

Green-Rock Audubon Society



*Protecting Wildlife for Tomorrow*

# Green-Rock Naturalist





## Androne Woods

The Workenders team of volunteers planted 1000 white oak saplings at Androne Woods Reserve! Quite an accomplishment. We also drove back the garlic mustard with \$656 of propane and 727 hours of volunteer service.

During one of the work days Red Trilliums were found. This maroon flower was named by Swedish taxonomist Carl Linnaeus. "Trillium" comes from the Latin prefix "tri," meaning three. It's no wonder: this flower has three of all of its major parts: leaf, flower petal, sepal, cells of the ovary, and ribs of the berries. Trilliums are members of the lily family. A rare variation of this still rare flower is the white-flowered red trillium. The white-flowered red trillium is often mistaken for its much larger cousin, the larger-flowered white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). Androne is also home to the White Trillium.

Photo and information about Red Trillium thanks to New York State Conservationist, 2009, Barbara Nuffer.

## Cleophas & Gabower-Reily



We partnered with Pheasants Forever to burn Cleophas Reserve this Spring. The controlled burn allows us to hold back the tide of invasive species in the area. Planned early enough in the spring, the burn does not affect the germination of native species.

Along with these benefits we were pleased to discover that more pheasants have been spotted at Cleophas. We have at least one nesting pair.

Pheasants Forever also burned along the south end of Gabower-Riley Reserve. The fire carried through most of the savannah, which knocked the garlic mustard back particularly well.

Where more seeded vegetation is present, we planted a couple dozen Sweet Brown-eyed Susans, a couple dozen Purple Cone Flower, and a dozen Prairie Dock.



Controlled burn with Pheasants Forever at Gabower-Riley Reserve. Photo thanks to Victor Illichmann, 2015.



# Join the Fun

Annual Picnic: Brats, Binoculars, & BINGO!  
July 26 2-5PM @Spring Creek Reserve

Hot Dogs, Brats, Drinks, & Field Guides provided.

Located 1 mile west of 213 on Spring Creek Rd.

Borrow some binoculars. Bring a dish to pass. Play Scavenger Hunt Bingo as you explore the preserve. Parking & **bathrooms are available at the neighbors' house directly east of the creek.** Thanks to Rich & Holly McLaughlin (3307 W. Spring Creek Rd., Beloit).



A.



B.



C.



D.

# What's your Outdoor IQ?



E.



F.



G.



H.

Identify the species.  
Write your answers here.  
Then check your answers  
in the key below.

A.	B.	C.	D.
E.	F.	G.	H.

Thanks to Joni Denker for sharing her photos.

A. Male House Wren B. Red Admiral C. Wild Geranium D. Large-Flowered Bellwort  
E. Male Scarlet Tanager F. Eastern Wood Peewee G. Bluebird Eggs H. White Trillium

## Audubon News

Last week, the House was tasked with passing a fairly routine appropriations bill—meaning, a piece of legislation that allows the federal government to stay open (vs. shut down). And pass it they did—but not before Representative Jeff Duncan (R-SC) slid in an amendment that would prohibit the Department of Justice from enforcing one of the most important bird protection laws in the nation— the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service just announced they're going to be updating how it's enforced. Now Duncan's amendment would stop the MBTA dead in its tracks by preventing the Department of Justice from actually enforcing the critical law that saves millions of birds' lives each year.

But there's more bad news. There is another amendment pending on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to the House Interior Appropriations bill. On the eve of the 4th of July, the House considered action that would allow for the killing of the Bald Eagle—our national symbol. The bill is loaded with anti-conservation amendments that would financially starve conservation programs, open vast wildlands to mining and drilling, effectively gut the Endangered Species Act, and deny needed federal protections to imperiled birds like the Greater Sage-Grouse.

## Wildlife Society News

Consider this: Last year, more than 1,200 rhinoceroses were slaughtered for their horns; in 2013, 20,000 elephants were killed for their tusks and ivory; and in the last century, the world's tiger populations have declined by 97 percent. The numbers are certainly shocking, however, few people have a chance to put an animal's face to the statistics and truly understand the extent of such devastation. Now, the Crime and Punishment museum in Washington, D.C. provides people the opportunity to do just that through its new exhibit on wildlife trade and trafficking. A jar fashioned out of a poached rhino foot is just one of several artifacts and trinkets on display at the new exhibit on wildlife poaching and trafficking. *Ivory, Tortoise Shell, & Fur: The Ugly Truth of Wildlife Trafficking*, which opened last week on World Environment Day and will remain until February 2016, displays photographs, killing tools, trinkets and artifacts made from wild animals that were contributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from a refuge in Denver. It also presents important facts on wildlife trade and trafficking, with the goal of notifying the public that poaching is a severe global issue that devastates wildlife populations and species and also introduces diseases and invasive species to the environment.



Lower Sugar River  
Watershed  
Association also meets  
at the Broadhead Public  
Library.

This photo was taken  
at the Breeding Bird  
Atlas Event.

## Volunteer!

Board Meetings are open to the public. They occur every first Wednesday of the month at 7PM at the Public Library at Broadhead.

Land Management is also a great opportunity to get into nature. For more information call Victor Illichman at 608-302-8113 or viccarol@sbcglobal.net.

## Upcoming Events

Annual Picnic: Brats, Binoculars, & BINGO! July 26 2-5PM @Spring Creek Reserve

Hot Dogs, Brats, & Field Guides provided. Borrow some binoculars. Bring a dish to pass. Play scavenger Hunt Bingo as you explore the preserve. **Parking & bathrooms are available at the neighbors' house. Thanks to Rich & Holly McLaughlin (3307 W. Spring Creek Rd., Beloit).**

Rock County 4-H Fair July 28 4-10PM @1301 Craig Ave., Janesville, WI

Come out to the fair! We will be doing conservation education. Admission is only \$5.

Invasive Species Program August 5 11:30AM @ Janesville Senior Center

Learn about invasive species from G-RAS President, Neil Deupree.

Green-Rock Audubon Annual Dinner October 4 2-5PM @ TBA

**Bill Volkert will present. This year it is Beloit's turn to host. We are currently in the process of confirming our venue. Look for updates on the website.**

# Green-Rock Audubon Society 's Annual Bird Seed Sale 2015

Buy seed a reasonable prices, help the birds this winter , and contribute to Green-Rock Audubon's education and conservation projects. THIS IS A PREPAID SALE. We deliver. The order deadline is October 2, 2015 (firm). Delivery Date: 3rd week of October 2015.

To place your order call Dennis (608) 289-9642 or Neil (608) 752-8342.

**Make checks payable to:**

GRAS  
 c/o Dennis Rogers  
 1307 S. Jones Rd  
 Janesville, WI 53546

ITEM	QTY	COST
25# Premium Wild Bird Seed		\$17.00
50# Premium Wild Bird Seed		\$22.00
20# Chickadee blend w/fruit		\$14.00
40# Chickadee blend w/ fruit		\$22.00
50# Premium Wild Finch		\$35.00
#36 Cardinal Wild Bird		\$22.00
25# Safflower		\$21.00
50# Safflower		\$35.00
25# Black Sunflower		\$15.00
50# Black Sunflower		\$24.00
25# Nyger		\$25.00
50# Nyger		\$45.00
<b>Suet Cakes (12 per box)</b>		
Wild Bird Blend		\$14.00
Nuts & Berry Blend		\$14.00
Peanut Blend		\$14.00
Woodpecker Blend		\$14.00
Sunflower and Cherry		\$21.00
Zesty Orange		\$14.00
Blueberry Twist		\$14.00
Mealworms and Nuts		\$15.00

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Seed Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **I wish to make a donation to GRAS**

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **I wish to join the Audubon Society (\$20.00)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grand Total:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Meet Bill Volkert

The speaker for this year's annual meeting will be Bill Volkert. We've included this excerpt from Bill's website to help you get to know him:

"Bill worked as the naturalist and wildlife educator for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at Horicon Marsh for 27 years, where he conducted more than 3,700 education programs for over 220,000 people. His broad audiences included 66 delegations of scientists from 43 countries who came for professional training. In his personal time he has traveled widely in search of the world's birds and the wild places they inhabit. His travels have taken him throughout Central and South America, across the Canadian Arctic, to Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Borneo, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Mongolia.

From September 2014 to April 2015, Bill and his wife Connie traveled to twelve countries during a seven and a half month trip. They sighted more than 120 kinds of mammals and over 1,300 species of birds, including over a thousand lifers, and took more than 35,000 pictures. Bill has been watching and studying birds for over 40 years and in his travels has sighted more than 3,600 species (1/3 of the world's birds). To facilitate his studies he is also a federally licensed master bird bander, with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey.

His work experience includes assisting experts from the Russian Natural Resources Agency (formerly Goscomecologia, Buryatia) and the Russian Academy of Sciences to further protection of Lake Baikal, located in Siberia, Russia. From 1991 to 2004 he made 8 trips to the Republic of Buryatia to work on various projects to protect Lake Baikal and two trips to Mongolia to focus efforts on the Selenga River watershed, the largest river flowing into Lake Baikal. Since 2002, he has worked with ornithologists and environmental educators to help develop a National Bird Conservation Education Plan for Nicaragua and continues to support bird conservation projects in the country.

Bill and Connie make their home in the northern Kettle Moraine area of east-central Wisconsin. Here they work together to restore and manage a series of native plant communities on their land, including an oak-hickory forest, a planted prairie community and native plant nursery, and manage various types of wetlands. On this land, they have now identified more than 600 species of plants and animals, including 202 species of birds.

Bill shares his experiences and understanding of the natural world through lectures, presentations, and field trips. He is also working on several writing projects that will give these presentations more permanence and reach an even wider public."



Hi, I'm Eliza.

The Spring Creek Reserve is my favorite place to hike. I found a nest there. It was up in a tree, made of sticks, and had feathers inside.

Do you know who lived there?

**I wanted to touch it, but I didn't** know if I should. What do you think?

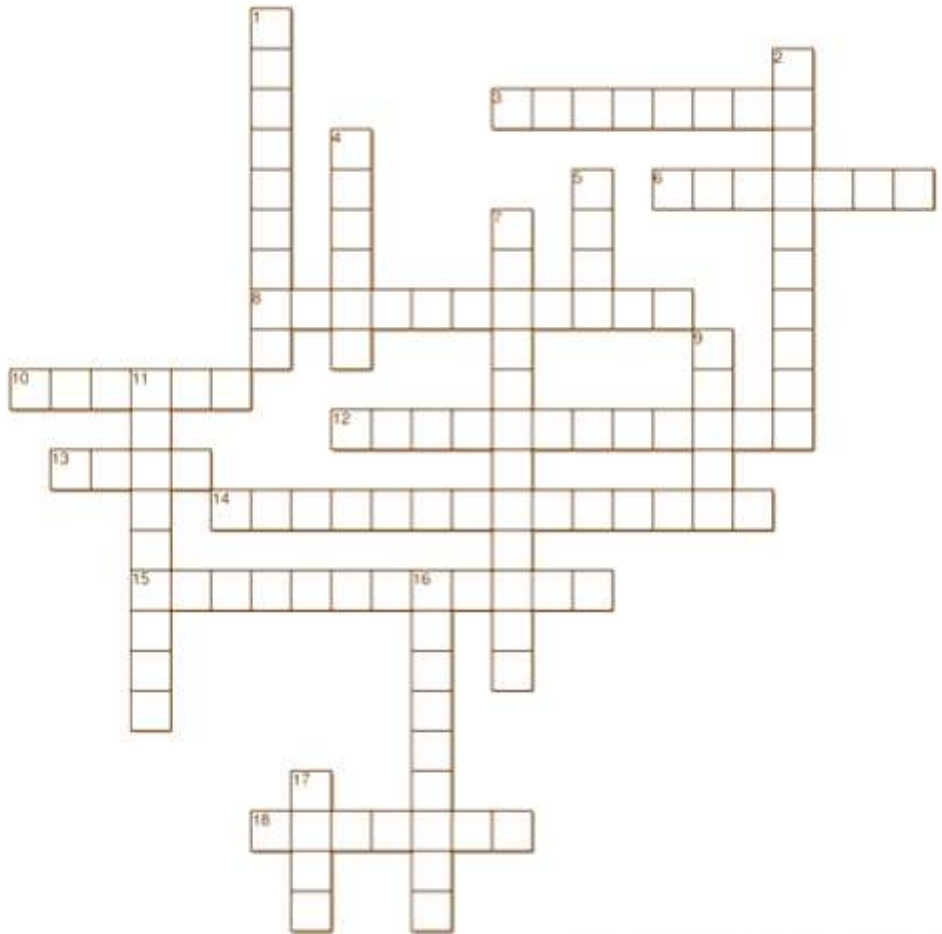
You can help me finding clues to answer my questions in the crossword puzzle.

Thanks Neighbor!

## Color the Nest



## Conservation Crossword!



Created on The Teachers Corner on December 17, 2014

### Across

3. a plant or animal that is not native to a specific location (an introduced species); and has a tendency to spread, which is believed to cause damage to the environment
6. a cold-blooded vertebrate such as snakes, lizards, crocodiles, turtles, and tortoises with dry scaly skin, and typically laying soft shelled eggs on land
8. the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives
10. a warm-blooded vertebrate animal with hair or fur, milk by females for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) the birth of live young
12. an animal without a backbone
13. a warm-blooded egg-laying vertebrate with feathers, wings, and a beak and (typically) by being able to fly
14. ensures that the natural resources will be used in a manner that will meet the present day needs for the resource without risking the supply of the resource in the future
15. when lands and their natural resources are only used by humans as inspiration
18. the observation of birds in their natural habitats

### Down

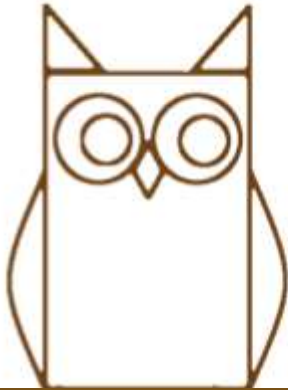
1. a community of plants and animals and their environment
2. an animal with a backbone
4. a plant or animal that makes up a part of the original ecosystem in an area
5. a long walk, especially in the country or wilderness
7. when the environment and its resources are used by humans and managed in a responsible manner
9. a living organism typically growing in a fixed place, absorbing water and inorganic substances through its roots, and synthesizing nutrients in its leaves by photosynthesis
11. a mammal born not fully developed and typically carried and suckled in a pouch on the mother's belly such as the North American Opossum
16. a cold-blooded vertebrate animal such as frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders with an aquatic gill-breathing larval stage followed (typically) by a lung-breathing adult stage
17. a limbless cold-blooded vertebrate animal with gills and fins and living wholly in water

## Herbivore or Carnivore?

Once upon a time a red fox crawled out of her burrow and stretched. She watched the sun go down; then she set off into the woods to find a tasty mouse for dinner.

Quietly she tip-toed through the brush until she found the pond where the little yummy animals liked to drink. She saw little scratch marks in the mud. "Perfect," she sniffed the tracks. "I will follow these paw prints straight to dinner." Her nose led her to a bush. She heard chattering coming from the other side. She looked down. More tracks led to the bush. Big fat raccoon tracks. "Even better," she whispered to herself. She crept up to the bush slowly. The chattering stopped.

"Oh no. What went wrong?" She realized that she could not smell the delicious critters anymore. The wind had changed and now dinner was smelling her! "No time to lose!" She pounced!

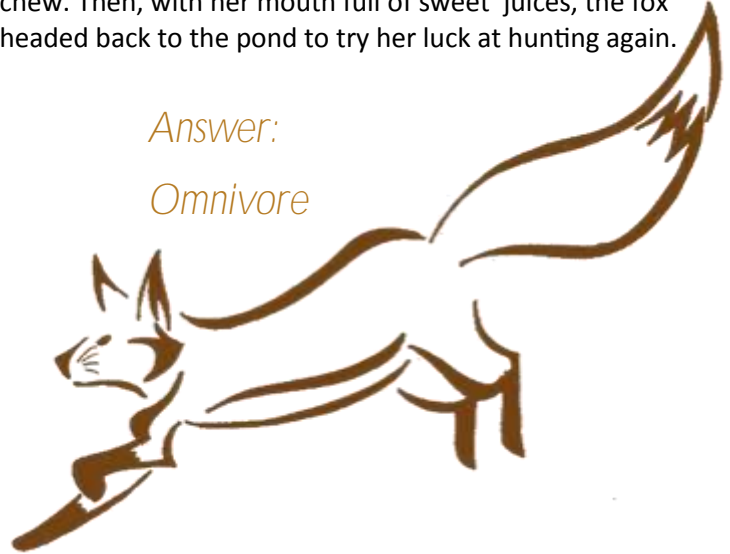


She landed with a splash! All that was on the other side of the bush now was the empty pond. "Humph," sighed the fox. Shaking her paws off as she climbed out of the water.

She sniffed again. Something sweet was not far away. She followed her nose to a ripe crop of ground cherries. "Okay, dessert first." She bit off as many cherries as she could chew. Then, with her mouth full of sweet juices, the fox headed back to the pond to try her luck at hunting again.

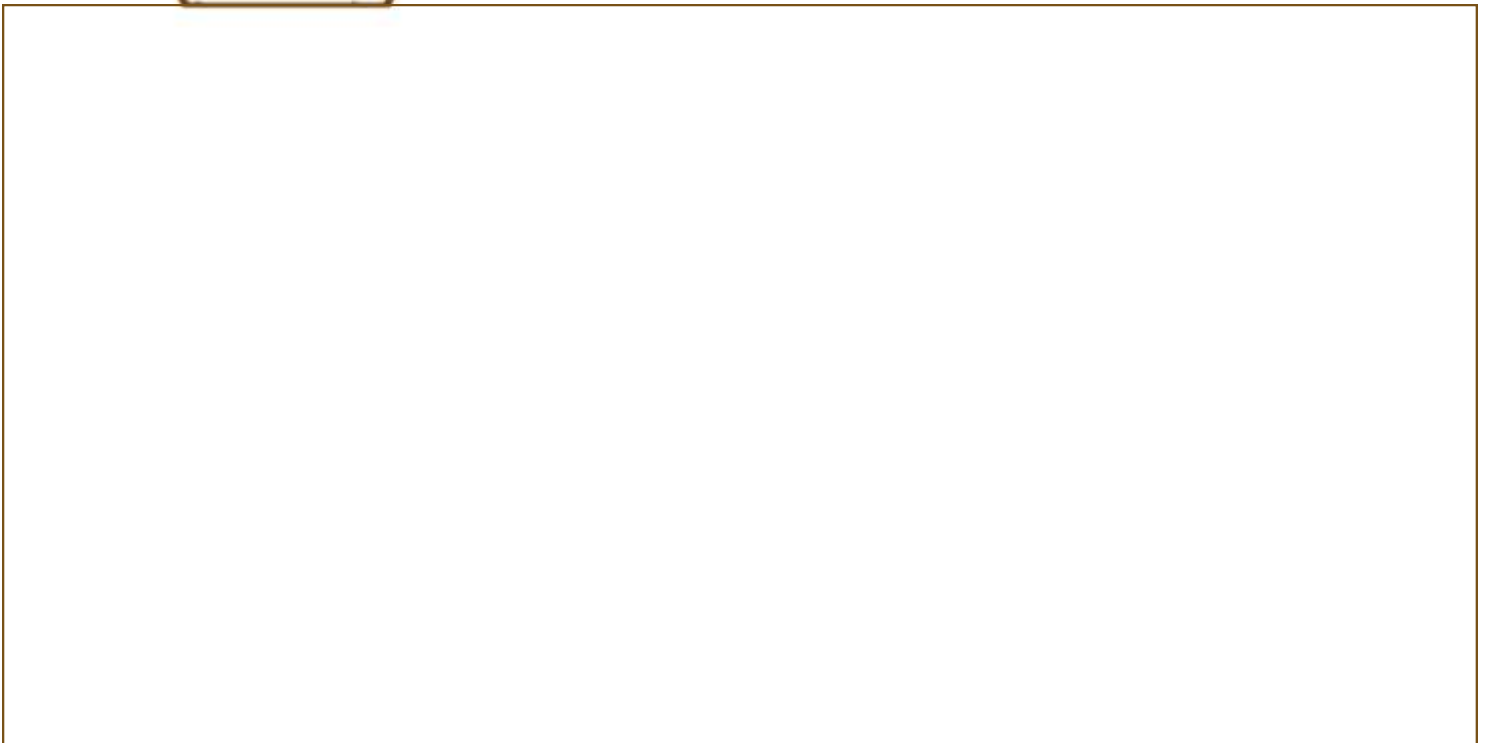
*Answer:*

*Omnivore*



## How do you go wild?

Draw a picture of your favorite WILD activity in the box below.





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www.greenrockaudubon.org



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Four horizontal lines for contact information.

## Notes from Neil

G-RAS is all of us – working together to make our world greener. Thanks for your support and interest.

- Thanks to Jason Thorson for his many years as our newsletter editor. Thanks to Rich McLaughlin for taking over with this issue.
- Thanks to Tom O'Brien – not only for his years as president, but also for five years as chair of the Bird Seed Sale. Thanks to Dennis Rogers for taking over for this year's sale.
- Thanks to Eunice Brennan for being our Education Chair for the last several years. Thanks to Nadine Whiteman for being willing to use her teaching experience to reach out to children with our conservation message.
- Thanks to Victor Illichmann for his years as our Land Manager. He has given many volunteers (and workenders) the opportunity to get hands on experience restoring our land by encouraging native habitat.
- Thanks to Steve Reischel for his years as Membership Chair. He puts together the list for sending out newsletters.

Advocacy – Thanks to everyone who wrote their legislators about the Nelson-Knowles Stewardship Fund. We're hopeful that much of the state's borrowing capacity to purchase natural areas will be restored. Check in with National Audubon Society Action (audubonaction.org). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is threatened with defunding. Now would be a good time to be in touch with your Senators and Representatives.

Networking – Locally, we've been working with Lower Sugar River Watershed Association, Rock County Conservationists, Rock Trail Coalition, and Bird City Janesville. We're also part of Wisconsin Audubon Council to stay up to date with Wisconsin bird issues and to connect with other Audubon groups. There's a lot to learn.

On the Internet – Post a comment or a picture on our Facebook page. Send us an article or a link for our website – greenrockaudubon.org.

**MOST IMPORTANT:** Let us know how we can help you in your work for birds and other living things.

~Neil Deupree