



Friends of White's Woods Monthly Newsletter



How To Track Indiana County Bird Migration

According to BirdCast, a website hosted by the Cornell Ornithology Lab, Colorado State University and the University of Massachusetts, 2,418,000 birds flew over Indiana County between 7:10 p.m. Sept. 26 and 7:10 a.m. Sept. 27. Fall bird migration is here!

Birdcast relies, in part, on Live Migration maps: "Real-time analysis maps show intensities of actual nocturnal bird migration as detected by the U.S. weather surveillance radar network between local sunset to sunrise." Bird migration forecast data models are based on data that have been accumulated for more than 23 years.

Right now, a large number of species' flocks are passing overhead at night, including Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, and American Redstarts.



American Redstart



Hawk migration begins in early August and continues through December. Some of the hawks that migrate through Pennsylvania include:

- *Broad-winged hawks: These hawks migrate to the Amazon basin in the winter. Large flocks of broad-winged hawks are often seen along ridges in September.*
- *Golden eagles: These eagles migrate through the Western regions of the Appalachians in both the fall and spring*
- *Bald eagles: These eagles migrate through Pennsylvania.*
- *Ospreys: These birds migrate through Pennsylvania.*

The fall bird migration has not yet hit its peak. There will be plenty more migratory birds overhead at night through October.

To track the Fall bird migration, go to <https://birdcast.info/>

Additional information about migratory birds in the U.S. can be found at the Audubon website: <https://explorer.audubon.org/home?layersPanel=expand>

"2,418,000 birds flew over Indiana County between 7:10 p.m. Sept. 26 and 7:10 a.m. Sept. 27."

Let Us Eat Cake Oct. 15

It is time for the FWW Annual Membership Meeting! This time we want to start with a celebration of the White's Woods Nature Center and of FWW's collective work in protecting it. It is time to have your cake and eat it, too!

While the White Township Board of Supervisors has not sent the plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for their review (as of Sept. 27th), what we do know is that we have a good Township-committee-produced plan that relies on public input, protects at-risk species, and strictly limits any removal of trees. The value of our Project-70 natural area is recognized community-wide!

After enjoying our desserts, there will be an update on the status of the Draft White's Woods Stewardship Plan, the ongoing deer-fencing experimental plot, the FWW barberry-removal efforts, and what to expect as our forest ages. The meeting will also include the annual FWW Board of Director elections, a discussion of the FWW budget, including member suggestions for fundraising, and a discussion of issues and questions raised by FWW members. For more information about the roles and responsibilities of FWW Board members, email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

Please join us – even if you can stop by for a few minutes – at the Zion Lutheran Church, 100 S. 6th St., at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 15..

FWW member support has been critical to our success and will be essential to our success in the future!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 12: Barberry Removal White's Woods, 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at College Lodge parking lot.

Oct. 15: Annual Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 100 S. 6th St., Indiana.

Nov. 5: U.S. Election Day. VOTE!

Nov. 7: A Brief Tour of Some of Pennsylvania's Big Trees and How to Measure Them

webinar by Dale Luthringer, DCNR Environmental Education Specialist, Cook Forest State Park, noon to 1 p.m.

Catch the FWW Naturally column monthly in the Indiana Gazette.

Please check friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events and/or your email for up-to-date information on upcoming events. Register for webinars by sending an email to info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

Like us on FaceBook: Friends of White's Woods, Inc.

Follow us on Instagram: [friendsofwhiteswoodsinc](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofwhiteswoodsinc)

**Issue 52
October 2024**

Timbering Hurts Forest/Habitat Growth; Contributes to Climate Change Problems

Logging spreads invasive plants, removes trees important to the health of the forest, erodes soil, degrades water quality, increases fire intensity, fragments or destroys habitat, and critically reduces the amount of carbon a forest can absorb – just when we need to absorb as much carbon as we possibly can, said the executive director of RESTORE: The North Woods at the Sept. 25th FWW webinar.

Forests do not need human management to thrive, Michael Kellett said. Quite the contrary. Popular “management” techniques are generally ineffective or even damaging to a forest. For example, thinning a forest doesn’t help forest ecosystems; doing so makes fires more intense.

Kellett explained that, due to their maturation and development patterns, a forest is never “even-aged.” Some trees are always left when forests are logged. Other trees die. New trees grow. There is no need to log a forest to effect age diversity.

Logging some old growth to “speed up” old-growth characteristics won’t work either, not least because doing so introduces new problems. Doing nothing is the best strategy for promoting old growth!

While we do need timber, Kellett said, we simply do not need to log all of our forests.

Kellett argued that we need to take the words of Henry David Thoreau seriously: “In wildlife is the preservation of the world.” Active management of forests is not working. Allowing forests to recover from the devastation of the previous century will work for the forests and for us, the humans, who depend on them.

In the United States, only 12% of forests are permanently protected, Kellett said. In Pennsylvania, no more than 2.5% of our forests enjoy permanent protection.

Each town, Kellett said, should have a forest where the trees are never cut. We need to triple the number of U.S. national parks to protect more forests permanently.

The timber we need does not need to come from our national forests! What is important is that we protect many more forests – for our survival. We need to start thinking in new ways, Kellett said, about the role of forests in our planet’s health. We need to rely on the demonstrated

success of managing many more of our forests “passively” - by letting them grow old without human intervention and unintentional damage.

More information about the proposal for 100 new U.S. national parks can be found at www.newparks.org

Kellett said climate change has presented us with a planetary emergency, and we need forests to help mitigate the inevitable effects. Intact forests absorb and store carbon, stabilize rainfall, protect biodiversity (which may be key to the survival of the planet’s interlocking ecosystems), and provide people with clean air and water. We must protect the forests that we have and establish new ones.

Kellett has over 35 years of experience in the land conservation movement. He is leading efforts to establish a 3.2 million-acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve and has been actively involved in work to restore endangered wildlife such as the eastern wolf, Atlantic salmon, and Canada lynx. Kellett is a leader in ongoing efforts to revive the U.S. national parks movement.

Before the arrival of European settlers, U.S. East Coast forests were mostly old-growth, many having trees as large as Sequoias. As most people know, these forests were almost entirely cleared between 1860 and 1920 and are only now beginning to recover.

Biologist E.O. Wilson asserts that we need to set aside at least 50% of the globe for nature if we are to survive. The Biden administration set a modest first step toward that goal, announcing the “30 by 30” initiative: 30 percent of U.S. land permanently protected by 2030.

RESTORE.org has proposed adding 100 new national parks by 2030 to help reach that goal. These new parks would protect 21% of U.S. land, be established on land already owned by the federal government, and promote the economies of many rural areas, particularly in the eastern U.S. where very few national parks are now located. We need to convert many of our national forests into national parks.

You can view this webinar at <https://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org/events>.



FWW President Sara King secures a tarp full of pulled barberry.

September Barberry Pull Successful

Over 100 volunteers removed invasive Japanese barberry from White’s Woods on Saturday, Sept. 21. The IUP Cook Honors College, IUP Greek Organizations, IUP Ambassadors, IUP Latino Student Organization, IUP Anthropology, the Indiana High School Key Club, Plant Patrol, and FWW volunteers worked for two hours to remove this invasive plant. Plant Patrol and FWW provided tools. White Township provided gloves, tarps, and reusable bags. Six township staff members, including White Township Manager Chris Anderson, assisted in the work.

New invasive plant removal procedures were employed. The reusable bags were filled and carried to tarps. The covered tarps will hold the barberry plants until the plants dry out. After three weeks of drying time, the tarps will be emptied and the dead plants will be removed. Both the tarps and the reusable bags will be features of FWW’s future barberry-removal events.

One new volunteer emailed that the event “went great! We cleared out a ton of barberry!” Most volunteers find it nice to spend a couple of hours in the solitude of the forest – pulling out invasive plants, talking to other volunteers, smelling the soil, hearing the birds, and helping to protect the woods!

FWW and the other volunteers have made progress in clearing barberry from numerous areas. This invasive plant is fast-growing and changes the soil thwarting the growth of native plants. Unfortunately, no animals like to eat this plant! Japanese barberry is considered to be so problematic that Pennsylvania banned the sale of this plant in 2023. All surrounding states have also banned its sale.

If you have Japanese barberry as a landscaping plant, you should consider removing it.

This was the second FWW 100+ volunteer barberry removal event; the first was held last spring. FWW will host more barberry removal events in White’s Woods this fall, most featuring smaller work groups. Two new organizations have already offered their help, and some of the volunteers from the September event promised to return! If you can help, please email info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org to be added to our list of barberry-removal volunteers.

For more information, visit: friendsofwhiteswoods.org

We welcome feedback. Email us at:

info@friendsofwhiteswoods.org

**Issue 52
October 2024**