trout program since 1985. All recent brown trout stockings have either been through privately funded stockings, fish acquired from federal hatcheries or partnerships with hydroelectric companies.

“Hatchery staff were instrumental in making this happen,” Horsley said. “An opportunity arose, and the hatcheries were able to step up and quickly adjust their current programs to accommodate new fish.”

Indiana DNR anticipates the first lot of brown trout raised solely within Indiana hatcheries to hit streams by April, 2024.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Media contact: Matt Horsley, fisheries biologist, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, phone: 260-829-6241, email: mhorsley@dnr.IN.gov.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For immediate release: July 22, 2021

DNR Completes Stocking of Striped and Hybrid Striped Bass

DNR recently completed its annual stocking of striped bass and hybrid striped bass across several lakes in Indiana. DNR staff stocked more than 125,000 2-inch striped bass fingerlings in four southern Indiana public lakes and more than 134,000 2-inch hybrid striped bass fingerlings in nine lakes throughout the state. The stockings met or exceeded DNR's 2021 stocking goals for the two species.

Striped and hybrid striped bass were stocked in the following lakes:

- Brookville Lake (Union and Franklin County) – 72,600 striped bass
- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke County) – 40,600 striped bass
- Cedar Lake (Lake County) – 7,810 hybrids
- Clare Lake (LaPorte County) – 420 hybrids
- Hardy Lake (Scott County) – 1,000 striped bass; 10,000 hybrids
- Lake Shafer (White County) – 12,910 hybrids
- Monroe Lake (Monroe County) – 53,750 hybrids
- Nyona Lake (Fulton County) – 1,040 hybrids
- Patoka Lake (Dubois County) – 11,353 striped bass; 44,000 hybrids
- Shadyside Park Lake (Madison County) – 1,575 hybrids
- Worster Lake (St. Joseph County) – 3,270 hybrids

Indiana does not have the native sources to spawn striped and hybrid striped bass. DNR relies on commercial sources and state partners to supply fry for its hatchery system. In 2021, East Fork State Fish Hatchery staff developed a new relationship with the Jack D. Bayless Fish Hatchery in St. Stephen, South Carolina. The hatchery supplied Indiana with 500,000 striped bass fry. Good conditions in the hatchery ponds resulted in a surplus of fingerlings.

The fish stocked in 2021 should reach a fishable size of 14 inches in 2023 and begin to exceed 20 inches in 2024. Thanks to stockings like this, Indiana anglers can look forward to continued quality striped and hybrid striped bass fishing opportunities.

Learn more about fishing for these species at:

wildlife.IN.gov/fishing/striped-and-hybrid-striped-bass-fishing

Media contact: Corey DeBoom, district fisheries biologist,
DNR Fish & Wildlife, phone: 765-342-5527, email: D4fish@dnr.IN.gov.



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204



For immediate release: July 23, 2021

Spotted Lanternfly Found in Indiana

Spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was found in Indiana for the first time in Switzerland County earlier this week, the farthest west the insect has been found. This federally regulated invasive species has a negative impact on plant growth and fruit production, especially in vineyards and orchards.

A homeowner in Vevay contacted DNR's Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology (DEPP) with a picture that was taken outside his home of a fourth instar, or developmental stage, larvae. DEPP staff surveyed the site and discovered an infestation in the woodlot adjacent to a few homes in the area. The site is within two miles of the Ohio River and the Markland Dam. DEPP and USDA are conducting an investigation to determine exactly how large the infestation is and where it could have come from, as well as how to limit the spread and eradicate the population.

Spotted lanternfly is a plant-hopper that originated in Asia. It was first discovered in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture tried to limit the spread of this pest, but it excels at being a hitchhiker and is often spread accidentally by humans.

The adult spotted lanternfly has two sets of wings, and the underwing has a very distinct red color with spots on the outer wings. The fourth instar of the insect is bright red with black and white markings. The egg masses of this invasive insect look like mud and can be spread by vehicle transport including RVs, trucks and freight trains. They can also be spread through trade materials sold in infested areas that are shipped out of state, including nursery stock, outdoor furniture, lumber, etc. Goods received from the east coast should be inspected for signs of the insect, especially if the product will be kept outside.



Spotted lanternfly prefers to feed on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), but has been found on more than 103 species of plant including walnut, oak, maple and various fruit trees. This insect is often found on grapevines in vineyards. Adult insects have piercing, sucking mouthparts and weaken the plants by feeding on them, which can make it difficult for the plant to survive the winter months. Congregating spotted lanternfly insects produce a sticky substance called "honeydew" that over time becomes infested with sooty mold that attracts other pests.

The Indiana DNR is asking all citizens to keep an eye out for spotted lanternfly. The bright color of both the last instars and the adults of the insect should be present at this time of the year. Anyone that discovers signs of this insect should contact DEPP by calling 866-NO-EXOTIC (866-663-9684) or via email: DEPP@dnr.IN.gov. For more information on this or other invasive pests see this link: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/spotted-lanternfly/>.

Media contact: Megan Abraham, DNR Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, phone: 317-232-4189, email: mabraham@dnr.IN.gov.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

For immediate release: August 9, 2021

76 Counties May Resume Feeding Birds

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced today that Hoosiers in 76 counties across the state can resume feeding birds but asks that residents of the remaining counties to keep their feeders down while the investigation into what is killing songbirds continues.

DNR recommended a statewide moratorium on bird feeding on June 25 to slow the spread of a still-undetermined illness that is killing birds across the state. Hoosiers answered the call, removing feeders, cleaning birdbaths, and submitting more than 3,400 reports of sick or dead birds. DNR biologists believe there to be more than 500 cases in 72 counties that involve a very specific set of clinical signs (crusty eyes, eye discharge, and/or neurological issues).

Based on the data, it appears that the bird illness is consistently affecting specific areas. There is no imminent threat to people, the population of specific bird species, or to the overall population of birds in Indiana.

DNR recommends that residents of the following counties continue to refrain from feeding birds: Allen, Carroll, Clark, Floyd, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Lake, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Porter, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe and Whitley.

Residents of other counties may again put out their feeders. Seed and suet feeders should be cleaned at least once every two weeks by scrubbing feeders with soap and water, followed by a short soak in a 10% bleach solution. Feeders should be thoroughly rinsed and dried before being filled with birdseed. Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned at least one a week with a 10% bleach solution and rinsed thoroughly.

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center's avian disease experts are working to determine the cause of this disease outbreak. Indiana will continue to support the effort by providing samples to the laboratory.

If you see a sick or dead bird with the above symptoms, report it at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife. Reports help DNR staff continue to track this outbreak.

Media contact: JB Brindle, DNR Communications, email: jbrindle@dnr.IN.gov, phone: 317-232-4003.



Bird feeders, like this Father Nature feeder from longtime HOW Supporting Member Black River Tools, can be used again in most Indiana counties. Photo by Tom Berg.



Hoosier Outdoor Writers Turn in a Poacher/Polluter Writing Contest Official Contest Guidelines



Once again, the Indiana Turn in a Poacher (TIP) Citizen's Advisory Board is sponsoring a writing contest to encourage HOW members to promote the TIP mission, the hotline and support of the TIP Advisory Board. **This year the prizes are \$300 for first place; \$200 for second place; \$100 for third place.** Fall is coming, so be sure to write your TIP article right away!

Requirements are simple and entering is easy! Article must be at least 400 words in length and must include:

1. Brief description of TIP (see below—does not have to be verbatim)
2. TIP Hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR)

Although it is not required, preference will be given to stories that:

- Feature a "real-life story of TIP" or something similar.
- Are published in paid publications.

To enter, submit an electronic copy of an article published between **February 1, 2021** and **January 31, 2022**. The TIP Citizen's Advisory Board will review all entries and will select the entries that best promote the mission of TIP and encourage citizens to get involved.

Entries should be marked as "TIP" entries and sent to the contest coordinator by the deadline. The deadline will be sometime in February, 2022. We will provide more info (deadline date, coordinator contact info, etc) as the end of the year approaches.

What is TIP?

Turn in a Poacher, Inc. (TIP) is a non-profit conservation organization that works hand-in-hand with Indiana DNR Law Enforcement to protect our fish and wildlife resources by increasing public support and involvement in bringing violators to justice.

A poacher is a thief who illegally steals wildlife that belongs to each Indiana citizen. Poachers rob licensed, ethical hunters and anglers from recreational opportunities they bought through license fees.

Citizens can help stop poachers in two ways. If you see, hear or learn about a poacher or any other fish and wildlife violation:

- Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR
- Submit a TIP online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/7608.htm>.

If your TIP leads to an arrest, you may receive as much as a \$200 reward, and you can remain anonymous. More information is available at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/lawenfor/2745.htm>.



Interesting Bird Sightings in the Great Outdoors

We have been asking HOW members to submit photos and reports about interesting or unusual birds that they have seen during their outdoor adventures. The sightings do not have to take place in Indiana; anywhere in the world is fair game. All photos on these pages were submitted by those reporting.

We hope this page will not only interest bird enthusiasts, but all HOW members who enjoy spending time in the great outdoors (i.e. everybody). You may just learn something new, too!

Report from Dave Hoffman:

HOW board member Dave Hoffman has been observing some totally different birds in his own backyard in recent weeks. “Due to some safety requirements for our dam, our Conservancy District has had to significantly lower our lake level in order to make some physical improvements to the dam,” reported Hoffman. “One would logically expect the resulting mud-flats and shallow pools to attract a few different species of birds, and they did.”

The first change that Hoffman noticed was that a group of green herons began congregating on a pile of exposed timber at the deep end of the lake which remained surrounded by open water. He’d only seen two or three of the secretive birds over the years, but observing them grouped together was a real treat. “I was also surprised to see families of American crows spaced side-by-side while foraging the exposed mud-flats. They reminded me of the famous painting by Jean-Francois Millet entitled “*The Gleaners*,” said Hoffman. “But, the change that I anticipated the most was



being able to identify and photograph some uncommon shorebirds. In a matter of days I was seeing a few pectoral and solitary sandpipers, although the most numerous, and by far the most vocal visitors were the raucous **Killdeer** (*Charadrius vociferus*).”



“One of about three dozen members of the plover family, killdeer are easily recognized by their distinctive double breastband, long tail and orange rump,” he continued. “Most of us learned its shrill, strident ‘Killdeer’ calls at an early age, and perhaps witnessed its ‘broken-wing’ display as it attempted to lure threats away from its eggs. While they are commonly found on mud-flats and lake shores, they can also be found on golf courses, pastures, plowed fields, and gravel parking lots. They may also lay their eggs miles away from water, which seems rather odd for a shorebird.”

“I don’t remember seeing or hearing a killdeer around our lake during the previous 20-plus years that we’ve lived here, but now I’m reminded of their presence every day,” stated Hoffman. “After all, they’re pretty darned hard to ignore!”

Did you take a cool bird photo while exploring afield recently? Did you see the bird in your back yard? While traveling far from home? Send the photo in for others to enjoy!

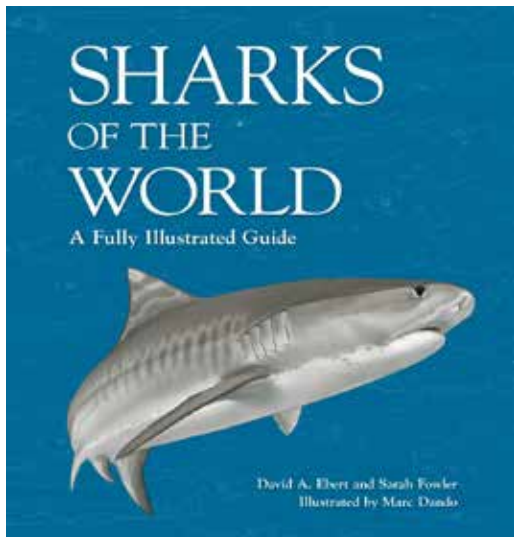
HOW members are encouraged to send their interesting bird photos to newsletter editor and bird enthusiast Tom Berg (email: thomas.berg@comcast.net) for use in future editions of the “Interesting Bird Sightings” page. Don’t worry, it does not need to be a rare bird. Your fellow HOW members would love to see your bird pictures.

Reviews on Great Outdoor Books

Everyone likes to read new books, whether it is strictly for pleasure or to learn something new. HOW members are no exception! Some of our favorites are outdoor guide books and identification books. Books that help us identify plants, mammals, fish, butterflies and birds are always popular. Here is an outstanding book that you may want to add to your library and introduce to your readers as well:

Sharks of the World, by David A. Ebert, Marc Dando and Sarah Fowler.

Book review by Tom Berg:



Princeton University Press has published the second edition of their wonderful guide to sharks, titled: ***Sharks of the World – A Fully Illustrated Guide***, by David A. Ebert, Marc Dando and Sarah Fowler. If you are interested in learning more about the hundreds of species of sharks from around the world, this is the book for you! From well-known species like Great White Sharks to much more obscure species like the Tassled Wobbegong or the Blackbelly Lanternshark, this beautiful field guide makes identifying sharks easy.

Featuring more than 535 species of sharks from around the globe, this book is literally filled with beautiful photos and illustrations of sharks of all sizes and shapes. To aid in the identification of shark species, this volume includes extensive identification text, along with distribution information and maps, descriptions of habitat, behavior, biology and more.

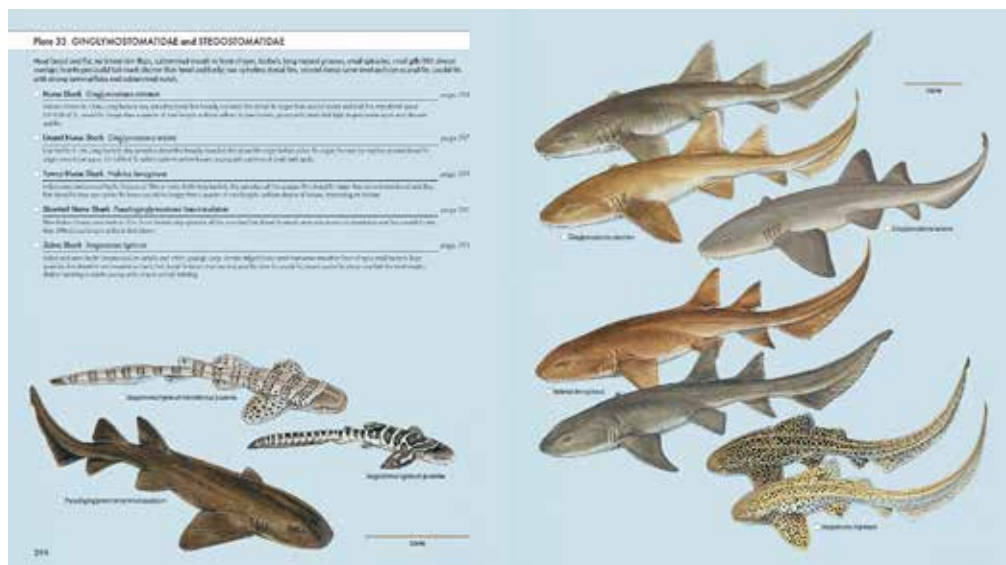
This reference book is easy to use, even for beginners. With detailed descriptions of body shapes, fins, tails, teeth and heads, anyone can identify shark species from around the world. The photos and illustrations also point out identifying features and color patterns on each shark, which greatly aids in recognizing individual species. It is very likely that you never knew there were this many species of sharks!

In addition to the main identification sections, the book also discusses interesting topics like shark fishing, shark watching, shark tourism, eating sharks, shark encounters with humans, and much more. Conservation and management of shark populations is also discussed as it has become an important topic for dialogue in recent years, as people grapple with the fact that some shark populations are decreasing at an alarming rate while some people complain that sharks are too numerous and are negatively affecting fisheries.

Sharks of the World is an excellent reference book, providing everything that shark enthusiasts need to properly identify their favorite fish and new ones that they catch, too. There is a lot to learn, and the 607 pages of this book will definitely educate you!

This is a great reference volume for both the armchair shark enthusiast and the serious saltwater angler.

ISBN-13: 978-0691205991



HOW Member News

HOW Members Help Promote Monarch Butterfly Conservation

Most people know that the population of monarch butterflies has been in severe decline for more than twenty years, and one of the biggest reasons is habitat loss. More specifically, loss of the lone food source for their caterpillars – milkweed plants.

We asked HOW members to keep a lookout this summer for monarch butterflies, monarch caterpillars and milkweed plants, and we received quite a few responses. Read on!

Kenny Bayless (Terre Haute, IN)

HOW President Kenny Bayless has a good friend named Lisa Yowell, and Lisa is very serious about helping monarch butterflies. Here's what Bayless had to say:

“Lisa Yowell is a very caring lady that loves all of God’s creatures,” said Bayless. “Once she learned of the drastic decline of butterflies, she decided to help in any way she could. She studied-up on the monarchs that inhabit her backyard and then she went to work. She said the ones she can raise indoors will be safe!”

“The monarchs use the milkweed plant exclusively to lay their eggs and use as a food source while they go through their development stages,” he continued. “Unfortunately, milkweed is an undesirable plant to humans, so we systematically destroy the plants and use pesticides to keep them in check. This gives the monarch butterfly a real struggle for survival.”

“Milkweed has a white, milky-looking sap that contains cardiac glycosides, which is poisonous to other creatures. You don’t want to get it in your eyes, either, because Lisa says it’s very irritating! The orange color of the monarch’s wings warns predators not to eat them because their bodies are poisonous since they eat milkweed. Frogs, toads, lizards, birds, spiders and dragonflies all eat butterflies. If I were a butterfly, I would wear an orange coat all the time!”

“If you want to raise monarchs, look underneath the milkweed leaves for a white egg about the size of the end of a lead pencil. Do not touch the egg. Cut the leaf off and place it in a well-ventilated container, like a pet transport containment made of netting. You can also take a large plastic container and leave the top off with a nylon stocking over the opening. There again, don’t touch the egg because the bacteria on your hands can do it harm. You can’t let pets with flea collars or other insect defense on them nearby, either.”

“It takes three to five days for the eggs to hatch into tiny caterpillars, which at this stage are called instars. They molt five times in the caterpillar stage, and they shed their skin and eat it! They can be cannibalistic, also. Lisa says to keep the same-sized caterpillars together or the big ones will eat the small ones.”

“Lisa said the caterpillars are pooping machines from eating so much, too. You must to clean the container every day and give them fresh milkweed each day. While eating, they don’t go back and forth; they start on the left and go to the right. When the time is right, they form a green chrysalis and prepare for metamorphosis.”

“There are four generations of butterflies in one growing season. The first three generations live two to six weeks and the last generation lives from six to eight months. The last fly to Mexico or California, where they spend the winter in warm climates and return next year. The last stage is hatched in September or October.”



Lisa Yowell holds one of the many monarch butterflies that she raised, just prior to its release. Photo courtesy of Kenny Bayless.

2022 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Continued

Cindy Stites (Coatesville, IN)

HOW member Cindy Stites took these excellent photos of monarch butterfly caterpillars in her back yard in July. An interesting story goes with the photos:

“I had some native milkweed come up again this year in my landscape bed that I have designated for pollinators,” said Stites. “Last year there was only one plant, and I accidentally hit it with the string trimmer, only to find a monarch caterpillar on it after the fact. I felt bad. Today, my better half Chance took a picture of a random butterfly in the garden and sent it to my friend Sarah, and she spied a caterpillar in the picture.”

“So, I went out this evening to investigate, and this is what I found!! Look at all the monarch caterpillars!



I had been checking here lately and hadn't found any, and honestly almost cut the milkweed down because it was in front of my 3-D archery target.”

“I will NOT be cutting these milkweed plants down anytime soon, knowing that all of the caterpillars are feeding on them, as they each get ready to build their chrysalis. This small find totally made my day.”

On August 6, Stites provided an update on her monarch project. She had two chrysalises (or chrysalides) in a container. “One of our monarch chrysalis friends is getting so close to becoming a butterfly!!”

You can see the chrysalis on the far right has become almost transparent, and the monarch inside has nearly completed its metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. The orange color is already visible and very soon the monarch butterfly will emerge as a full-fledged adult.

After that, the next part of its journey will begin.



2022 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Continued

Brandon Butler (Fayette, MO)

HOW Past President Brandon Butler took these great photos of monarch butterfly caterpillars on Roeslein Alternative Energy property, at the North Farm Prairie in July. There were a lot of caterpillars on these common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa* – also called butterfly weed) plants!



Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

HOW Executive Director Tom Berg was in northern Wisconsin in late June when he took this photo of a monarch caterpillar munching on the leaf of a milkweed plant. This particular stand of milkweed was located right on the shoreline of Berg's favorite northwoods lake, and that location might have saved it from being mowed down by the local lawn-mowing crew. That's good for the monarch butterflies!

"I have kept a watchful eye on this group of milkweed plants for the past several years," remarked Berg. "In some years the milkweed patch is larger and in other years it has shrunk in size. But it is always there."

"Of course, there are lots of different species of butterflies, bumblebees, flies, honeybees and other pollinators visiting the milkweed flowers when they are blooming there, too."

"The monarch butterflies waste no time in laying eggs on the milkweed plants, and the caterpillars are always soon to follow!"



2022 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Continued

Gene Clifford (Valparaiso, IN)

HOW member Gene Clifford has been nurturing monarch butterflies for many years. “I’ve had milkweed growing in my garden for decades,” he said. “I even went to Frankfort, Illinois to visit a lady that calls herself ‘The Monarch Mama’ since she raises monarch butterflies. Last year she reportedly released 422 adult monarch butterflies.”

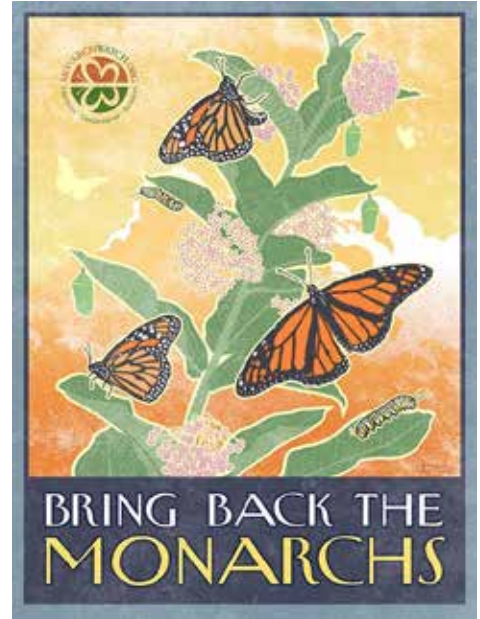
“I bought a cloth mesh cage for the larva that I got from her and I gave it to my great granddaughter for her 6th birthday recently. I would also suggest that anybody interested in raising monarchs should look into the Monarch Watch website (www.MonarchWatch.org). They have a lot of great information there.”

Gary Redmon (Indianapolis, IN)

HOW member Gary Redmon has been on the lookout for monarch caterpillars in his area ever since we sent out the note to HOW members earlier this summer, but they seem to be hard to find in his area.

“I know you asked for photos of monarch caterpillars, but I haven’t found any of them yet,” said Redmon. “However, please look at these photos. These striped caterpillars could easily be mistaken for monarch caterpillars, especially by people who are unfamiliar with them.”

“These are black swallowtail caterpillars having lunch on parsley plants in my friend Paula Lawhead’s garden.” As it turns out, the caterpillars of black swallowtail butterflies love to eat parsley leaves, so we are not too surprised to see them in Ms. Lawhead’s herb garden.



Black swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*) caterpillars are shown here eating the leaves of parsley plants. In fact, these swallowtail caterpillars are often called “Parsley Worms” because they are usually seen feeding on parsley plants. The caterpillars must not like the stems since they haven’t eaten any of them! Black swallowtail caterpillars can be mistaken for monarch caterpillars since they look so similar. Photos by Paula Lawhead.

2022 Monarch Butterfly Conservation Continued

Bill Keaton (Spencer, IN)

HOW Advisor Bill Keaton keeps an eye out for monarch butterflies around his property, and he has been protecting milkweed plants whenever he finds them. “For the last several years, I have been careful to mow around milkweed plants to leave them for the monarchs,” said Keaton. “Over the years, I have begun to see more monarchs on my property than I saw previously.”

“When HOW Executive Director Tom Berg asked for pictures of monarch caterpillars,” he continued, “I went in search of them. I looked high and low on many plants, but I found no caterpillars. I did see many plants that had leaves which had been eaten by caterpillars, but I could not find an active caterpillar. Perhaps they were already in a chrysalis.”

“I finally went to an area I had recently mowed, but I had left two big patches of milkweed. That’s where I found this beautiful specimen!”



How to Grow Milkweed Plants From Seed

Tom Berg (Dyer, IN)

Interested in growing your own milkweed plants? That’s a great idea – both for you and for the monarch butterflies. It’s beneficial for the monarchs, of course, because they need milkweed plants to lay their eggs on. And as we all know, monarch caterpillars only eat the leaves of milkweed plants. So everyone should definitely plant some milkweed!

Milkweed seeds can be planted in your garden in the late fall, and they will sprout on their own in the springtime. But you can actually plant milkweed seeds anytime, as long as you prepare the seeds properly. Milkweed seeds require “cold stratification” to germinate, which means they need to be exposed to cold temperatures to bring the seeds out of dormancy. Without prolonged exposure to cold temperatures, your milkweed seeds are unlikely to sprout. That’s why seeds planted in the fall sprout naturally in the springtime.

But to plant milkweed seeds in the spring or summer, you can simply perform cold stratification for your seeds in your refrigerator. Here are the easy instructions:



1. Soak your seeds in water for 1-2 hours.
2. Use a paper towel or coffee filter to drain the excess water.
3. Spread all the seeds out in a single layer on the paper towel.
4. Wrap a dry paper towel around the damp paper towel to help keep things moist but not too wet (which could become moldy).
5. Place in a Ziploc bag and seal.
6. Label the variety of milkweed and date clearly on the bag.
7. Place in the refrigerator for 1 month before planting. If seedlings start to sprout in the bag in the refrigerator, remove immediately and either plant in the ground or in pots until it’s time to plant outdoors.

Teena Ligman Stays Active In Fight Against Invasive Species

HOW member Teena Ligman forwarded some good information about invasive species, and although the events mentioned below have already passed (editor's fault!), the info is still good for anyone interested in learning more and possibly writing about this issue. Ligman is the SICIM (Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management) secretary and would be happy to answer questions (email: tdligman@att.net).

"I wanted to let HOW members know about some things going on with invasives in Indiana," said Ligman. "Any outdoor writers who are interested in invasive issues can find plenty of things to write about."

"On August 13 we had a chafflower conference in Mount Vernon (see flyer below), which was important for those Ohio River bottom areas. Chafflower is a huge problem along the river but it has started moving up inland waterways as well, and has even been found on farms elsewhere as farmers move equipment from bottomland farms to upland farms in other counties. Chafflower actually prefers upland areas but spreads faster along the river bottoms."

"The Annual Report for SICIM/Indiana Invasive Initiative came out a few months ago. I can get anyone who wants one a hard copy, but the electronic copy is on the SICIM website under the About Section - about halfway down that page (<https://www.sicim.info/>)"

"Our Annual meeting in March was really good. It was well-attended and we recognized Purdue Extension as the Partner of the Year, Bill Schmeltzer as the Volunteer of the year for all the filming he's helped us with, and Dan Shaver with TNC and now NRCS with the President's Award."

The flyer is titled "INVASIVE SPECIES FIELD DAY" at the top. Below that, it says "JAPANESE CHAFF FLOWER SUMMIT FIELD DAY". The text describes the event: "Please join us for a fun morning of touring the beautiful Hovey Lake FWA to learn how to identify and control a new invasive species to Indiana, Japanese Chaff Flower. To register please visit this link <https://japanese-chaff-flower-summit-hovey-lake.eventbrite.com>." The date is "AUGUST 13TH" and the time is "9:00 AM - 12:00 PM CT". The location is "8401 State Road 69 S, Mount Vernon, IN 47620". At the bottom, there are logos for SICIM and Indiana Invasives Initiative, and a contact line: "CONTACT KAILA KNIES AT [KAILA@SICIM.INFO](mailto:kaila@sicim.info) FOR MORE INFORMATION". The flyer also features two images: a close-up of a Japanese Chaff Flower and a landscape view of a riverbank with trees.

Extension as the Partner of the Year, Bill Schmeltzer as the Volunteer of the year for all the filming he's helped us with, and Dan Shaver with TNC and now NRCS with the President's Award."

"This Spring, SICIM gave out \$7,500 in grants to local CISMAs for different projects. That was a fun new thing we did and allowed local groups to do innovative things. For example my local group did a Callery Pear bounty – we purchased dogwood, redbud, and serviceberry trees and swapped out a native tree for every Callery Pear that someone cut down during a three-week time frame. The publicity this got us was phenomenal. Everyone in the county seemed to be talking about it, and became more aware of how invasive this tree is and way more pear trees got removed than the 62 that were cut due to the bounty."

"SICIM is also now looking for an Executive Director. This is a full-time paid position, so if you know of someone that would be interested, please let us know."

Gary Redmon Ponders the Mystery of the Dead Deer

HOW member Gary Redmon is an avid deer hunter (see below), so he is always on the lookout for deer sign when he is walking around in his favorite woods. OK, he is probably not just ‘walking around’, he is probably scouting for deer season!

“There are many things you might find while roaming the woods,” commented Redmon, “like mushrooms, antler sheds, new treestand sites, medicinal plants, and other cool stuff. Then there are things we don’t want to find, like a deer carcass. I found this deer carcass in an unusual position while out last fall, and the mystery began as to what had happened.”



“Did this deer get its head stuck between the two tree trunks in a freakishly rare accident? Or was it the result of a lost deer during hunting season? Did it die from a disease like EHD or CWD? The carcass was too far gone to put on latex gloves, draw a chalk line and play forensic scientist. Only fresh carcasses are useful for disease testing.”

“The coyotes took care of most everything and back to the wild it went. And so the mystery remains. What Happened? We will probably never know.”

Redmon’s Deer Season was ‘Worth the Wait’



“On the next to the last day of the 2020 gun season, I decided to sleep in and go late on a frosty full moon,” remembers Redmon. “After hunting through bow season and almost all of gun season I was beginning to wonder if I would fill my tag.”

“I had seen and passed on several good bucks throughout the season, holding on to my dream of a larger one. I had been rotating on stands all season, playing the wind. Arriving on stand at approximately 11:00am, I saw the ground was still wet from the melting frost and I was well-rested from sleeping in. It was a quiet, sunny morning; squirrels were out and birds were singing.”

“I was sitting in a ladder stand nestled against a white pine, and I kept hearing things like a squirrel jumping around in the leaves behind me. I had only been on stand for 30 minutes. It couldn’t be a deer so soon. The sound continued and I slowly rose up to peek, but I saw nothing. I started to return to my sitting position and out jumped a doe followed by a buck with a

big, wide, 8-point rack staring right at me. My gun was still hanging in the tree to my side, and buck fever suddenly hit me. I was shaking, for the first time in a long time. I’m not sure how I managed to get my gun and find the buck in my scope. All I could see was that wide rack. But I got off a shot and sat down, playing the scenario over and over in my mind while waiting to recover.”

“Success! The deer went down and my 2020 deer season came to a close. It was worth the wait.”

Mike Lunsford and Phil Cox Attend Wabash Valley Audubon Society Banquet

HOW members Mike Lunsford and Phil Cox recently attended the Wabash Valley Audubon Society's annual meeting and banquet at Mogger's Restaurant & Pub in Terre Haute. "Outgoing WVAS President Nick Gabry emceed the event while entertainment was provided by Bob Warn and his guitar," said Cox. "After dinner, Gabry provided WVAS Chapter updates and shared some info about a local birding guide collaboration with riverSCAPE. The guest speaker was Dr. Dan Bradley, riverSCAPE Trails Committee, who shared riverSCAPE's vision for more trails to connect Vigo County and beyond."

"Also at the meeting, HOW member Mike Lunsford was named the recipient of the WVAS James Mason Service Award. Lunsford is a local writer and photographer who writes a column for the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* that regularly advocates natural resources conservation. In addition, he supports the natural world through his photos in *Terre Haute Living*, and a presenter at Indiana Master Naturalist Workshops."

Cox continued: "The James Mason Award was named after Dr. James H. Mason, an English professor at Indiana State University, who worked tirelessly lobbying at the Statehouse to pass laws to improve the environment in Indiana. He served on the board of the Wabash Valley Audubon Society for many years in numerous positions, including president. He also served for decades as the conservation

chairman for the Indiana Audubon Society. Each year the Wabash Valley Audubon Society selects one of more individuals who have shown the same type of dedication and stewardship of the environment that was exhibited by Mr. Mason."

For more information about the Wabash Valley Audubon Society visit their website at www.wabashvalleyaudubonsociety.org.

You may also check them out on Facebook.



Active HOW member Mike Lunsford (left), received the James Mason Service Award from WVAS President Nick Gabry at the recent Wabash Valley Audubon Society's Annual Meeting and Banquet in Terre Haute.

Don Cranfill Helps Kids Learn About Fishing at the Indiana State Fair

HOW past president Don Cranfill was a busy man at the Indiana State Fair this year in Indianapolis. He was one of the many volunteer helpers at the DNR's Fishin' Pond behind the Natural Resources Building.



Another HOW past president, John Maxwell, was also present at the Fishin' Pond taking photos for possible use in a future issue of Outdoor Indiana Magazine. Maxwell is also the DNR state photographer.

"Don Cranfill walked the walk and talked the talk today," Maxwell said, "while teaching kids to fish at the DNR's Fishin' Pond."

Cranfill was duly impressed by the interest shown by many of the kids, too. "This young lady was much more excited than it appears in the photos," he said. "This was her first time fishing and her first fish. And she did not quit until she hit her three fish limit."

"What a fun day fishing with the kids," exclaimed Cranfill. "We gained many new members of our sport yesterday. You can sign me up to help every year!"

Awesome job, Mr. Cranfill. You were making a real difference with our youth. DNR Fishin' Pond photos shown here were taken by John Maxwell.



Alan and Dianna Garbers Deal With Tarantulas in Arizona

HOW past president Alan Garbers said he doesn't mind spiders, even if they are crawling on the windows of his house (on the outside). Here is what he had to say about a recent "incident" with a good-sized tarantula:

"We had another furry visitor this morning," he reported (see photos below). "It's a little bigger than most. I think the heavy rains may have driven it from its usual hangout spots. It's now on our picture window! It's about 4-inches in diameter."

Someone on facebook asked if it could get in his house, and Garbers calmly replied: "I suppose under the right conditions it could get in the house. They don't bother me too much. We see them quite often crossing the road after dark and when we are hunting rattlesnakes at night. Some nights we might see 10 or more. The scorpions are another matter. I almost stepped on one in our kitchen."

Alan's wife Dianna had something to say about what to do if that tarantula actually got into the house: "BURN DOWN THE HOUSE!"



Membership Changes and Member Contact Info

The following name represents our newest HOW member. Please make a note of his contact info:

Alan Clemons: 3208 Stonewall Road SE, Hampton Cove, AL 35763, phone: 256-655-4228,
Email: alanclemons@comcast.net.

If your email address, phone number or other contact info changes, please notify HOW Executive Director Tom Berg at thomas.berg@comcast.net or by mail at 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.

The HOW Trading Post

This section of the newsletter is set aside for HOW members to list items (especially outdoor gear) that they would like to sell. Limit one listing (or group listing) per member, per issue. Please contact the seller for more info – not the newsletter editor!

For Sale: Winchester Select Platinum Sporting 12 Gauge Shotgun

Winchester Select Platinum Sporting 12 gauge O/U shotgun, 28 inch barrels with the 5 original choke tubes and 12 additional choke tubes. Comes with original Winchester Red Case and all paperwork. Original excellent condition. Bought new in 2008 and shot skeet one time only. \$2,000 OBO. Contact Bob Jennings at 812-798-0783 or via email: Jenningsr500@gmail.com.



Unusual Nature Photos from the Hoosier Outdoors

Sponsored by Hawke Sport Optics

Great Egrets are Stealthy Hunters of the Marsh



Close-up
 →
 Original
 ←



The “What is it?” photo from the last issue evidently wasn’t too difficult, because it was correctly identified by a total of eleven (11) HOW members. Phil Cox, Mike Lunsford, Gary Redmon, Don Cranfill, Mike Schoonveld, John Martino, Bill Keaton, Troy McCormick, Ken McBroom, John Maxwell and Phil Seng were all able to identify it. When we drew a name at

random for the **Driftmaster** Tip Saver rod storage system, Don Cranfill was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Don! Our friends at **Black River Tools** will send the prize directly to you.

As you can see in the photo (at left), the mystery creature for this issue was an elegant **Great Egret** (*Ardea alba*). Great egrets look very similar to great blue herons, except the egrets are all white and are just slightly smaller. During breeding season, the patch of skin between their eye and beak turns bright green, as can be seen in the photo above. They also have long feather plumes on their back that were used in fashionable ladies’ hats in the late 1800s.

The great egret is used in the logo of the National Audubon Society, which is one of the oldest conservation organizations in North America. This organization (and others) helped protect birds like the great egret from being killed for their feathers, and aided in passing laws to protect birds. Today,

great egrets are once again a common sight in our marshes and wetlands as they wade the shallows, stealthily hunting small fish, frogs, snakes and insects.

For this issue, our friends at **Hawke Sport Optics** have donated a very nice prize for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” question. This time the prize will be a pair of **Hawke Nature-Trek 10x42 binoculars**, with a retail value of \$189. See below for more info on the prize and this issue’s nature question.



Berg Poses Another Nature Photo “What Is It?” Question

Tom Berg has posed another Nature Photo mystery. The photo shown at right is part of a close-up of a creature that can be found throughout the state of Indiana year-round. You are unlikely to see it in your back yard, although it is possible. Does it look familiar? Have you ever seen this color pattern?



This creature may be easy for some people to identify, and harder for others. But we’ll see. Do you know of any creatures that look like this? As usual, you will have to identify the exact species. If you think it’s a species of toad, for example, go ahead and guess “Fowler’s toad” (of course, it’s not a toad). If you know the answer, send an email to thomas.berg@comcast.net. If you’re right, you will be entered in this issue’s prize drawing!



As mentioned, **Hawke Sport Optics** (www.hawkeoptics.com) has donated a great pair of binoculars for the HOW member who guesses the right answer to this issue’s “What Is It?” nature question. This issue’s winner will receive the **Hawke Nature-Trek 10x42 green binoculars, Model 35-103**. Check out all of Hawke’s innovative optics products on their website listed above. If multiple people guess correctly, we’ll draw a winner at random from the correct entries. All nature photos on this page were taken by Tom Berg.

HOW Supporting Member News

These pages are devoted to the loyal supporting members of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers. Brief descriptions of new products, award-winning products and press releases are listed here. HOW members interested in reading more can visit the supporting member websites or call or email the company contact for more information.

Hoosier Trapper Supply Announces New Season Of the Popular Hoosier Trapper Outdoors Show

Greenwood, IN – August 6, 2021.

Welcome to **Season 10** of **Hoosier Trapper Outdoors!** I must admit, I really didn't know what to expect when we first started the show. For those of you that have watched the show from the beginning: you have probably noticed we have gotten a lot better at putting a show together and you have watched Jake grow up.

I really appreciate all the positive feedback over the years. I am also proud that we have played a small role in helping trappers become better trappers. Hopefully the show continues for many more years!

Also, don't forget that the Fur Takers of America (Chapter 7B Central Indiana) will hold their annual Fall Rendezvous at Hoosier Trapper Supply in Greenwood on Saturday, September 25.

The rendezvous features free admission, informative trapping demos, raffles, a hog roast, kid's games, a white elephant auction and lots of fun.

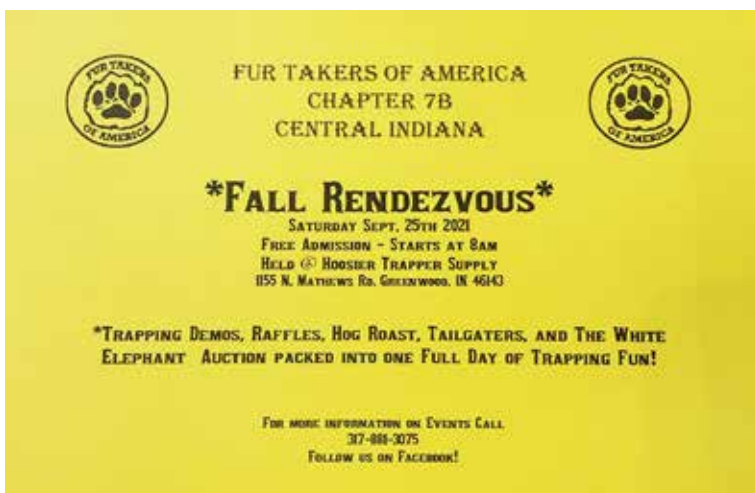
Until next time...Charlie Masheck.

Media Contact: Please contact Charlie Masheck at Hoosier Trapper Supply for more info.

Phone: 317-881-3075

Email: hoosiertrapper@gmail.com

Website: www.hoosiertrappersupply.com



HOW Supporting Member News

Henry Repeating Arms Announces Next Company President

Rice Lake, WI – July 13, 2021. Henry Repeating Arms, one of the leading rifle and shotgun manufacturers in the United States, announced today that effective immediately, Andy Wickstrom has been appointed the company's next President. Employed by Henry Repeating Arms since November 2006, Mr. Wickstrom started as the General Manager of the company's Rice Lake, Wisconsin manufacturing facility. Anthony Imperato, company President since 1997, will now hold the title of Founder and CEO.

In his capacity as President, Mr. Wickstrom will provide leadership directing the future of Henry Repeating Arms while preserving the company's core values, relationships with employees, vendors, distributors, dealers, and the company's obsessive focus on the customer.

Mr. Wickstrom began his career as a Manufacturing Engineer and then Director of Operations at Wright Products which was a key Henry supplier starting in 1998. In 2006, Wickstrom facilitated Henry's acquisition of certain assets of Wright Products, including their 140,000 square foot Wisconsin facility and continued as Henry's General Manager. In 2015, Wickstrom was promoted to Vice President and General Manager to oversee all company activity, including its 110,000 square foot facility in Bayonne, New Jersey. During his 15-year tenure with Henry Repeating Arms, he facilitated the growth of operations, company-wide improvements, and new product development while implementing lean manufacturing practices and cost-saving methods. Today Henry Repeating Arms has more than 550 employees between its two locations and manufactures a growing catalog of over 200 different models of firearms in a variety of calibers and finishes.



Andy Wickstrom is the new president of Henry Repeating Arms. He has held leadership positions at Henry since 2006.

“Helping to grow Henry in the last 15 years has been an absolute pleasure and the highlight of my career,” said Andy Wickstrom. “In my new role, I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. Imperato to execute our shared strategic vision while maintaining the culture, character, and passion that brought us to the table and has served us well thus far.”

“Mr. Wickstrom has been our de facto President for the past few years. His official appointment is long overdue,” said Anthony Imperato. “He has worked hard for these past 15 years and earned this position. He has the talent, the energy, my trust, and respect.”

A true Wisconsinite, Mr. Wickstrom holds a B.S. degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Stout. He enjoys sharing many outdoor sports with his two sons, including whitetail and pheasant hunting, fishing, and motorsports.

Media Contact: Please contact Communications Director Dan Clayton-Luce at Henry for more info or for images of Henry products. Phone: 919-818-2052, email: dan@henryusa.com.

HOW Supporting Member News



HOW Supporting Members Win Awards at 2021 ICAST Show



Orlando, FL: The 2021 ICAST show (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades) held in Florida from July 20-23 was another great one, showcasing the products of some of the premier companies in the fishing tackle industry. Last year's show was "virtual" because of Covid-19, but this year the show returned with thousands of industry representatives from the global sportfishing industry to see the latest innovations in fishing gear, tackle, accessories and apparel. This year, a total of 686 new tackle products and accessories were entered by 218 companies into 30 categories in the New Product Showcase, all vying for the overall ICAST 2021 "Best of Show" award.

As usual, some of the top new product awards were won by our innovative **HOW Supporting Members**. Here is the list of *Best of Category* category winners from our corporate members:

Fly Fishing Rod

G.Loomis

NRX T2S 8810-2 Rod

Contact: Dena Vick, dena@kingeiderpr.com

Fishing Line

Seaguar

BasiX Line

Contact: Chuck Reynolds, chuck@omnivoreagency.com

Eyewear

Costa

Untangled Collection: New Frames Made from Old Nets

Contact: Marisa Weich, marisaw@gunpowderinc.com



Best New Eyewear:
Costa Untangled Sunglasses



Best New Fishing Line:
Seaguar BasiX Line



Best New Fly Fishing Rod:
G.Loomis NRX 8810-2 Rod

Congratulations to all of the winners!

For more info on ICAST, check their website: www.icastfishing.org.

HOW's Supporting Member Websites

Aquateko International - www.aquateko.com
Artrip Float Company - www.artripfloatcompany.com
B'n'M Pole Company - www.bnmpoles.com
Bass Pro Shops - www.basspro.com
Black River Tools - www.blackrivertools.com
BoatUS - www.boatus.com
BOLT Locks - www.boltlock.com
Brella Rainwear - www.brellabrella.com
Buck Knives - www.buckknives.com
Bucket Grip - www.bucketgrip.com
Celox Medical - www.stopbleedingkits.org
Church Tackle Company - www.churchtackle.com
Cocoons Eyewear - www.cocoonseyewear.com
Costa Sunglasses - www.costadelmar.com
Daisy Outdoor Products - www.daisy.com
Danner Boots - www.danner.com
Dardevle by Eppinger - www.dardevle.com
DJ Illinois River Valley Calls - www.djcalls.com
Ducks Unlimited - www.ducks.org
Egret Baits - www.egretbaits.com
Environ-Metal, Inc. - www.hevishot.com
Falcon Guides - www.falcon.com
Finn Tackle Company - www.finnspoons.com
Fish Monkey Gloves - www.fishmonkeygloves.com
Flying Fisherman - www.flyingfisherman.com
G.Loomis - www.gloomis.com
Glacier Glove - www.glacierglove.com
Grizzly Fishing - www.grizzlyfishing.com
Hawke Sport Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com
Henry Repeating Arms Co. - www.henryUSA.com
HHA Sports - www.HHAsports.com
Hoosier Trapper Supply - www.hoosiertrappersupply.com
Howard Leight Shooting Sports - www.howardleight.com
HT Enterprises - www.htent.com
Indiana Destination Development Corporation - www.visitindiana.com
Indiana Dunes Tourism - www.indianadunes.com
Jackall Lures - www.jackall-lures.com
LaCrosse Footwear - www.lacrossefootwear.com
Lawrence County Tourism - www.limestonecountry.com
LensPen - www.lenspen.com
Lodge Manufacturing - www.lodgemfg.com
Mathews Archery - www.mathewsinc.com
Mossy Oak - www.mossyoak.com
Mongo Attachments - www.mongoattachments.com
National Shooting Sports Foundation - www.nssf.org
National Wild Turkey Federation - www.nwtf.org
Norsemen Outdoors - www.norsemenoutdoors.com
Nosler, Inc. - www.nosler.com
Nothead Tackle - www.notheadtackle.com
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. - www.mossberg.com
Off Shore Tackle - www.offshoretackle.com
Otis Technology - www.otistec.com
Outdoor Sportsman Group - www.outdoorsg.com
PowerPro Lines - www.powerpro.com
Princeton University Press - www.press.princeton.edu
Pro-Cure Bait Scents - www.pro-cure.com
Quaker Boy Game Calls - www.quakerboygamecalls.com
RAM Trucks - www.ramtrucks.com
Reef Runner Lures - www.reefrunner.com
Renfro Productions - www.renfroproductions.com
RIO Products - www.rioproducts.com
Roeslein Alternative Energy - www.roeslein.com
Seaguar Fishing Lines - www.seaguar.com
Shimano American Corp. - www.shimano.com
Sierra Bullets - www.sierrabullets.com
Snag Proof Lures - www.snagproof.com
South Shore CVA - www.southshorecva.com
Sporting Classics - www.sportingclassics.com
Sportsman Magazine - www.sportsman-mag.com
St. Croix Rods - www.stcroixrods.com
Sturm, Ruger & Co. - www.ruger.com
Swab-Its - www.swab-its.com
Sweet Owen CVB - www.sweetowencvb.org
Tales End Tackle - www.talesendtackle.com
Target Communications Outdoor Books - www.targetcommbooks.com
Toyota Motor Sales - www.toyotanewsroom.com
Traditions Media - www.traditionsmedia.com
TTI-Blakemore Fishing - www.ttiblakemore.com
Van Vuuren African Safaris - www.vvasafaris.com
Vexilar, Inc. - www.vexilar.com
Whitetails Unlimited - www.whitetailsunlimited.com
Winchester Ammunition - www.winchester.com
W.R. Case - www.wrcase.com

HOW members are encouraged to check these websites for general info and answers to product and service questions.

Hoosier Outdoor Writers

Application For New Membership

(Check Desired Classification below)

- \$30 _____ Active
- \$25 _____ Associate
- \$50 _____ Supporting
- \$15 _____ Active Student
- \$10 _____ Associate Student

Personal Information:

Name: _____
Company (Supporting members only): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Professional Information:

Employer (if outdoor-related): _____ Position: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____

1. Describe your work in the outdoor field: Full Time _____ Part Time _____

2. Check your field(s) of outdoor work:

_____ Newspapers	_____ Magazine	_____ Radio	_____ Artist
_____ Books	_____ Photography	_____ Lectures	
_____ Television	_____ Teaching	_____ Trade Journals	
_____ Blog/Online Work	_____ Public relations	_____ Government Info - Ed	
_____ Other (Specify): _____			

3. Are you paid for your outdoor work? Yes _____ No _____

4. Your work is published or disseminated: Daily ____; Weekly ____; Monthly ____; ____ times a year

Attach samples or other proof of your work in the outdoor field: newspaper clips, letters from station managers attesting to frequency of radio or TV broadcasts, lecture schedule or publicity clips, photo clips or artistic prints, title of latest book, masthead of trade journal showing your position, etc.

Send completed application and article copies to: **Tom Berg, 2142 Nondorf Street, Dyer, IN 46311.**

I have read the principles and membership requirements of the Hoosier Outdoor Writers and would like to enroll in the classification checked above.

Signature: _____

Sponsor: _____

Who We Are

The Hoosier Outdoor Writers was formed in 1969 and has brought together many diverse groups and individuals with shared interests. The Hoosier Outdoor Writers, known among its members as HOW, is a group of dedicated media professionals who are keenly interested in the wise use of natural resources in the Hoosier State.

What We Do

These are the purposes of HOW:

1. To improve ourselves in the art, skill and effectiveness of our craft, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the whole state.
2. To help ensure the wisest and best conservation of Indiana's resources, and the most wide-spread fair use of Indiana's recreational potential.
3. To provide a vehicle for bringing together and joining in common cause all Hoosiers who by profession, hobby or interest are devoted to the outdoors.
4. Conduct an annual Awards-In-Craft Contest among its members. The award winners are announced each year at HOW's annual conference.

What We Stand For

These are what we strive to accomplish:

1. To give the profession of outdoor writing/reporting greater recognition and understanding, even higher standards and enlarged scope.
2. To encourage and enforce high standards of professional ethics.
3. To strive always for the truth, accuracy, clarity and completeness in the dissemination of outdoor information.
4. To help friends and fight the foes of wisely conserved Indiana resources.

Membership Requirements

Membership is open to anyone who meets one of the following:

1. Active

Members are those regularly engaged in the paid dissemination of outdoor-oriented information via newspapers, radio, television, internet/online, magazines, trade journals, books, photographs, art, lectures, or other fitting media. (Basic guidelines of "regularity" of dissemination are: 20 newspaper articles, photos or broadcasts a year; 20 online



articles, blogs, vlogs or podcasts a year; two national or four regional magazines or specialty journal articles a year, or one book, 10 lectures, or 20 bona fide outdoor news releases a year). The legal advisor for the association shall be an active member without meeting the basic guidelines.

2. Associate

Members are those who have a strong direct interest in the outdoors, either professional or personal, such as conservationists of all kinds; nature lovers; sportsmen; outdoorsmen; public employees in outdoor fields; educators teaching related subjects; fishing guides and tournament anglers, and retail-level dealers in outdoor goods, equipment or facilities.

3. Supporting

Members are those engaged in major commercial efforts directly related to the outdoors, such as manufacturers, distributors, service providers, manufacturers' representatives, or advertising agencies serving any of these.

4. Active Student

Members are those between the ages of 18 and 24 years who are bona fide college students with a major in journalism, communications, or natural resources sciences.

5. Associate Student

Members are those who are students who have an active interest in the outdoors in the areas of fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, nature, ecology, or in preserving the environment in general.

Calendar of Events

AGLOW 2021 Annual Conference: September 12-17, 2021
(www.aglowinfo.org)
Gaylord, MI

Indianapolis Fall Boat & RV Show: September 24-26, 2021
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Fur Takers Chapter 7B Fall Rendezvous: September 25, 2021
(www.hoosiertrappersupply.com)
Held at Hoosier Trapper Supply
Greenwood, IN

OWAA 2021 Annual Conference: October 4-6, 2021
(www.owaa.org)
Jay Peak Resort, VT

SEOPA 2021 Annual Conference: October 6-9, 2021
(www.seopa.org)
Glade Springs Resort, WV

Ford Cincinnati Boat, Sport & Travel Show: January 14-16 & 19-23, 2022
(www.CincySportShow.com)
Cincinnati, OH

Cincinnati Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo: January 21-23, 2022
(www.CincySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Ford Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show: February 18-27, 2022
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

Indiana Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo: February 24-27, 2022
(www.IndySportShow.com)
Indianapolis, IN

HOW 2022 Annual Conference: April 1-3, 2022
(www.HoosierOutdoorWriters.org)
Turkey Run State Park
Parke County, IN
(Annual meeting on April 2)

HOW members may submit upcoming events, along with dates, locations and other details to the newsletter editor at: director@hoosieroutdoorwriters.org for possible inclusion in future issues of *The Blade*.