

MUD CREEK CONSERVANCY  
2006 BIRD SURVEY

July 2006

By Don Gorney

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Bird surveys were completed during May and June 2006 on each of the four primary properties in which Mud Creek Conservancy (MCC) holds a conservation easement. Surveying was also conducted on a portion of the conservation easements along Lantern Road. The Lantern Road easements are considered as one single property for this report, thereby making a total of five properties surveyed. The surveys were intended to both supplement and expand on surveys completed by the same author in 2004. While the 2004 survey focused on birds that were breeding on or near MCC properties, the 2006 survey was completed in a manner that allowed for sampling of migrant birds as well as breeding ones.

In 2004, 48 species of birds were recorded from the four MCC properties. During 2006, 90 species of birds were recorded from the five MCC properties. The 88% increase in the number of bird species detected in 2006 versus 2004 stems from two primary factors:

- Twenty-two migrant bird species were detected in 2006 while practically no migrants were found during the 2004 survey, and
- There was more than a three-fold increase in time spent in the field in 2006 compared to 2004 allowing for the detection of more bird species.

The addition of the Lantern Road easements since the 2004 survey did not have a significant impact on the number of species detected.

As was the case in 2004, no special protocols were used in conducting the 2006 surveys; each visit consisted of walking randomly through the property. In the case of the Lantern Road easements, virtually all of the survey time was spent on the two southernmost parcels. The three remaining Lantern Road easement parcels were not visited. Each surveyed property was visited four times in 2006 – April 28, May 19 and 26, and June 9. A total of 14 hours and 40 minutes was spent in the field in 2006 versus 4 hours and 30 minutes in 2004.

Of the 90 species found during the 2006 survey, 22 were migrants whose breeding range does not normally include central Indiana. The remaining 68 species are most likely nesting on or near the MCC properties. Any evidence of nesting, while limited, was noted and is contained within this report. No state endangered species were encountered but two species designated as Special Concern by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources were found. These species are Red-shouldered Hawk and Cerulean Warbler. A species of Special Concern is defined as: “Any animal species about which some problems of limited abundance or distribution in Indiana are known or suspected and should be closely monitored.”

Of the 48 species detected in 2004, all but five were once again found in 2006. The five species found in 2004 but not 2006 are Yellow-billed Cuckoo (very late in migrating back to their breeding grounds which includes central Indiana in 2006 which explains their absence), Cliff Swallow and Northern Rough-winged Swallow (both swallows were quick flyovers in 2004), Northern Mockingbird (likely present on or near MCC properties but not detected on 2006 visits), and Prothonotary Warbler (the 2004 record stems from a dead bird found on the 86<sup>th</sup>

Street bridge over Mud Creek; this species nests along Mud Creek but has not been seen alive on MCC properties by the author to date.) A combined total of 95 species have been found from the 2004 and 2006 surveys.

Both the 2004 and 2006 surveys reveal the vibrant bird communities on MCC properties. To a large extent the high number of species found is the result of the properties being a part of a larger woodland ecosystem along Fall Creek and Mud Creek. If the larger ecosystem was not present the bird diversity on MCC properties would likely be much lower. Continued efforts to preserve either fragments or large swaths of land along Mud Creek will benefit the ecosystem as a whole and in turn benefit bird populations.

## **REPORT CONTENTS**

Following a combined species listing on page three, the remainder of this report contains the specific survey findings by property. Information includes species seen and number of individuals of each species by survey date. Birds seen flying over the property are so noted. In most cases birds seen flying over a property are not nesting on the property but are using it for feeding or as a flyway. If a nest or young were found that information is also noted.

The last column of information on each page lists the total individuals of each species seen for that property. In many cases the total number of individuals simply reflects the highest count found on one of the four visits to the site. However, in some cases the number of total individuals exceeds the highest count found on one of the visits. This is because the author was able to distinguish among certain birds and could count them separately. For example, the highest count of Red-bellied Woodpeckers from one visit to the 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property was three. But, the total number of individuals reported is five. That is because the author was able to differentiate between male, female, and young birds. Although five birds were not observed during one single visit the multiple visits revealed a male, a female, and three young allowing for five birds to be reported.

Beginning on page 14 is an appendix that contains the 2004 bird survey. The 2004 survey was included herein to provide the reader with all survey information in one document.

The common names listed for each bird species and the order in which they are placed adheres to the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition and subsequent supplements.

**Combined Species Listing  
All MCC Properties  
2006 Survey**

Canada Goose	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-throated Warbler
Wood Duck	Blue Jay	<i>Bay-breasted Warbler</i>
Mallard	American Crow	<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>
Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Cerulean Warbler*
Green Heron	Carolina Chickadee	<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>
Turkey Vulture	Tufted Titmouse	<i>American Redstart</i>
Cooper's Hawk	White-breasted nuthatch	Ovenbird
Red-shouldered Hawk*	Brown Creeper	Louisiana Waterthrush
Red-tailed Hawk	Carolina Wren	<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>
Killdeer	House Wren	<i>Mourning Warbler</i>
Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Common Yellowthroat
Barred Owl	Eastern Bluebird	<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>
Chimney Swift	<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>	Summer Tanager
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Wood Thrush	Scarlet Tanager
Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Eastern Towhee
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Chipping Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Brown Thrasher	Field Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	European Starling	Song Sparrow
Northern Flicker	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Blue-winged Warbler</i>	<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>	Northern Cardinal
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</i>
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>	Northern Parula	Indigo Bunting
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>	Yellow Warbler	Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>	Common Grackle
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Cape May Warbler</i>	Baltimore Oriole
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>	House Finch
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Black-throated Green Warbler</i>	American Goldfinch
Warbling Vireo	<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>	House Sparrow

\* State listed species of Special Concern

*Italics* = species known or assumed to be migrants that do not nest on or near MCC properties

## 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property

### Summary:

Species: 58  
 Probable breeding species: 52  
 Migrant species: 6  
 Field time: 230 minutes

### Details:

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Minutes spent	60	35	70	65	
Canada Goose		1FO			1
Wood Duck	3	2			3
Great Blue Heron	1FO		5FO	1FO	5
Red-tailed Hawk			1FO		1
Killdeer	1FO				1
Mourning Dove	1				1
Barred Owl#					2
Chimney Swift	2FO			1FO	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				2	2
Belted Kingfisher				1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	3Y/N	1	2	5
Downy Woodpecker	3	2	3	3	3
Hairy Woodpecker	1		1		1
Northern Flicker			1		1
Pileated Woodpecker			1		1
Eastern Wood-Pewee			2	2	2
Acadian Flycatcher			1	1	1
Eastern Phoebe				1	1
Great Crested Flycatcher		2	2	3	3
Eastern Kingbird	1				1
Yellow-throated Vireo		1			1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	2	4	2	4
Blue Jay	2		1	2	2
American Crow				1	1
Barn Swallow	1FO	1FO		1FO	1
Carolina Chickadee	8	2	6	14Y	14
Tufted Titmouse	3	5	5	5	5
White-breasted nuthatch	2	2	2	1	2
Brown Creeper	2	2N	1	1	2
Carolina Wren	1		2		2
House Wren	3	2	3	4	4
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	4	1	3		4

**86<sup>th</sup> Street Property, cont.**

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>		1			1
American Robin	4	2	2	4	4
Gray Catbird			2	1	2
Brown Thrasher	2				2
European Starling	2				2
Cedar Waxwing			2	3	3
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>		1			1
Northern Parula	1	2	1	1	2
<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>		1			1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1	2	2	2
<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>			1		1
Louisiana Waterthrush			1	1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1		2	1	2
Scarlet Tanager		2	2		2
Eastern Towhee				1	1
Field Sparrow			1		1
Song Sparrow	1			3	3
<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>	2				2
Northern Cardinal	2	5	4	3	5
<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</i>	1				1
Indigo Bunting			10	5	10
Red-winged Blackbird	2		1	1	2
Common Grackle	3FO		1	1	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	2	1	2	3
Baltimore Oriole		1			1
American Goldfinch	3		1	2	3

*Italics* = species known or assumed to be migrants that do not nest on or near MCC properties

Abbreviations used:

- FO = Flyover. Bird flew over property, usually indicating it is nesting elsewhere
- Y = Young observed indicating successful nesting
- N = Nest or nest cavity located

# Barred Owls were reported by the homeowners who live next to the 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property as well as the Smetana Property. Since the homeowners reported seeing and/or hearing the owls during the general time the surveys were being completed they are being included in this report. They are listed only under the 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property because it is extremely likely that the same pair of owls is utilizing both properties since their territories are fairly large.

## Goodman Property

### Summary:

Species: 69  
 Probable breeding species: 54  
 Migrant species: 15  
 Field time: 215 minutes

### Details:

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Minutes spent	55	60	40	60	
Canada Goose	2FO				2
Wood Duck	2				2
Mallard	1				1
Great Blue Heron	1	5FO		3FO	5
Turkey Vulture			1FO		1
Cooper's Hawk				1FO	1
Mourning Dove			1	1	1
Chimney Swift	1			2	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				2	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	2		2	2
Downy Woodpecker	3	2	1	7Y	7
Hairy Woodpecker	1		1		1
Northern Flicker		1	1	1	1
Pileated Woodpecker				1	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee			1	1	1
<i>Alder Flycatcher</i>			1		1
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>		1			1
Eastern Phoebe	2		4	1	5
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	2	2	1	2
White-eyed Vireo	1				1
Red-eyed Vireo		4	1		4
Blue Jay	4			1	4
American Crow		1FO			1
Barn Swallow	2	4	2	2N	4
Carolina Chickadee	3	5	8Y	3	10
Tufted Titmouse	3	1			3
White-breasted nuthatch	1	2	1	1	2
Brown Creeper	1				1
Carolina Wren	2	1		1	2
House Wren	1	1		2	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	4	1	1	4
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>		2			2

**Goodman Property, cont.**

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
American Robin	5	2	2	6	6
Gray Catbird	1	3	1	4	4
Brown Thrasher	1	1	1		1
European Starling	1		1		1
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>		2			2
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>		1			1
Northern Parula	2	2			2
Yellow Warbler		2			2
<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>		2			2
<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>		3			3
<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>		1			1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	2	1		2
<i>Bay-breasted Warbler</i>		2			2
<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>		1			1
Cerulean Warbler		1			1
<i>American Redstart</i>		3			3
Ovenbird		1			1
<i>Mourning Warbler</i>		1			1
Common Yellowthroat		2	1	2	2
<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>		1			1
Summer Tanager	1	1			1
Scarlet Tanager		1			1
Eastern Towhee		1	1	1	1
Chipping Sparrow		1	2	1	2
Field Sparrow	2		1	4	4
Song Sparrow	1	5	3	2	5
<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>	2				2
<i>White-throated Sparrow</i>		1			1
Northern Cardinal	2	7	4	4	7
Indigo Bunting		4	5	9	9
Red-winged Blackbird	1				1
Common Grackle	3	3FO	2FO	1	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	3	2	1	3
Baltimore Oriole	1	2			2
House Finch		1		1	1
American Goldfinch	3	1	6	1	6
House Sparrow				1	1

Abbreviations used:

FO = Flyover. Bird flew over property, usually indicating it is nesting elsewhere

Y = Young observed indicating successful nesting

N = Nest or nest cavity located

## Indianapolis Water Company Property

### Summary:

Species: 53  
 Probable breeding species: 43  
 Migrant species: 10  
 Field time: 185 minutes

### Details:

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Minutes spent	45	50	45	45	
Mallard	3	1		2FO	3
Great Blue Heron	1FO	1FO	3FO	2FO	3
Red-tailed Hawk	2N	2Y	2Y	1	3
Mourning Dove		2		8	8
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		1		1	1
Belted Kingfisher			1	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker			1	1	1
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	1	5	5
Northern Flicker			1		1
Pileated Woodpecker		1			1
Eastern Wood-Pewee				2	2
Eastern Phoebe	1	1	2	2	2
Great Crested Flycatcher		1	1		1
Eastern Kingbird			1		1
Red-eyed Vireo		2	1	1	2
Blue Jay	2	2	3	4	4
Barn Swallow				1	1
Carolina Chickadee	4	4	4	5	5
Tufted Titmouse	1		4	1	4
White-breasted nuthatch		1	2	1	2
Carolina Wren	1		1	2	2
House Wren	2	2	2	2	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1				1
Eastern Bluebird		1		1	1
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>		2			2
Wood Thrush		1	1		1
American Robin	1	2	4N	3	6
Gray Catbird		2			2
European Starling	9	16	11	10	16
Cedar Waxwing			1	2	2
<i>Blue-winged Warbler</i>	1				1

**Indianapolis Water Company Property, cont.**

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	1				1
Northern Parula	1	1			1
<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>		1			1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1				1
<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>American Redstart</i>		1			1
<i>Mourning Warbler</i>		1			1
Louisiana Waterthrush		1		1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	1			1
Summer Tanager		2	1	1	2
Scarlet Tanager		1	1		1
Chipping Sparrow				1	1
Song Sparrow		1	2	3	3
<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>		1			1
Northern Cardinal	2	2	3	1	3
Indigo Bunting		5	3	1	5
Red-winged Blackbird	1		1	2FO	2
Common Grackle	2			4FO	4
Baltimore Oriole	1	2	2	1	3
American Goldfinch				1	1

*Italics* = species known or assumed to be migrants that do not nest on or near MCC properties

Abbreviations used:

- FO = Flyover. Bird flew over property, usually indicating it is nesting elsewhere
- Y = Young observed indicating successful nesting
- N = Nest or nest cavity located

## Smietana Property

### Summary:

Species: 53  
 Probable breeding species: 40  
 Migrant species: 13  
 Field time: 125 minutes

### Details:

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Minutes spent	20	40	35	30	
Canada Goose	2FO				2
Wood Duck		1			1
Mallard	1		3FO		3
Great Blue Heron		1FO	1FO		1
Red-shouldered Hawk		1			1
Red-tailed Hawk		1FO			1
Chimney Swift		1FO	5FO		5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			1	1	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	1	1	2	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker		1	1		1
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1	1	2	2
Acadian Flycatcher		1	2	2	2
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>		1			1
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1		1		1
Warbling Vireo			1		1
Red-eyed Vireo		3	1	1	3
Blue Jay	1	2	1	1	2
Carolina Chickadee	4	1	7Y	3	7
Tufted Titmouse	3	3	2Y	2	3
White-breasted nuthatch	2			1	2
Brown Creeper		1			1
Carolina Wren	1		1	1	1
House Wren	3	1	3	3	3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			3		3
Eastern Bluebird			1		1
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>		4	1		4
American Robin		2			2
European Starling	2		1		2
Cedar Waxwing			2		2

**Smietana Property, cont.**

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>		2	1		2
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	1	1			1
<i>Chestnut-sided Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Cape May Warbler</i>			1		1
<i>Black-throated Green Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>		1	1		1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	1		1	1
<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>			1		1
Ovenbird		1			1
Louisiana Waterthrush			1		1
<i>Connecticut Warbler</i>		1			1
<i>Mourning Warbler</i>		1			1
Summer Tanager		1			1
Scarlet Tanager		1	2		2
Song Sparrow		1			1
Northern Cardinal	2	3	2	2	3
<i>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</i>		1			1
Indigo Bunting		2	3		3
Brown-headed Cowbird	1				1
Baltimore Oriole		1			1
American Goldfinch	3	1	2	1	3

*Italics* = species known or assumed to be migrants that do not nest on or near MCC properties

Abbreviations used:

- FO = Flyover. Bird flew over property, usually indicating it is nesting elsewhere
- Y = Young observed indicating successful nesting
- N = Nest or nest cavity located

Note: Barred Owls were reported by the homeowner who lives at this property. That species is listed under the 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property since the homeowner adjacent to that property also reported them. It is highly likely that the two homeowners are seeing the same pair of owls.

## Lantern Road Property

### Summary:

Species: 40  
 Probable breeding species: 33  
 Migrant species: 7  
 Field time: 125 minutes

### Details:

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Minutes spent	10	60	25	30	
Wood Duck		1			1
Green Heron			1		1
Turkey Vulture	1FO				1
Chimney Swift		3FO		1FO	3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		1N	1	2	2
Belted Kingfisher	1				1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	1		2
Downy Woodpecker		2	1	1	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2Y/N		2	3
Pileated Woodpecker		1		1	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee		1	1	1	1
Acadian Flycatcher		2	2	1	2
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>		1			1
Great Crested Flycatcher		2	1	1	2
Red-eyed Vireo		2	1	2	2
Blue Jay			3		3
Carolina Chickadee		8	6	5	8
Tufted Titmouse	1	5	4	3	5
White-breasted Nuthatch		1	1	2	2
Brown Creeper	1				1
Carolina Wren	1		2	1	2
House Wren				1	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	3	2		3
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>		2			2
American Robin		1		1	1
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>		1			1
Northern Parula	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>		1			1
Yellow-throated Warbler		1	1		1
<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>		2			2
<i>American Redstart</i>		1	1		1

**Lantern Road Property, cont.**

	April 28	May 19	May 26	June 9	Total Individuals
Louisiana Waterthrush		1		1	1
<i>Mourning Warbler</i>		1			1
Common Yellowthroat	1				1
Summer Tanager		1	1	1	1
Northern Cardinal		3	2	1	3
Indigo Bunting		1	3	3	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	2	1	1	2
House Finch			2Y		2
American Goldfinch	1	2	2	1	2

*Italics* = species known or assumed to be migrants that do not nest on or near MCC properties

Abbreviations used:

FO = Flyover. Bird flew over property, usually indicating it is nesting elsewhere

Y = Young observed indicating successful nesting

N = Nest or nest cavity located

**APPENDIX**

**BIRD SURVEY  
MUD CREEK CONSERVANCY PROPERTIES**

June 2004

By Don Gorney

## SUMMARY

A nesting bird survey was conducted on each of the four properties in which Mud Creek Conservancy holds a conservation easement. The survey was conducted on various dates in May and June 2004 and was intended to primarily identify those birds that nest on the property or that make use of the property as part of their territory. However, all birds, even those that were just observed flying over a property, were recorded for this report. Bird life on any property fluctuates throughout the year due to migration, fledgling dispersal from the nest site, etc. A survey that attempts to catalog bird activity throughout the year is interesting but is time-consuming and may draw attention away from the nesting season, which is the most important item to consider from a resource management standpoint.

A total of 48 species were recorded from the four Mud Creek Conservancy properties. All but one of the species detected were expected. No Endangered species or those of Special Concern (as defined and listed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources) were found. No special protocols were used in conducting the surveys; each visit consisted of walking randomly through the property. Species encountered ranged from permanent residents such as Carolina Chickadee to long-distance migrants such as Eastern Wood Pewee to ones that were simply flying over such as Chimney Swift. Species listings along with the number of individuals observed and additional information can be found for each property in the pages that follow. Results for each survey were recorded on a field checklist and then all checklists for a given property were reviewed to determine the total number of species encountered and, to avoid duplication, the maximum number of individuals detected on any one trip. A high percentage of birds were identified by voice only, which usually is only given by the male. The common names listed for each bird species and the order in which they are placed adheres to the American Ornithologists' Union's Check-list of North American Birds, Seventh Edition.

Included in this report are general recommendations on how to improve habitat for birds for each property. Comments and opinions are solely those of the author and may differ from others with the same level of experience and knowledge. Mud Creek Conservancy is encouraged to reforest areas not currently wooded, as this is the best use of the land from a bird perspective. The properties were likely entirely wooded before the first pioneers and extending the forest will support additional species and individuals. Calls to create a mosaic of habitats should be avoided. Given the relatively small size of the properties, creating habitat other than woodland would provide almost no additional benefit to birds in general.

## 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property

**Current Habitat:** Approximately seven acre site. About one-third of the property is old field with the remaining area comprised of woodland. Mud Creek flows through the southern portion of the property. There are no improvements on this property.

**Best Use for Birds:** The wooded area should be left as is with care taken to remove non-native plants and shrubs as they invade the property. The old field should be cleared of non-native shrubs and reforested to allow additional space for nesting woodland species. Very few bird species are likely to use the field portion of the property for nesting. And, the ones that might use such habitat are relatively common.

**Survey Methods:** Random walking surveys were conducted on May 2, June 9, and June 18, 2004. A total of 2.5 hours was spent on the property between the three visits. A total of 31 species were detected with the species and the maximum number of individuals on any one visit shown below.

### Survey Results:

Wood Duck	3	Female with two young seen on Mud Creek
Mourning Dove	1	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	
Chimney Swift	1	Flyover, does not nest on property
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	
Downy Woodpecker	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	
Acadian Flycatcher	4	
Great-crested Flycatcher	1	
Red-eyed Vireo	3	
Blue Jay	2	
Carolina Chickadee	7	
Tufted Titmouse	4	
White-breasted Nuthatch	4	
Brown Creeper	1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	
American Robin	1	
Gray Catbird	1	Along 86 <sup>th</sup> Street in shrubs
Northern Parula	2	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	
Prothonotary Warbler	1	Male found dead at 86 <sup>th</sup> St. bridge on May 2, 2004
Summer Tanager	2	
Scarlet Tanager	1	
Song Sparrow	1	
Northern Cardinal	2	

Indigo Bunting	4	
Common Grackle	1	Flyover

### 86<sup>th</sup> Street Property (continued)

Baltimore Oriole	1	Along 86 <sup>th</sup> Street in shrubs
American Goldfinch	1	Flyover

#### **Other:**

Butterflies noted were:

Cabbage White (not native)	4	
Orange Sulphur	1	
Eastern Tailed-Blue	1	
Anglewing species	2	(either an Eastern Comma or Question Mark)

## Goodman Property

**Current Habitat:** Approximately seven acres consisting of abandoned farm field and woodland bordering Mud Creek. An older frame barn is the only improvement on the property. About 40% of the property is comprised of woodland with the remaining in abandoned field and the barn. There is a strip of shrubs/trees bordering the field and woodland and along the north side of the property.

**Best Use for Birds:** The best use of this property is to reforest the area now comprised of abandoned farm field. This would extend the woodland out from Mud Creek and provide additional habitat for woodland birds. The field area is used by very few nesting bird species (Indigo Bunting, Gray Catbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Song Sparrow were the only species encountered in the field.) Few other species would be candidates for nesting in the field and the ones that are or might be present are relatively common. The strip of shrubs bordering the field and woodland should also be removed if they are not native.

**Survey Methods:** Random walking surveys were conducted on June 9 and June 18, 2004. A total of 40 minutes was spent on the property between the two visits. A total of 20 species were detected with the species and the maximum number of individuals on either trip shown below. All but one of the species was expected. The Cliff Swallow seen and heard on June 18 was unexpected. This species nests under the two main bridges at Geist Reservoir and it is assumed this individual is from one of those colonies.

### Survey Results:

Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	
Downy Woodpecker	2	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	
Eastern Phoebe	1	Probably nesting in barn
Barn Swallow	5	Nesting in barn
Cliff Swallow	1	Flyover, not likely to be nesting on property
Carolina Chickadee	3	
White-breasted Nuthatch	3	
Eastern Bluebird	2	
American Robin	1	
Gray Catbird	2	
Northern Parula	1	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	
Common Yellowthroat	1	
Eastern Towhee	1	
Song Sparrow	4	
Northern Cardinal	3	
Indigo Bunting	4	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	Parasitizes nest of other birds
American Goldfinch	2	

**Other:** Two Cabbage White butterflies (not native) were noted on the property.

## Smeitana Property

**Current Habitat:** A little over three acre woodland site that includes a single-family residence, detached garage, and gravel driveway. The woodland is an extension of a larger wooded area and borders Mud Creek on its west side.

Per input from Frank Smeitana, the survey included a few additional acres of land running between the southern edge of the Smeitana easement to 86<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Best Use for Birds:** The best use is as it currently exists. Care should be taken to remove non-native plants and shrubs that might exist on the property. Garlic mustard was noted along the gravel drive near the home at the end of the drive.

**Survey Methods:** Random walking surveys were conducted on June 18 and June 25, 2004. A total of 35 minutes was spent on the property between the two visits. A total of 21 species were detected with the species and the maximum number of individuals on either trip shown below.

### Survey Results:

Great Blue Heron	1	Flyover, probably does not use property
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	
Downy Woodpecker	3	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	
Acadian Flycatcher	2	
Red-eyed Vireo	2	
Blue Jay	2	
Carolina Chickadee	5	
Tufted Titmouse	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	
Carolina Wren	1	
House Wren	1	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	
Wood Thrush	1	
American Robin	1	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	
Summer Tanager	1	
Northern Cardinal	2	
Indigo Bunting	4	
Common Grackle	2	Flyover

## Indianapolis Water Company Property

**Current Habitat:** Site is approximately seven acres in size. Fifty percent or more of this property is comprised of lawn-type grass that is regularly mowed. The remaining portion consists of a fairly narrow strip of woodland and a portion of Mud Creek. A gravel road crosses the northeast section of the property and a communications tower is also located within the easement.

**Best Use for Birds:** The best use of this property is to reforest the areas now planted in lawn grass. This would extend the woodland out away from Mud Creek and provide additional habitat for woodland birds. If reforestation is not feasible at this site consideration should be given to other more natural settings than non-native grass. The area now in grass is virtually devoid of bird life so any changes would be beneficial.

**Survey Methods:** Random walking surveys were conducted on June 18 and June 25, 2004. A total of 45 minutes was spent on the property between the two visits. A total of 23 species were detected with the species and the maximum number of individuals on either trip shown below.

### Survey Results:

Red-tailed Hawk	2	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	
Downy Woodpecker	1	
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	
Eastern Phoebe	1	
Blue Jay	2	
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	Feeding over field
Barn Swallow	1	Feeding over field
Carolina Chickadee	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2	
Wood Thrush	1	
American Robin	2	
Northern Mockingbird	2	
European Starling	12	Apparently nesting on communications tower
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	
Summer Tanager	1	
Song Sparrow	1	
Northern Cardinal	2	
Indigo Bunting	2	
Common Grackle	1	Flyover, does not nest on property
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	Parasitizes nest of other birds
House Sparrow	1	Apparently nesting on communications tower

**Other:** Two coyotes were seen running through the field and entering the woods at 5:30am on June 25, 2004.