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ON THE WEB

Allen County Parks
www.allencountyparks.org

Fox Island Alliance
www.foxislandalliance.org

Friends of Metea
www.friendsofmetea.org

Allen County Parks is proud to be a partner in the Nistem network

www.nistem.org



Animal Sounds

By Natalie Haley, Allen County Parks Naturalist

"If it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck"... is it a duck? Amazingly, Indiana is home to a frog that sounds like a duck! The wood frog!!! Wood frogs make a duck-like rubber balloon sound similar to when you take a deflated balloon, stretch it and rub a wet finger over it. Animals make different sounds at varying times of the year and are often inspired by increases in temperature, changes in the weather or various hormones and/or pheromones in the air. The following are sounds made by our local frogs and toads:

- American Toad: ringing or whirring
- Bullfrog: bug-o-rum (light-saber sound)
- Midland Chorus Frog: Fingernail across a hair comb, Purrreeeeeek!
- Cricket Frog: clicking of two or more large marbles
- Fowler's Toad: waaaahh like a baby wining
- Green Frog: Gonk...gonk...gonk, like plucking a loose banjo string.
- Grey Tree Frog: tweeting bring-ring
- Northern Leopard Frog: Long deep snore
- Spring Peeper: Peep Peep Peep Peep!
- Wood Frog: duck-like rubber balloon rubbing sound

Frogs and toads have a small air sac in their throats that will vibrate as they slowly let the air out. Some animals make sounds by using other body parts. Insects are most often the animals found doing this. Make your own

"Insect Orchestra" by doing the following:

- Rub your fingernail over a comb to duplicate the chirp of a male cricket. Crickets make this sound by rubbing their wings together. This is called stridulation. They also hear vibrations with their legs. Look at the following unique views



of a cricket leg. Notice the weird round spot on their leg? This is their tympanal organ, where a tympanal membrane or eardrum is found. This membrane is basically a stretched area of the cuticle that covers an air-filled sac and is supplied with a sensory organ that allow them to interpret sound waves. This tympanal organs may be found on the legs (such as in a cricket), mouthparts, abdomen, thorax and even the wings of other insects.

- Tap out a signal with a pencil on a wooden table, much as soldier termites tap their heads on the ground to warn off danger. Termites actually synchronize these sounds to make it sound as if one large animal is approaching. Just look at you-tube videos of soldier termites and you will hear what I am talking about.

- Cicadas vibrate membranes in their abdomen 170-480 times per second. Push the center a of a baby food jar lid repeatedly to mimic the cicada. Now do this 170 times per second. Hah! If you have a whole group of kids together you can have them mimic cicadas by having them sing: "Oh WEEE Oh WEEE Oh WEE Oh WEEah!", over and over. -

- Now rub sandpaper pieces together to create sound similar to how grasshoppers produce sound. Grasshoppers stridulate their wings against each other and on tiny pegs found on their

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Your Allen County Parks!

Fox Island County Park, 7324 Yohne Road, southwest Fort Wayne 449-3180

Metea County Park, 8401 Union Chapel Road, at State Route 1, Leo-Cedarville 449-3777

Payton County Park, 13928 Dunton Rd. just east of Hometown between Gump and Hathaway Roads

Cook's Landing County Park, corner of Shoaff and Coldwater Roads

Deer Run Wilderness Area — Spencerville IN—PROGRAMMED USE ONLY 610-9909



Plan Your Own Hike!

Plan your own hike! Allen County Parks offers custom hikes also.

Contact any of our naturalists for more information. At only \$2.00 per person with a \$20.00 minimum it's a great bargain.



Upcoming Programs for Summer & Fall

Program fees are usually \$2.00 per person unless otherwise stated, and are used to provide operating funds (which are not supported by tax revenue) for Allen County Parks. Most programs require pre-registration to allow resource and staff allocation planning. There may be requirements for a minimum number registered to offer the program. You will be notified at least 1 day before the program if it has been cancelled due to minimum registrations not being met.

FOR CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF ALL PROGRAMS SEE BELOW. The page number the program can be found on, follows the date and program name.

Programs Chronologically - Date, Name, Location, and page number (HS = Home School Program)

July

- 3 Preschool Discovery Hour Fossil Hunt - Fox Island 4
- 4 Year of the Bird Hike - Fox Island
- 8 Lightning Beetle Festival - Metea 3
- 15 Monarch Butterfly Workshop - Metea 5
- 24 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection - Metea 5
- 31 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection - Metea 5

August

- 7 Monarch Life Cycle & Collection - Metea 5
- 8 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 11 Hoosier River Watch Testing Cedar Creek - Metea 6
- 15 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 19 Toxic Plants of Fox Island - Fox Island 6
- 19 Prairie Ecology - Metea 7
- 21 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico - Metea 5
- 22 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 22 National Honeybee Day Program - Metea 7
- 23 AC Trailblazer Guided Hike - Metea 3
- 24 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 25 Scrapbooking/Craft Day ADDITION - Fox Island 6
- 28 Preschool Discovery Hour Bug Hunt - Fox Island 4
- 28 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico - Metea 5
- 29 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5

September

- 4 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico - Metea 5
- 5 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 6 AC Trailblazer Guided Hike - Payton 3
- 8 Nature Plant Dyes trail Guide Training - Fox Island 7
- 11 Fox Kit Club Adventures Patriotic Prairie Hike - Fox Island 4
- 11 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico - Metea 5

September—continued

- 12 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 15 Year of the Bird Hike - Fox Island 7
- 15 Edible Wild Plant Hike - Fox Island 7
- 18 Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico - Metea 5
- 18 Preschool Discovery Hour Flutterbies - Fox Island 4
- 18 World Water Monitoring Day - Metea 8
- 19 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 19 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 21 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 23 Metea Prairie Hike - Metea 8
- 26 Yoga "With a View" - Metea 5
- 26 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 29 Glow in the Dark Hike - Fox Island 8
- 30 Walk the Yahne Farm - Fox Island 8

October

- 1 AC Trailblazer Guided Hike - Metea North 9
- 3 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 9 Fox Kit Club Adventures - Pioneers - Fox Island 4
- 10 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 14 The Big Sit Bird Count - Fox Island 31
- 17 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 19 Scrapbooking/Craft Night Fox Island 6
- 24 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 31 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6

November

- 7 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6
- 14 Tai Chi - Fox Island 6

Special Events

Lightning Beetle Fest Metea County Park Nature Center July 8, Sunday 9:00 PM

Enjoy some July natural fireworks and learn all about our favorite natural night light, which is now the state insect of Indiana! We will have an evening of programs and hikes to “enlighten” you. Park and Education Manager Bob Dispenza will share about what lightning beetles live here, how to attract and identify them, and then go out in the park to see them in action. We might even try to catch a few to observe closely.

Cost: \$3.00

Pre-register by: N/A Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email: bdispenza@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



The **Allen County Trailblazers Program** now runs from July 1 to December 31. More time to get your hikes in!

The popular program has been expanded and is still FREE, thanks to PHP for another generous sponsorship this year. Check out the website for guided hikes and other special events.



Hike 10 of the 14 suggested trails and earn a medallion for your walking stick. This years medallion features a Monarch. Find out more about the program and other guided hikes at www.allencountytrailblazers.org

Two guided hikes will be offered for the Allen County Park trails:

Trailblazers Hike - Metea County Park

August 23, Thursday 7:30 PM

Learn more about Metea, share hiking experiences, and get Trailblazer credit on this guided hike. The natural and cultural history of the Softshell Turtle Trail will be our focus. Be prepared for mosquitoes and maybe some mud.

Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 8/19 Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Trailblazers Hike - Payton County Park

September 6, Thursday 7:30 PM

Learn more about Payton County Park, share hiking experiences, and get Trailblazer credit on this guided hike. We'll stroll around and satisfy our curiosity together. Be prepared for mosquitoes and maybe some mud.

Cost: FREE Pre-register by: 9/2 Min. 5 Max. 35

To register or for more information: Email: metea@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

The BIG SIT Bird Count Fox Island County Park October 14, Sunday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

We will conduct our bird count on the brand new back deck of Fox Island's Nature Center. No fees for the program. Park entry is still \$2.00 and paid for at the gate (free if you have an annual park pass). Snacks and drinks are provided by the Stockbridge Audubon Society. We do have some binoculars that we are willing to share with you. Please do not feel as if you need to be an expert birder to attend.

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit/about.php

Cost: \$2.00 / Free to Park Pass Holders

Pre-register by: N/A Min. 5 Max. 45

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley@allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Pre-School Discovery Hours — Fox Island

Preschool Discovery Hour Fox Island County Park

July 3, Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM - Fossil Hunt

We will explore fossils indoors, and then go outdoors to the fossil pile to hunt for them. Found fossils can be kept and carried home.

August 28, Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM - Bug Hunt

We will learn a little about insects and “bugs”, and then grab some bug boxes to hunt for and catch some. Snack and drink provided.

September 18, Tuesday 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Flutterbies

Explore the lives of butterflies, enjoy a story, & search for them in our butterfly garden. Have a snack to finish up.

Cost: \$ 3.00/child \$ 2.00/adult Pre-register by: 6/28 (July), 8/23 (Aug) & 9/13 (Sept) Min: 5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Fox Kit Club Adventures

Fox Kit Club Adventures

Fox Island County Park

September 11, Tuesday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Patriotic Prairie Hike

We will take a hike searching for a colorful fireworks display of native prairie plants in memory of those who died 17 years ago on September 11, 2001.

October 9, Tuesday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Pioneers

We will play with pioneer toys made from both wooden and natural resources to replicate those that were made during Indiana’s settlement prior to 1816. The children will take home a wooden toy to keep.

This program has been developed for pre-school children and their families or teachers. Meet a naturalist at the Fox Island Nature Center Fees include a snack and drink for the children. Pre-school teachers of paid attending students are free. Fees include free gate entrance for the day!

Cost: \$3.00 per child, \$2.00 per parent

Pre-register by: 9/6, and 10/4 respectively Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Special Teacher Opportunity !

EEAI “FUN-OLGY” Conference

Camp Mack Milford, IN. 46542

September 28-30, 2018

Register at www.eeai.org for the Environmental Education Association of Indiana Conference at Camp Mack, Milford, IN. Special Guests: Banana Slug String Band! A pre-conference workshop on Project Learning Tree provided separately.

Cost: \$varies

Pre-register by: 9/1 Min. 5 Max. ???

For more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley



Adopt the pace of nature, her secret is patience. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Monarch Programs and Collections



Monarch Butterfly Workshop

Metea County Park Nature Center

July 15, Sunday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Come to the park and learn all there is to know about Monarch butterflies. Then apply that knowledge in the prairie. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 95)

Cost: Free to all that plan to help collect caterpillars during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 7/5 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

Monarch Life Cycle and Collection

Metea County Park Nature Center

July 24, & 31, August 7, Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Volunteers are needed to collect caterpillars to be reared by park staff. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 95)

Cost: Free to all that plan to help collect caterpillars during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 7/17, 7/24 and 7/31 respectively Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



Help Send the Monarchs to Mexico

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 21, 28, September 4, 11, 18, Tuesday s 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Learn how to handle the monarchs, tag them, and send them on their way. Good for young and old alike (Ages 5 to 75) (*editors note, you'll have to ask Ron why you have to be 20 years younger for this program!)

Cost: free to all that plan to help tag butterflies during the rest of the summer.

Pre-register by: 5 days prior to each date Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss

Misc. Multi Date Programs

Yoga "With a View"

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 8 - September 26, Wednesday's 5:30 PM -7:00 PM

Join Yoga "with a view" on the way home from work. The benefits of regular yoga include muscle toning, maintaining flexibility, managing stress and insomnia. This class is eight sessions for a one-time fee of \$55. We do offer a drop-in fee of \$10.00 per session. **You must sign up and pay five days in advance to get the \$55 price.** Most yoga classes are \$10-\$15 per hour, so this is a steal. If weather and space cooperates we may occasionally venture out on the covered deck, so bring a blanket, yoga mat, towel and water bottle. A minimum of eight registrants required. Our certified yoga instructor is Melissa Vanyo-Hey.

Cost: \$55.00 for eight week session

Pre-register by: 8/3 Min. 8 Max. 40

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Natalie Haley



What the caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly. Richard Bach

Misc. Multi Date Programs - continued

Scrapbooking/Craft Nights

Fox Island County Park

August 24, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

August 25, Saturday 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM SPECIAL EDITION

September 21, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

October 19, Friday 6:00 PM - Midnight

Summer vacation pictures are beckoning! Join us in scrapbooking memories to last a lifetime. We provide refreshments. Pizza may be ordered for an additional \$5.00. Bring an optional snack to share (not required). Crafters may spend their time sewing, crafting or socializing for the same fees. Paid pre-registration is required five days in advance.

Cost: \$10.00 per class Pre-register by: 8/19, 8/20, 9/16 and 10/12 respectively Min. 5 Max. 22

To register or for more information: Email:nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Tai Chi

Fox Island County Park

September 19 – November 14, Wednesdays 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Instructor Sandy Gebhard will teach Dr. Paul Lam's 73 Sun form in this eight week Tai Chi class. These gentle, non-strenuous forms can be practiced by all. Be prepared to have fun as you join this light hearted group. Note: Registration accepted through 3rd week if attendance minimum of ten is reached

Cost: \$50.00 for eight weeks. \$8.00 drop-in fee.

Pre-register by: 9/15 Min: 10 Max: 25

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Nature Hikes and Programs

Hoosier River Watch Testing of Cedar Creek

Fox Island County Park

Aug 11, Saturday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Perform chemical and biological testing of Cedar Creek according to Hoosier River Watch methods. Learn about aquatic life and water quality in the Creek. Come prepared to wade in the water!

Cost:Free

Pre-register by: 8/3 Min. N/A Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3184/Cell: 260-414-2538

Jeff Ormiston



Toxic Plants of Fox Island

Fox Island County Park

August 19, Sunday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

See and learn about the plants at Fox Island that you should enjoy with your eyes but should not touch. See the plant responsible for the death of Abraham Lincoln's mother in southern Indiana.

Cost: Regular entry fees apply

Pre-register by: 8/12 Min. N/A Max. 20

To register or for more information: Email: jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call:449-3184/ Cell: 260-414-2538 Jeff Ormiston



Nature Hikes and Programs—cont.

Prairie Ecology - Prairie plants and animals

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 19, Sunday 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Description: The creek and pond are wet habitats, the marsh is an in between habitat and the forest and prairie are both fairly dry habitats. The students will study the prairie ecosystem and then apply this knowledge in the prairie. We will study the plants and animals that live in the prairie, identifying some of the wild flower blooming there and how the prairie is maintained. Dress for the weather and the mosquitoes. We will spend most of the time on the trail.

Cost: free to all trail guides, all others \$2.00

Pre-register by: 8/12 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email:rdivelbiss at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3778 Ron Divelbiss



National Honeybee Day - Learn About Stinging Insects and Beekeeping

Metea County Park Nature Center

August 22, Wednesday 7:30 PM

Join Park & Education Manager Bob Dispenza and Chris LaSalle, President of Northeastern Indiana Beekeeper's Association as we explore the world of bees, wasps, hornets and yellow jackets. Find out what stings, what looks sting-y but isn't, and all about honey bees.

Cost: \$2 per person

Pre-register by: 8/19 Min. 5 Max. 45

To register or for more information: Email: metea at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza



Nature Plant Dyes Trail Guide Training

Fox Island County Park

September 8, Saturday 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Discover the fall colors revealed when used to dye wool. No late registrations on this one! Please let me know by September 2nd so that I may prepare supplies.

Cost: \$FREE per person

Pre-register by: 9/2 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Year of the Bird Hike

Fox Island County Park

September 15, Saturday 9:00AM - 11:00 AM

National Audubon Society and others have declared 2018 the "Year of the Bird". Join us to search our fields and forests for these celebrated living jewels. Dress for weather. Binoculars provided.

Cost: \$2.00 Free to park pass holders.

Pre-register by: 9/10 Min: 5 Max: 15

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Edible Wild Plant Hike

Fox Island County Park

September 15 Saturday 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Discover some of the many wild edible plants that live in parks and public places while learning why they should not be collected there. Dress for the weather and bring bug spray for this one to two-mile walk.

Cost: \$ 2.00 / person

Pre-register by: 9/10 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Nature Hikes and Programs—cont

World Water Monitoring Day – Cedar Creek

Metea County Park Nature Center

September 18, Tuesday 7:00 PM

Healthy rivers are vital to healthy communities, both human and natural. We are going to see just how healthy Cedar Creek is on World Water Monitoring Day. We will perform chemical and biological testing of Cedar Creek and learn about aquatic life and water quality in the Creek. Come prepared to wade in the water!



Cost: FREE

Pre-register by: 9/15 Min. 5 Max. 15

To register or for more information: Email: metea at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-8619 Bob Dispenza

Metea’s Prairie Hike

Metea County Park

September 23, Sunday 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Discover the fall prairie plants revealed after the autumn equinox.

Cost: \$2 per person

Pre-register by: 9/18 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email: nhaley at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3246 Natalie Haley



Glow-in-the-Dark Hike

Fox Island County Park

September 29, Saturday 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Join us to search the night for glowworms and bioluminescent mushrooms. If you like, bring a luminescent toy, or object, but no flashlights or glow sticks to preserve night vision.

Cost: \$2.00

Pre-register by: 9/24 Min:5 Max: 20

To register or for more information: Email: rzartman at allencountyparks.org Call: 449-3186 Ron Zartman



Walk the Yahne Farm, a walking history of Fox Island

Fox Island County Park

September 30, Sunday 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Walk on the original Fox Island. See the route of the early traders floating their canoes and walk the trails of early foot traffic in SW Allen County. See the place where thousands of clay pigeons met their demise.

Cost:\$2.00 park entry fee

Pre-register by: 8/3 Min. 5 Max. 25

To register or for more information: Email:jormiston at allencountyparks.org Call:449-3184/ Cell: 260-414-2538 Jeff Ormiston



Animal Sounds—continued from page 1

hind legs. Grasshoppers also listen with their legs. They have two slits on the first pair of thighs which lead to deep pockets. The common wall between these forms a membrane which is the equivalent of an eardrum. The angle at which sound strikes the slits affects the strength with which it reaches the drum, so they can hold their legs up high in the air and determine from which direction a sound is

coming from. Here is a grasshopper leg. Some of the most beautiful sounds in nature are those of birds. Song allows the bird to communicate better than any other family of animals. Communication can be heard over long distances, at night, or when in dense vegetation.

The syrinx is the sound producing organ found in birds. It contains membranes which vibrate and generate sound waves as air from their lungs pass over them. The muscles of the syrinx control the details of song production. Some birds possess multiple pairs of syringeal muscles, allowing for more complex song. The syrinx in a bird, unlike our larynx (which is located at the top of our trachea), is set lower down at the junction of the two bronchi. This allows for two additional sound tubes, one per each bronchus. These two sounds can be mixed when fed into the higher vocal tract. This complex design allows for birds to produce a far greater variety of sounds than humans. Birds appear to sing in long bursts of sounds for minutes on end without catching their breath. In all actuality they do this by taking a series of shallow “mini-breaths” that are synchronized with each syllable they sing. Birds must work hard to get their particular messages across. Competition with other birds, human-produced noises, habitat and more affect their ability to be heard. In the forest, sound will bounce off trees and become absorbed by the leaves. A constant brief sound works best in the forest. Birds of the forest floor use low-pitched calls that will not be bounced off and distorted by the ground. Out in the prairies or grass openings, a Savannah Sparrow will favor a buzzing sound that carries over great distances in open areas. Sound travels best a meter or so above the vegetation. Many small birds therefore sing on elevated perches high in the vegetation to minimize interference from the ground and foliage. Running water and car/road noise can produce a lot of background noise. Birds that live next to running water prefer to call with a higher frequency to cut past the water noise.



Other birds, such as the American Woodcock, will leap up and call mid-air, clearing tall grasses while displaying their “Skydance”. Fox Island’s Park Manager, Ron Zartman leads Woodcock “Skydance” walks every spring! Some birds soar even higher in the air to deliver their preferred song before returning to ground. From deep within the wetland, the American Bittern produces one of the loudest booming calls ever produced by a bird. It calls relentlessly both day and night while hiding within wetland reeds, hoping to attract a female. A skylark will use song to defend itself against birds of prey, such as the mighty merlin or peregrine falcons. By singing at the merlin, a skylark displays that it is in great condition and will easily avoid being caught; as only a very fit skylark can sing while being chased by a falcon. Singing expends energy. Smaller, weaker birds will not invest needed energy in singing as they need enough energy to avoid predators once they expose themselves by loudly proclaiming their presence. The best time to hear bird sound is during the dawn chorus (3:00AM – 6:00AM). They say this is due to less wind, human noise and other disturbances at that time; making the dawn chorus up to 20 times more effective of a broadcast than during other periods. This is also a time where the low light density does not allow for ease in hunting food. The lower morning temperatures also affect how active their insect buffet may be.

What other reasons might a bird use song to communicate? They sing to defend their territory from other males and to attract a female. Male birds are most often the sex responsible for territorial disputes and attracting a mate, therefore, the males are usually the ones singing the songs. Females will respond to male songs and also sing as they call out alarms for their young. The female can recognize her young by the calls they return to her. It has been proven that females prefer males that sing complex songs with the largest variety. The cowbird uses 40 different notes, some so high that we cannot hear them. A male bird will sing continuously to acquire a mate if he has enough energy. Once acquiring a mate he will switch to a short, simple and economical song to defend his territory. If he loses his mate he will take up singing again. Singing to imitate or mimic the calls of other species is another way that birds increase their song variety and become more attractive to mates. Ever hear a blue jay duplicate a hawk? A few species of female birds will sing to attract males to help her in caring for her young. If a male is late in returning to take a turn in incubating a nest, the female will sing to get the male to hurry up and return. She tricks the male into thinking a rival male is honing in on his territory by duplicating the male territorial call! Overall, bird song is used to reveal the sex and/or species of a bird, stimulate and synchronize courtship behaviors, maintain pair bonds, identify individuals to their young, hold a flock together, intimidate enemies and to perfect song through practice.

Create your own SOUND MAP by heading outdoors and marking an X (that’s YOU!) in the middle of a nature journal or notebook. The X is where you are sitting. Then, for each sound you hear, draw a mark on the map that shows how far away the sound is and the direction. See if you can draw marks that imitate the sounds- for example, three wavy lines for wind, a musical note for a songbird, zzzzz for insect, etc... You may also draw what you hear if you would like. Next, circle your most favorite sound and cross out your least favorite sound. Either way, you are outdoors and listening to your world.

TEACHERS

Discovery Biobox on TREES!!!



Don't have the time for a field trip and not sure when in the next two weeks you would have time for a naturalist to visit your class. Check out this idea, borrow our Tree Bio Box and when time allows in a 2 week period do your program! **ITS FREE!!!** This box includes books and curriculum binder of activities with all the supplies in one box. All you need is one tree! Call 449-3180 to check the entire box out for 2 weeks FREE! This box is available for check out at Fox Island County Park ONLY! Complete with over 30 books, posters, tree cookies, leaf identification kit, magnifying glasses and much more. *A special thanks to one of our supporting organizations, the Fox Island Alliance for this awesome teaching tool!!!*

Park Hours

Memorial Day—Labor Day 9:00 AM—9:00pm
Nature Centers at Fox Island and Metea County Parks
are open 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Mon—Fri
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat. & Sun

Rental Facilities

Allen County Parks can provide an excellent alternative for your next special event, party, conference, retreat, meeting, wedding, reception or memorial service.
For more information check our website or contact
rentals@allencountyparks.org

Our Mission: "To establish and manage a permanent park system incorporating conservation, education, outdoor values and nature preservation, and to provide recreational opportunities for the people of Allen County within this structure"

Allen County does not discriminate because of disability in the admission to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Human Resources Director has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided therein, and Allen County's ADA policy is available from the ADA Coordinator. Suggestions on how the County can better meet the needs of persons with disabilities may be submitted to the ADA Coordinator at:

Human Resources Department 200 E. Berry Street, Suite 380, Fort Wayne, In. 46802 or by phone at (260)449-7217.