



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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Autumn season
Growing colder
As the earth
Is getting colder.
Dying, dying
Passing on,
Wondering where
The time has gone.
Plants are tired,
Time to sleep,
Now is when
The willow weeps.
Crying tears
For seasons past,
Autumn is over,
It's winter at last.

Sammy Anderson

\$1.15 MILLION FOR PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ...LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN!!

You might have seen the recent press release issued by Evansville Audubon and several other Indiana conservation and environmental organizations praising the passage of the 2010 Interior Appropriations bill, which included \$1.15 million in funding for land acquisition at the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Indiana. With this funding, plus the \$500,000 for land acquisition in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill, the Refuge should be able to buy the 1,150 acres of land at risk of being sold to other buyers.

Evansville Audubon and its members have worked for a very long time to see this come to fruition. We thank you for your hard work, as well as the efforts of many other individuals and groups. Hoosiers throughout Indiana will be able to avail themselves of the great opportunities for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of Indiana's natural diversity that this funding will promote.

We would be remiss if we did not also acknowledge the leadership in the U.S. House and Senate of Congressman Brad Ellsworth and Senator Richard Lugar. Their bipartisan efforts contributed greatly to the success in attaining the land acquisition funding.

Once the land is purchased, we hope that you will be able to attend the celebration.

Sue Vernier, Conservation Chair

"If you have not yet made your donation to EAS' annual appeal, it is not too late. Join your neighbors and friends in helping to provide nature scholarships for students, fund citizen science, support family day at the birding festival, and other worthwhile endeavors."



April 29, 30, May 1, 2 : 2009

Save these dates and participate in **The Ohio Valley Birding Festival!** There will be numerous hikes, speakers, and activities designed to appeal to all ages and all levels of bird enthusiasts!

Needed for the OVBF: toilet tissue tubes, clean milk jugs with lids, and volunteers for Family Day, May 1st!

Contact Carol: pettys1234@aol.com or call 867-6231

EAS Minutes

October 20, 2009

The meeting was brought to order by Dick Vernier, president at 8:10pm. The minutes were approved as written. The treasurer's report was given by Ted Hitch.

Deposits of \$1,035 - NAS

\$ 205 - NAS

Checks written \$10 - state of Indiana

\$148.81 - mailings

\$200.00 - trust account at post office

Checking account balance \$4,684.38

CD \$4,659.06 due November 26, 2009

Judi Russell, webmaster, needs reports on field trips to put in newsletter. The field trip on October 24 was to Cane Ridge. Regarding NAS and Toyota Forever Green project, Toyota wants to do a volunteer day with NAS for Earth Day either April 17-18 or the next weekend with Patoka Wildlife Refuge as a project. Still trying to get money for Patoka Wildlife over 1,000 acres.

Carol Pettys gave a report on the Birding Festival which is April 29, 30, and May 1 and 2. Sally Roth is in charge. Carol said there is a great need for clean milk jugs and toilet paper rolls. Some of the donation money will go for the festival. Sue Vernier moved we give them \$500. for the festival. Sarah Karges seconded and the motion was carried. Discussion was held about insurance for Audubon. The insurance committee should be at the next meeting.

It was mentioned that a charge of \$5.00 per person should be charged for bird count. Greg Meyer saw a Sedge Wren at Howell Wetlands.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm. Joyce Padfield, Secretary

November 17, 2009

The meeting was brought to order by President Richard Vernier at 8:19pm. The program "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness", was presented by Clayton Daughenbaugh and was very interesting.

The treasurer's report was given by Ted Hitch.

Checking: \$4,715.26,

CD \$4,665.59 due November 26.

Contributions - 34 individuals totaling \$1,345(2 this month).

\$695 in education fund,

\$650 in birding festival account including the gift of \$500.

Richard Vernier is to ask Wesselmans to delay the \$250 room rental. Carol Pettys moved to send a grant proposal for \$500 to

NAS for the birding festival. Sue Vernier seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding insurance liability for the birding festival and field trips. Steve Heeger moved that we contact McKay Insurance for \$446 insurance to cover birding festival and field trips. Sue Vernier seconded. Motion carried. Brian Taylor gave a report on the winter bird count. Can check on eBird for results.

Conservation chair Sue Vernier stated that \$1.15 million designated for land at Patoka has passed. She will write letters to Brad Ellsworth and Senator Lugar.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm. Joyce Padfield, Secretary

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 15, 6:00 PM, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Christmas Sharing.

Each person bring a favorite covered dish, table service and drink. Following the meal, we will have a show-and-tell of some of your favorite nature memories. Please bring prints, slides or digital (CD.)



Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 PM, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. "Updates on Bird Projects, with Emphasis on Southern Indiana", by John Castrale, DNR Wildlife Biologist. Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 PM, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. "Use of the 'E-Bird Online Bird List Service' ", by Brian Taylor (Christmas and Spring Bird Count chairman), and bird photographs of Steve Guifford. Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.



Goldenrod

Field Trips

December 12: Bluegrass FWA We will be looking for short-eared owls. Meet the FWA parking lot at 3:00 pm

January 23: Alton IL to see Bald Eagles Meet at 7:00 am

February 20: Audubon Park & Eagle Slough Meet at 8:00 am

Contact Jim Lodato (812) 867 0063 for more details!

Visit our Website at www.evvaudubon.org
Latest information regarding field trips,
photos, recent bird counts, online version of
the Newsletter, etc.

Contact the webmaster at:
therussells.golf@yahoo.com



Save the Dates: GBBC is Coming!

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 12 through Monday, February 15, 2010. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are calling on everyone to "**Count for Fun, Count for the Future!**" During last year's count, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded. We hope you'll join us again and help spread the word, since the success of the count depends on people tallying birds from as many locations as possible across the continent.

Spread the Word

Each year, we rely on you to spread the word about the GBBC. One way we do this is through our **volunteer ambassador program**. Volunteer ambassadors do a variety of things, including hanging up GBBC fliers, giving presentations in their community, and even talking to their local media. For more ideas on how to promote the GBBC, fill out the online ambassador sign-up form and specify the kinds of activities you'd like to do.

You can also get involved by simply forwarding this information to friends and family, encouraging them to participate!

Field Trip Report: Cane Ridge

We (Carolyn Bennet, Carol Pettys, LD Harry, Tom Quanty and Mel Lodato) arrived at Cane Ridge at 7:45A.M. in time to see 2 Mature Bald eagles perched about 100 yards away. The observation ponds were nearly dry, but there were several great egrets(8) still present, kildeer, semipalmated sandpipers, great blue herons, mallards, green wing teal, N. harrier, ring billed gulls, E. meadowlark, swamp sparrows, song sparrows, field sparrows, E. phoebe, and to our surprise about 200 tree swallows still hanging around. As we traveled the nearby roads we encountered Pb. Grebe, wood duck, green heron, 2 sightings of bluebirds, chipping sparrows, 1 dark eyed junco, 3 yellow rumped warblers, a small flock of flickers, more phoebes, 2 turkeys, several kestrels, 1 cooper's hawk, a number of dc cormorants, canada geese, and 1 immature red tail hawk that just sort of parachuted down to the ground to go after his breakfast. In all we had 42 species of birds, several deer and weather that was beautiful even though it was a little cool. It was an enjoyable day and we hope to see you on the next field trip.

EVANSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY ESCRIP PROGRAM

Please help the EAS grow while making regular purchases from a Schnucks grocery store. Pick up a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card at the customer service desk. Go online at: www.escrip.com/schnucks/jsp to activate your card. Click on "Schnucks eScrip Customer Card" that lists Evansville. Or you can call: 1-800-931-6258 Our group ID number is: 500023419. Every time you shop at Schnucks, give the checker your eScrip card to scan. A percentage of your purchases will be contributed to EAS. If you already have an eScrip card, consider adding Evansville Audubon Society to your existing card by making one of the contacts above. If you have friends who shop at Schnucks, encourage them to register, too. It's very easy! We appreciate your support! Questions? contact Carol: pettys1234@aol.com or 867-6231

Field Trip Report: Goose Pond

I left Buy Low in Evansville at 7:00 A.M. and arrived at Goose Pond FWA at 9:30 A.M. due to the time change. There was Lee Sterrenberg, About 12 people from Terre Haute Audubon, some people from Indianapolis and myself. We immediately went to Bee Hunter Marsh where we spotted 2 Whooping Cranes and 34 Sandhill Cranes. From there we went back to GPFWA and encountered Bonapartes and Ring billed gulls. We had 7 Bald Eagles in view at one time, 4 in one tree. Other interesting birds were 1 Great Egret, 1 Horned Grebe, 1 DC Cormorant, Hooded Mergansers, Ring Necked Ducks, Gadwall, large numbers of Coots, Pied Billed Grebes, 3 Greater Yellowlegs, 1 Least Sandpiper and several Kildeer. Some interesting perching birds were Tree, Savannah, Song, Swamp, White Crowned sparrows and Juncos. In all there were 47 species of birds encountered. The weather was excellent and a good day to get outside and enjoy wild-life.

Submitted by Jim Lodato



Christmas Bird Counts

December 19 Vanderburgh County

December 20 Western Gibson County

December 27 Oakland City

December 30 Warrick County

January 2 Posey County

We can use any help we can get on any of the counts!! Call Brian Taylor 812-480-5251 for additional information or to sign up for a count.

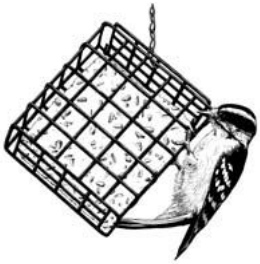


We are honored to list the Donors to our Educational Programs...

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Mary	Kohlmeyer	Sara	Whitfield
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Greg	Meyer		

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Feeder Counters Needed



If you can identify your **backyard birds** and have an hour to spare on December 19, please help EAS with the annual Christmas Bird Count. Call Brian Taylor 812-480-5251 for additional information.

There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before.

Robert Wilson Lynd



Congress Dedicates Critical Funding to Help Hawaiian Species at Epicenter of Global Extinction Crisis

(Washington, DC, November 5, 2009)

Late last week the President signed into law a key appropriations bill that included critically needed funding to address the looming bird extinction crisis in Hawaii. The 2010 Interior, Environmental, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill (P.L. 111-88) had been passed by Congress and sent to the President with \$3 million dedicated for Hawaiian birds.

“Thanks to the leadership of Hawaii’s Senator Inouye and Congresswoman Hirono, the federal government is taking the much needed steps to address the dire situation faced by Hawaii’s birds,” said George Wallace, American Bird Conservancy’s Vice President for Oceans and Islands, and head of the organization’s Hawaii Program. “By investing in efforts to conserve and restore habitat and reverse the multiple threats that have decimated many Hawaiian forest bird populations, we can avert the crisis. This bill marks an important beginning – it is a bold move in the right direction and will go a long way to help species in peril such as the Palila and Maui Parrotbill.”

The need for this special Hawaiian appropriation was highlighted by The State of the Birds – United States of America - 2009 (<http://www.stateofthebirds.org/>), a report led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service which focused attention on the dozens of bird species throughout the island chain that are in severe decline. ABC had made it a top priority to have Hawaii be a major focus of the report. Before human settlement, Hawaii was home to 113 bird species found nowhere else on Earth. Since then, 71 have gone extinct. Nevertheless, Hawaii still boasts an astounding 42 endemic bird species, but 31 of these (75%) are now federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Several are on the brink of extinction, and ten have not been seen in years.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed protection under the Endangered Species Act for two additional Hawaiian birds, the Akikiki and Akekee, due to their precariously small population sizes and ongoing threats to their survival. Those threats include habitat loss, introduced predators such as cats and rats, introduced pigs, and malaria from introduced mosquitoes. Now, the threat of rising global temperatures may be exerting still greater pressure upon the continued survival of Hawaii’s birds. The US FWS will use the \$3 million in funding to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy for Hawaiian birds, hire staff, and begin on the ground projects to recover some of the endangered and threatened species.

From
The American Bird Conservancy



Feeding the Birds

The ideal bird feeder is sturdy enough to withstand winter weather, tight enough to keep seeds dry, large enough so you do not have to refill it constantly, and easy to assemble and clean. Plastic or metal feeders are generally easier to keep clean than wooden feeders.

In general, seed-feeders fall into three categories: tray feeders, hopper feeders, and tube feeders. Additional specialty feeders include suet, hummingbird, and peanut feeders. Each type attracts different kinds of birds, and has advantages and disadvantages.

Tray or platform feeder

A platform feeder is any flat, raised surface onto which bird food is spread. The platform should have plenty of drainage holes to prevent water accumulation. A platform with a roof will help keep seeds dry. Trays attract most species of feeder birds. Placed near the ground, they are most likely to attract juncos, doves, and sparrows.

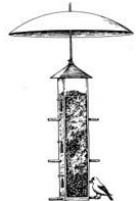


House or hopper feeder

A hopper feeder is a platform upon which walls and a roof are built, forming a “hopper” that protects seed against the weather. Hoppers attract most species of feeder birds. Most hoppers hold a good quantity of seed. Few are weather-proof, however, so the food may get wet and moldy if it sits for a few days.

Tube feeder

A tube feeder is a hollow cylinder, often made of plastic, with multiple feeding ports and perches. Tube feeders keep seed fairly dry. Feeders with short perches accommodate small birds such as finches but exclude larger birds such as grackles and jays. The size of the feeding ports varies as well, depending on the type of seed to be offered.



Nyjer feeder

Nyjer feeders are special tube feeders designed with extra-small openings to dispense tiny nyjer seeds, also known as thistle seed. These feeders attract a variety of finches

Suet feeder

Suet or suet mixes can be placed in an onion bag or a specially made cage. Suet also can be tied to trees or smeared into knot-holes. Cages that are only open at the bottom tend to be starling-resistant but allow woodpeckers, nuthatches, and chickadees to feed by clinging upside down.

Nectar feeder

Nectar feeders are specially made to dispense nectar through small holes. Choose a feeder that is easy to take apart and clean, because the feeder should be washed or run through the dishwasher frequently. If purchasing nectar, choose one without red dye or make your own, using one part sugar to four parts water.



Peanut feeder

A peanut feeder is a wire-mesh cage, often cylindrical, with large holes for shelled peanuts.

Make-your-own feeder

Many FeederWatchers construct their own feeders. For example, try smearing pine cones with a peanut butter/corn meal/suet mix. Be sure to keep the safety of the birds in mind. The feeder should be easy to clean and should not have any sharp edges or tight spaces in which birds can become trapped

Unwelcome Birds

While some people welcome any bird regardless of its size or appetite, others get frustrated when grackles, starlings, pigeons, or crows overrun their feeders. To discourage these larger birds from becoming a nuisance, use feeders that are made for smaller birds, such as tube feeders that have short perches and no catch basin on the bottom. Avoid platform trays, and do not spread food on the ground.

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

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President: Richard Vernier (812) 385-5058
Newsletter Editor: Judi Russell, (812) 491-7256, therussells.golf@yahoo.com

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.

\$20: 1 year introductory rate

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

\$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Ted Hitch, EAS Treasurer, 8713 Camellia Drive, Evansville, IN 47711

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My check enclosed

Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

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