



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

For Immediate Release
March 16, 2017

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“Passenger Pigeon Extinction” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Metamora, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating the passenger pigeon in Indiana is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017. April 3rd marks the 115th anniversary since a male pigeon was shot near Laurel, Franklin County. This is the last verified passenger pigeon to have been collected from the wild. The marker dedication will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Gazebo Park at the Whitewater Canal State Historic Site, 19083 Clayborn St., in Metamora, Indiana. Parking for the event is available at the historic site.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Passenger Pigeon Extinction**”:

Known for flocks that darkened the sky, the passenger pigeon was once the most abundant North American bird. A population in the billions as late as 1860 was nearly zero by 1900. Communication and transportation advancements enabled market hunters to kill unprecedented numbers for food and sport. Species became extinct when the last captive bird died September 1, 1914. Before extinction, vast numbers of passenger pigeons migrated through Indiana, with many nesting in the state’s forests in the spring. Pigeon roosts, which spread over miles and could damage and topple trees, often attracted amazed onlookers and hunters. The last verified passenger pigeon in the wild was shot about five miles from here near Laurel on April 3, 1902.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that commemorates one of Indiana’s important natural history topics. The marker celebrates the passenger pigeon and examines the reasons why this once abundant species became extinct by the twentieth century.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. Over 600 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the marker dedication ceremony, please contact Mike Homoya at mhomoya@dnr.IN.gov. To learn more about the passenger pigeon, see IHB’s blog post on the topic via Blogging Hoosier History at <http://blog.history.in.gov/?p=1895>. For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history>, follow IHB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or call (317) 232-2535.

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