



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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A Message from Our President

One EASY Way to Go Green!

Did you know that your decision on whether to receive an electronic color version of our newsletter or to continue with the black-and-white paper version matters to the bottom line of Evansville Audubon? It also weighs on our ability to provide even more resources to our education and conservation grants that we offer to local school classrooms and other educational forums, nature preserves, scouts, Jr. Birders, projects of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, and other worthy groups and individuals.

Consider this, as recently as the 1990's we produced 10 monthly newsletters (we are on summer break in July and August). During this time-frame the annual baseline payment from National Audubon to its chapters was seriously reduced, so we economized and started publishing six newsletters until around 2011. To reduce printing and bulk mailing costs further, we presently publish five newsletters, often with fewer pages and less content. Now, the United States Postal Service has announced another postal rate increase for mailings.

We bulk mail an average of 340 newsletters. Just think: if 100 or even 50 members would "Go Green" and request an electronic version of the newsletter, besides saving the trees and other resources that it takes to print and transport the paper copy, Evansville Audubon would be able to use the savings to further our core mission "to promote the awareness of and appreciation for birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation!"

And, another bonus, the electronic version has COLOR photos and you receive it immediately with no waiting for it to arrive in the mail! It's extremely simple to receive your electronic copy. When the newsletter is ready, a notice will be sent to your email address with a PDF attachment of the newsletter.

To start the process of "Going Green", send an email request to Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net and ask to begin receiving your Evansville Audubon newsletter electronically.

Sue Vernier, President
Evansville Audubon Society

Ohio Valley Birding Festival & Wildflower Extravaganza 2019 Schedule of Events

Friday, April 12

Patoka River NWR Birding Hike

7 A.M. --Meet at Boyd Woods, Oakland City, IN Approx. 2-3 hrs.; Sturdy shoes recommended.

Join us for a birding walk in search of warblers, waterfowl & grassland sparrows. **Directions:** East on SR 64 out of Oakland City 1 mile from SR 357 (Main) to CR 1275E (look for Refuge sign). Turn left and follow signs to Snakey Point Marsh & continue on to parking lot on left at Boyd Woods (Maxey Marsh on right).

Saturday, April 13

Birding at Audubon Wetlands

7 A.M. --Meet at Audubon Wetlands, across from 790 Wolf Hills Road, Henderson, KY. Approx. 2 hrs. Wear shoes for marshy conditions.

A wetland property acquisition essentially doubles the size of Audubon State Park. Help us identify this bottomland forest's bird guests. This property has a heron rookery and an active bald eagle nest.

Audubon's Bird Migration Walk

8:30 A.M. --Audubon Museum, J. J. Audubon SP Approx. 1.5 hrs.

The park's Beech-Maple forest is an urban oasis for woodland songbirds. In addition to the seven woodpecker species, several neo-tropical migrants make their home here. New birders are welcome!

Wildflower Walk

9:00 A.M. --Audubon Museum, J. J. Audubon SP Approx. 1 hr.

Spring wildflowers are emerging. Join us for this leisurely naturalist-led 1/2-mile hike in and around our woods as we try to identify as many early wildflowers as we can.

Family Birding Fun!

9:30 A.M. --Noon; Stop by anytime! Audubon Museum, J.J. Audubon SP

Make-N-Take Hummingbird Spinner--Put together this optical illusion & watch your very own hummingbird fly!

Bird Olympics--How do your physical abilities compare to those of birds? Take the challenge at each Bird Station to get an amazing glimpse into bird survival.

Junior Birders Hike 10:00 A.M. --Audubon Museum, J.J. Audubon SP Approx. 1 hr. to 1.5 hrs.

Accompany the Junior Birders as they assist Evansville Audubon Society members on a hike through John James Audubon State Park. Appropriate for ages 8-18 with an adult. Binoculars will be provided.

Hands-on Bird Banding Workshop

10:30 A.M. --Noon; Stop by anytime! Audubon Museum, J. J. Audubon SP

Come help with an ongoing conservation project as we catch, identify, band, and release birds from John James Audubon State Park. A great opportunity for spotting early migratory birds, so bring a camera!

Spring Wildflowers of Audubon State Park

11:00 A.M.-- Audubon Museum Theater J.J. Audubon SP; Approx. 45 mins.

Let Park Naturalist, Lisa Hoffman, introduce you to the typical spring flora found in J.J. Audubon S.P. She will also share traditional Native American & early American uses and folklore about these spring plants.

"Hooked on Hummingbirds" presented by Sharon Sorenson

12:00 P.M. --Audubon Museum Theater J. J. Audubon SP; Approx. 1 hr.

Join Sharon Sorenson, newspaper columnist and author, and her husband-photographer, Charles, for a delightful look at these astonishing little birds. Her books will be available for sale.

Kid's Wildflower Mini-Hike

12:30 P.M. --Audubon Museum, J.J. Audubon SP Best for ages 3-10; Approx. 30 mins.

Young children can learn about spring wildflowers, too, as they follow along on this paved-trail mini-hike.

"Raptors Wild!" presented by The Talon Trust

1:15 P.M. --Friends of Audubon meeting Room, J. J. Audubon SP; Approx. 1 hr. Enjoy an interactive personal experience with live raptors!

The Talon Trust, Inc. is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to the conservation of native raptors through rescue, rehabilitation, and education. All donations received by The Talon Trust go to help feed and care for injured raptors. During the Birding Festival, a silent auction benefiting The Talon Trust will be offered on-site and on their Facebook page.

Owl Puke--Yuck! Or Not?

2:15 P.M. --Audubon Museum Nature Center J. J. Audubon SP; Approx. 1 hr.

The thought of owl puke may seem disgusting, but wait until you see what's inside that lump! These nocturnal hunters seek out all sorts of prey. Discover what critters the owls consider a tasty dinner when you dissect a sterilized owl pellet. You just may be amazed at what you find!

Wildflower Walk & Scavenger Hunt

3:00 P.M. --Audubon Museum, J. J. Audubon SP Approx. 1 hr. to 1.5 hrs.

Spring wildflowers are emerging. Join us for this 1- mile trek over nature preserve trails to try to identify as many wildflowers as possible. We'll up the fun by making it a scavenger hunt! How many flowers can you check off the list on this naturalist-led hike?

Sunday, April 14

Eagle Slough Natural Area Birding Hike

7:00 A.M.--Meet at Eagle Slough entrance on Waterworks Rd., north of Ellis Park. Approx. 2 hrs.

This local urban wetland was recently returned to its natural state. Join us for an early morning birding walk through this 127-acre property.

The following events (May 4-5) require pre-registration and pre-payment.

Please call in your pre-registration by contacting LD Harry @ 812-867-0144; leave a message including your phone #. Send program payment along with phone number, street address, and email address to "Evansville Audubon Society," c/o LD Harry, 4600 Surrey Way, Evansville, IN 47725. Checks should be made payable to Evansville Audubon Society. For hikes where transportation is provided, no private vehicles will be allowed to caravan. All times are Central time zone. Please choose appropriate footwear for muddy/marshy conditions.

Saturday, May 4

Big Day of Birding

4:00 A.M.--Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N. Boeke Rd., Evansville, IN Fee: \$30 (includes transportation only). A cooler will be provided for the lunch/drinks you bring. Registration ends May 2. Approx. 12-14 hrs.; expected return 7 P.M. CDT Participate in the annual Big Day of Birding! Join us as we scout the tri-state to record the "most species seen" in one day.

Sunday, May 5

Squaw Creek Mine/Bluegrass Birding Hike and other Warrick County stops

7:00 A.M.--Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N. Boeke Rd., Evansville, IN Fee: \$20 (includes transportation only). A cooler will be provided for the lunch/drinks you bring. Registration ends May 2. Maximum 12-15 people. Approx. 7 hrs.; expected return 2 P.M. CDT

Join local birder, Jim Campbell, as he guides an outing geared toward novice birders. Stops will include grasslands, upland woods, and open areas with lakes.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW DONORS!

Last issue we listed all of our generous donors. Evansville Audubon Society has received \$2935, and we are still accepting donations. We would like to recognize and thank our newest donors:

James and Kristie Elsner
Jonetta Aarstad
Mary Ann Watson
Kathryn Lynch
Grant and Jean Hartman
Laurel Vaughn

CHECK OUT OUR REVAMPED EAS FACEBOOK PAGE

Check out our updated Facebook page! Go here for the latest in our upcoming field trips, programs and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/evvaudubon>

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY AT WESSELMAN WOODS

Experienced birders needed to conduct a breeding bird survey at Wesselman Woods. The dates are: May 30th, June 6th, and June 13th. You can sign up for all or some of the dates for this year's survey. The survey has been ongoing for several years now and the goal is to monitor changes in the bird population over time.

If you are interested in volunteering for the survey, please contact Shelby Hall at the Wesselman Woods Nature Center at shall@wesselmannaturesociety.org.

UPCOMING EAS PROGRAMS

March 19, 2019: "Barn Owls in Indiana" presented by Amy Kearns, Asst. Nongame Bird Biologist, INDR. She will talk about the Indiana DNR's 35 year old barn owl nest box program, including most recent results from the 2017 nesting program. **NOTE START TIME 6 PM**

April 16, 2019: "Oviposition Preference of Monarch Butterflies Among Milkweed Species in Southern Indiana" presented by Anna Stratman and Julie Rabe, Environmental Studies, U of E. They have designed a study to clarify relationship between Monarchs and their host plants by evaluating egg laying preferences in milkweeds. Results will be used to guide planting of milkweeds and native plants in southern Indiana.

May 21, 2019: "Damned if You Do and Damned if You Don't: Migratory Birds and Climate Change" presented by Dr. Eric McCloud, Assistant Professor, USI. He will address how climate change can cause migratory birds to lose synchrony with their breeding food supplies and whether affected species can evolve to avoid trouble, given the rapid pace of climate change.

CRAB ORCHARD NWR FIELD TRIP

Our next field trip is to Crab Orchard NWR In Illinois on Saturday March 16. We will meet at the Schnucks on Hwy 41, across from the 4H at 6:30am. We will carpool from there at 7am.

Expect to see migrating waterfowl and Raptors, this trip should last 6-8hrs.

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

Mar. 16 - Crab Orchard NWR

Apr. 12-14 - Ohio Valley Birding Festival

Apr. 26 - Bluegrass evening trip(OVBF?)

May 4-5 - OVBF (Pre-Registered Events-- see details in this newsletter)

June 1 - Harmonie SP trip

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

The three Christmas bird counts were conducted again this year with great results. The wide variety of habitats in the Ohio Valley area make for very good birding, and result in some really interesting sightings. There were three counts on separate days: Vanderburgh County on Dec. 15, with Steve Heeger where 19 counters recorded a total 63 species; Western Gibson County on Dec. 16, with Dan Collins where 22 counters got a total of 102 species; and Oakland City on Dec. 22, with Heath Hamilton where 19 counters got a total of 93 species.

The total time in the field for the 46 different individuals working the three counts was 139 hours. The grand total of all species was 111, which is really quite impressive for winter birding. Thanks to all who helped, and also to the feeder counters who provided their data for each of the days.

100 IN JANUARY CONTEST RESULTS

100 in January

*Evan Speck- 102 species
*Beth Hanson- 98 species
*Jeremy Ross- 88 species
*Clay Bliznick- 88 species
Heath Harlan- 87 species
Team Meier- 86 species
Neal Bogan- 86 species
Team Wiist- 78 species
Julia Farmer- 75 species
Chuck Mills- 71 species

New Years Day of Birding

*Clay Bliznick- 88 species
Evan Speck- 75 species
Team Meier- 67 species
Stephen Bell- 63 species
Team Wiist- 52 species
Vicky Whitaker- 48 species
Beth Hanson- 45 species
Heath Harlan- 45 species
Julia Farmer- 36 species

Most Backyard Species

*Jeremy Ross- 40 species
Terri Green- 36 species
Beth Hanson- 22 species
Bob Meier- 16 species

Special Mention for Rare Species at Feeders

Jeremy Ross
Common Yellowthroat

***Winner in category**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKING NEW TREASURER

The Nominations Committee of Evansville Audubon needs to fill the position for Treasurer (the outgoing Treasurer is term-limited) for our upcoming elections in June. If you have any interest in putting your name forward for the position of Treasurer, please contact Sue Vernier, EAS President, at rsavcaver2@gmail.com or call 812-385-5058. In addition, we can always use new Board members, as we have long-serving Board members who would like to take a break. If you are willing to devote an hour of your time the third Tuesday of each month from September through June, email or call Sue Vernier.

EAS Minutes 18 December, 2018

President Sue Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum being present. Minutes of the November 20th meeting were approved as mailed.

Sue welcomed Nick Echterling, Hovey Lake Property Manager and Zach Schoenheer, Assistant Manager

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported:

Bulk Mail \$101.63. Savings \$5.09. CD \$4958.14. Checking w/o reserves \$2170.43. Checking \$4961.63. Reserve Accounts total \$2791.10: Ed & Cons available \$2238.07. E-Scripts \$196.84. OVBF \$356.10. "Checking" is from check register, includes transactions not yet on the bank statement. \$100 for ORBF van deposit. Annual Fund Donations \$2670 from 35 donors (last year \$1665)

Need to pay WWNC annual donation and USPS annual fee

Treasurer's Report was approved by Maryann Watson and seconded by Pam Kimsey

Committee Reports

Field Trips- Bob Meier announced that on February 2nd, there will be a field trip to Kentucky Dam. There will be a contest to identify as many different bird species in the month of January, by sight or sound. Prizes will be awarded for the first 3 people to reach 100 bird species. Prizes will also be awarded to the most backyard bird species recorded for the month.

New Year's Day Birding- The contest is to log as many species as possible by group or individual on January 1st, all entrees must be submitted by midnight January 2nd. Dan Berner, the manager of the Wild Birds Unlimited store has offered to promote the contest.

January 15th Meeting Program- Levy Schroeder has rescheduled from the November meeting.

Education & Conservation Grants- Michelle Adams Smith from Tekoppel School requested an \$807 grant. Maryann Watson moved and Jim Kimsey seconded. Motion passed.

Susan Fowler our Audubon Ambassador requested \$750 for outreach to schools, scouts, and community groups. Steve Heeger moved, Jim Kimsey seconded the motion. It passes unanimously.

Old Business

Sue submitted an Audubon Collaborative request for \$500 to underwrite school field trip fees for low-income students

New Business

Judi Russell has resigned from the board due to personal obligations. Brian Taylor has volunteered to fill Judi's remaining term ending 2019. Motion to accept made by Maryann Watson, seconded by Bob Meier. Passed unanimously

Items From the Floor

Bird sightings – 108 swans were sighted in southern Vanderburgh County.

Hovey Lake has teamed up with Wesselman Park for canoeing and to bring birders to Hovey Lake in late winter and early spring.

Purdue University providing information on climate change on their website.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM. Program at 7:00 PM was presented by Julie Loehr, Patoka River Watershed Coordinator for Gibson & Pike SWCD. Her topic was "Mammals of the Patoka River NWR"

Carolyn Egan, Secretary

EAS Minutes 15 January, 2019

President Sue Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum being present. Maryann Watson moved and Bob Meier seconded that the minutes of the December 18th be approved as mailed. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported:

Bulk Mail \$101.63. Savings \$5.09. CD \$4965.85. Checking w/o reserves \$1645.74. Checking \$3041.08. Reserve Accounts total \$1395.34: Ed & Cons available \$816.07. E-Scripts \$223.08. OVBF \$356.19. "Checking" is from check register, includes transactions not yet on the bank statement. \$100 for ORBF van deposit. Annual Fund Donations \$2805 from 39 donors (\$135 from 4 this month). Paid WWNC annual donation of \$300 and USPS annual fee of \$225. \$807 to Tekoppel School and \$750 to Susan Fowler. National Audubon Society sent \$250 for Don Batema who attended the conference
Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Field Trips- Bob Meier announced that on February 2nd, there will be a field trip to Kentucky Dam and on March 1st, a trip to Crab Orchard in Illinois. In the New Year's Day Birding Contest several people reported 80 and one person reported over 90. Clay Bliznick of Hartford, KY reported 88 species on New Year's Day.

February Meeting Program- "How Your Yard Can Mean Life or Death for Migrants" presented by Sharon Sorenson

Junior Birder- Had bad weather on both Saturdays.

Education & Conservation Grants- Sue sent an email to the government for the need to fully staff our national parks and protect our wildlife. She also sent a list of those to contact in the Indiana Conservation Alliance. House Bill 1376 in the Indiana Legislature states taking part of 7% sales tax on sporting equipment and direct it to State Wildlife. There are no new educational grant requests

Old Business

City of Evansville Storm Water Management wanted us to sponsor a decorated rain barrel for their contest and auction. After much discussion, Maryann Watson moved and Jim Campbell seconded that we could better spend our money elsewhere. The motion carried.

New Business

EAS Archival Records. At UPS it will cost \$20 +/- to print these. Sue moved and Jim Campbell seconded that we have this printing done. Motion carried.

The Purdue Climate Change and Research Center is studying the effects of climate change on health, agriculture, and energy. They would like for us to contact other interested groups and have a meeting here. It was discussed having the meeting at the UE. Niles Rosenquist moved that we allot \$150 for travel expenses. Maryann Watson seconded and the motion carried.

Items From the Floor

With the increase in postal rates, it is important to encourage members to use online communication. Printing in 2018 was \$358 and bulk mailing was \$375.

Dan Swingert, owner of Wild Birds is looking for someone to lead hikes in the spring. He will pay the leaders.

Bob Meier asked for \$50 to combine with \$50 from Dan Swingert for \$100 Wild Birds gift certificate to be given to the winner of the 100 January Contest. Request approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM. Program at 7:00 PM was presented by Levy Schroeder, Executive Director of WPNS, "The Role of Wesselman Park Nature Society in Connecting People to Nature"

Carolyn Egan, Secretary



Bob Meier had three people enjoy the Kentucky Dams trip in February. Quite a few birds showed up as well. In all, the group tallied 16 species of waterfowl, 8 different species of birds of prey, and 5 or 6 species of gulls. On the way back they were alerted to a rare duck in Madisonville, a Long Tailed Duck.



ATTENTION EAS MEMBERS!!

Due to generous donors this year, we have money left in our education and conservation grants account that we need to spend! EAS is seeking worthy organizations or individuals to receive funds for their project.

Evansville Audubon Society
Evansville, IN
Permit No. 1666
Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
551 North Boeke Road
Evansville, IN 47711

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Evansville, IN
Permit No. 1666

President: Sue Vernier, (812)385-5058, rsavcaver2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)773-7946, amanda@jcswildlife.com
Visit our website at: www.evvaudubon.org

Moving? Send change of address to:
Steve Heeger
15340 Cemetery Road
Evansville, IN 47725

The mission of the Evansville Audubon Society is to promote the awareness of and appreciation for birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation.

Not an Evansville Audubon Society member? Join now and become a member of the National Audubon Society as well. **Current members** should renew with National Audubon Society. **Chapter Code C9ZH030Z**

☐ \$20: 1 year introductory rate

☐ \$15: 1 year Student/ Senior (62 and over) rate

☐ \$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville, IN 47714

Name _____

☐ My check enclosed

Address _____

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

City _____ State _____

If this is for a *gift*, please include name and address of person giving gift:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____