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# PROTECT OUR WOODS

Winter 1992

Number 18

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HOOSIER?

### ILLEGAL NEW FOREST CLEARING

by Bob Klawitter

Harry and Jeanette Hollis of Bloomington found new wildlife openings while hiking in the Hoosier National Forest in Brown County in areas devoted to forest preservation in the new Forest Plan. No new openings are allowed in these areas. Trees up to 20 inches in diameter were cut and removed from the site on some of these new openings. Old openings were often combined by new clearcuts into much larger openings. In one case, six openings totalling 25 acres were enlarged into one giant 65-acre opening.

Following up their discoveries in the woods, Frey and the Hollises found that the Forest Service did not even seem to know about some of these openings. No accurate inventory of openings and plans and guidelines exists. No one in charge seems to have a clear picture of the forest-wide wildlife opening program. Frey's appeal is for a comprehensive plan so the public and the Forest Service can figure out what's going on.

More worrisome, if the Hoosier staff can't manage a 4,000-acre wildlife program, how can they manage a 189,000-acre Forest Plan?

Artificial wildlife openings clear forest to create nonforest game habitat for hunters. They have no other purpose. These openings cause forest fragmentation. Protect Our Woods' appeal insists that all wildlife openings be built where they will not expose deep forest species to forest edge competitors, predators, and parasites. As deep, unbroken forest disappears in Indiana, deep for-

est species of plants, birds, amphibians, and reptiles will be threatened with extinction.

For example, 44% of Indiana's neotropical migrant bird species are declining. Many of them can only nest successfully far inside the forest edge — thrushes, tanagers, warblers, cuckoos, vireos, flycatchers, redstarts, and whip-poor-wills. 80% of all the birds you see and hear in the Indiana woods on a summer day are neotropical migrants.

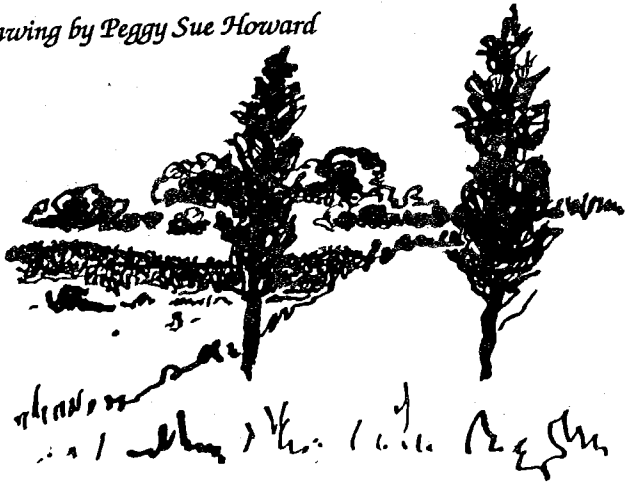
### NEOTROPICAL MIGRANT BIRD PROGRAM

Already threats to these birds is an international issue, since they over winter in disappearing tropical forests. Unless the decline is reversed they will eventually be listed as threatened and endangered species. At that point they will become the northern spotted owl of the Eastern US forests. Better we should act now to reverse their decline by protecting all public eastern forest nesting habitat.

Professional timber managers in the Indiana State Division of Forestry are resisting. But the Forest Service has joined Partners In Flight, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program, along with six other federal agencies, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Governments of Canada and several Latin American Countries. The goals of this program are to study populations and habitat of these declining species, to evaluate the social, environmental and economic impact of neotropical bird management, and to educate the public about these concerns. It is time for the Forest Service to take this commitment seriously. Responses to the Frey and Protect Our Woods appeals will clearly reveal their intentions.

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Drawing by Peggy Sue Howard



**FROM THE TREASURER - JOHN MAIER**

We would like to thank all who have responded to our membership renewal letter. We would also like to welcome all new members. As most of you know, we have no paid staff at Protect Our Woods. Your contributions go almost entirely to the costs associated with this newsletter. Our purpose is to inform our members and alert them to issues that are of interest to them. Thanks go also to those of you who support our efforts by sending letters and post cards to the people who are making decisions about our national forests and public lands. This support makes our collective voices louder. Your letters, phone calls and post cards have and do make a difference!

We have invited comments from those who have sent in their membership form. If you have not mailed yours yet, please let us know what is on your mind. Here is what just a few of you had to say. Protect Lost River!

**Larry and Linda Sherfick, Shoals**

**SPECIAL THANKS!**

POW thanks everyone who donated in 1991. Special thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Smith, Alice Rivlin, Gary Koenig, Caroline Karges, Linda and Jonathan, Robert Stone, Naomi Lee, Union Town Farms, Mary Ann Stevens, Robert and Delia, Jane Shiner, Steve Arbuckle, Rob Kelly, Mark and Jan Truax, Bill Fischer, Edward and Martha Baylor, Mark Hill, Bill Hill, Nora and Thomas Hiatt, Peggy Sue Howard, Martin and Katherine Risacher, Charles and Denise O'Dell and Ray Young.

After you have read all the interesting and informative articles in this newsletter, please recycle it. Or better yet, pass it on to a friend.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
I own woods in \_\_\_\_\_ county (optional)  
Individual \$15 Family \$25 Woodland Owner \$35 Other \$?  
\_\_\_\_ Bumper Sticker \$1 (free with membership)  
\_\_\_\_ Hoosier National Forest Map \$4  
\_\_\_\_ 100% Cotton T-Shirt \$12 Size S M L XL XXL  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total - Check to Protect Our Woods

Keep up the good work. I also hope you will oppose the proposed highway from Indy to Evansville which is a total waste. Also, (would appreciate) anything being done to clean up the Ohio River. Here in Evansville I feel like we're sometimes the environmental orphans of the state.

**Linda Dyer, Evansville**

Fellow Environmentalists: I'd send you a million if I could...I am completely sympathetic with all your actions, especially Tillery Hill. Three years ago while fishing, I witnessed my first Indiana Eagle, helping himself to a good meal from Patoka waters at the western most point of Tillery Hill.

**Hugh Becker, Corydon**

Keep up the GREAT work!! Thanks to all of you for the time, energy and thought you give to this project.

**Gail Paulsen, West Baden**

Appreciate your work. Fight the new Interstate!

**James Rosenbarger, Bloomington**

Keep plugging — save our beautiful natural areas — once they are gone they are gone!

**William Steinmetz, Indianapolis**

Please keep up the good work to discourage the Tillery Hill Project. **Alan and Donna Matheis, Celestine** I'm extremely glad of your success, and I am proud to renew my membership. Good luck in '92.

**Jane Haskin, Shaumburg, IL**



Endangered Southern Indiana Countryside

Photo by Anne Leinenbach

## WHERE ARE WE?

### WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

#### THE STATE OF THINGS IN INDIANA

by Bob Klawitter

The environmental condition of Indiana is so bad that the Institute for Southern Studies ranked it 49th among the states in 1991, based on comparison of 179 indicators. Indiana's air is the most polluted of any state — we released more than 3,000 pounds of toxic chemicals into the air every year for every square mile of the state, 539 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 160 pounds of nitrogen oxides from electric utilities every year for every Hoosier, 214 million tons of carbon dioxide, 5,300 tons of gases that deplete stratospheric ozone. 46% of us live in cities that violate ground level ozone standards. Our water is more polluted than any other state except Florida, by 53 million pounds per year of toxic chemicals, by the 32% of our sewage systems in noncompliance, and by pesticides that may contaminate as much as 95% of our ground and surface water. We release the most toxic chemical waste of any state — 276 million pounds per year, even though only 1.6% of our personal income comes from the chemical industry. We rank 28th in community health and 36th in workplace health. 87% of Indiana's wetlands and 78% of its forests have been destroyed. Fish from our largest waters are unsafe to eat, and erosion is washing away topsoil from our farmlands at the rate of 5 tons per acre per year. Indiana is one of the least energy-efficient states, ranking 45th highest in energy consumption per capita and 49th lowest in the renewability of sources of energy used. We rank 36th among the states in automobile dependency, with 119 motor vehicles per square mile, and 38th, with 1.4 million miles driven per square mile each year. Indiana ranks 50th among the states in indicators of fun and quality of life, primarily outdoor recreation opportunities.

Human economic activity results in the degradation of the natural ecosystem upon which human economic activity is based. Depletion of the natural sources and sinks of economic activity imposes limits on this activity. Human economic activity is sustainable when its sources and sinks in the natural ecosystem are depleted no faster than they are renewed. When economic development is unsustainable the human economy at first becomes richer. But depletion and pollution of natural resources eventually increases their costs and decreases their usefulness and the human economy becomes poorer. The ultimate danger of unsustainable human economic activity is that exponential growth will produce a human population so numerous and so dependent on an economy so massive and complex that its eventual collapse when it reaches the limits of its supporting natural ecosys-

tem will be sudden and catastrophic.

Thus economic change driven by ecosystem change is inevitable. On a global scale, this is already obvious. World petroleum reserves are good for only another 50 years at present rates of economic growth. The world's oceans are nearly fished out. Rapidly increasing atmospheric carbon threatens worldwide climatic change, flooding and drought. The biological extinction rate is already catastrophic. Stratospheric ozone depletion, deforestation, farmland degradation, plague, pollution, and population explosion are building toward a cumulative life-threatening climax. The entire continent of Africa is already unable to feed itself and wracked by the AIDS plague that is wiping out most of its educated class. War, cold, and famine threaten peoples of the collapsing Russian empire. Pollution in Eastern Europe has lowered life expectancy as much as five years. Cholera is spreading across tropical South America. Slowed growth caused by massive debt is ravaging financial institutions, increasing unemployment and poverty worldwide. Indiana is both contributor to and victim of this global change.

Indiana's business and political managers do not appear to take all this environmental damage seriously. They continue to rely on the now obsolete economic formulas for economic growth and population growth that have produced our present vulnerability as well as our present prosperity. They act as if life in Indiana can best be improved by permitting increased air pollution for a new steel mill in Lake County or electronics factory in Orange County. By spending hundreds of millions of dollars in public debt to subsidize industrial expansion at the Indianapolis airport. By destroying wetlands and human communities at Gary for an airport to serve Chicago. By building an economically discredited billion dollar highway through farms and forest and wetlands between Bloomington and Evansville. By rural development and public land management programs that attempt to relocate capital and manufacturing and tourist income from more populated to less populated parts of the state. By intensive logging on scarce public forest land to help guarantee a cheap industrial wood supply. By systematically ignoring dumping of heavy metals, organic toxins, acids, and fecal matter at illegal wastewater plants, landfills, and incinerators all over the state.

Those who recognize the urgent need to respond to environmental change while there is still time to influence its direction are commonly called environmentalists. We are no longer engaged only in mitigating environmental damage caused by economic development. We must take up the responsibility of proposing Indiana's future.

