



THE  
**BLUEBIRD**  
Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 40 No. 8, April-May, 2011

[WWW.evvaudubon.org](http://WWW.evvaudubon.org)

This Issue Edited By: Richard & Sue Vernier

**Calendar of Events:**

**Saturday, April 9, 7:30 am: Birds and Wildflowers Walk at Audubon State Park in Henderson, Kentucky.** Meet at the parking lot at the museum. Contact Jim Lodato at (812) 867-0063 or [jclodato@yahoo.com](mailto:jclodato@yahoo.com) for details.

**Saturday, April 16, 10 am to 2 pm: Come out to Howell Wetlands to celebrate Earth Day!** Many activities are planned. Visit the Evansville Audubon Society's table to play Wetland Bingo or make an Earth Day cap. FREE FUN for all ages!

**Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Center: Paul Bouseman “Landscaping with Native Plants for the Birds”.** Paul is currently the botanical curator at Mesker Zoo and Botanic Garden. He is also a member of the newly formed Southern Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society.

**Wednesday April 27 – Sunday May 1, OHIO VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL:** Join Evansville Audubon for five days of Birding activities. The event kicks off on **Wednesday** with trips to Goose Pond FWA, Bluegrass FWA, and Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve (WWNP). **Thursday** will be the Big Day of Birding featuring Gibson Lake with Chuck Mills, 'Drawing Audubon Style' at Audubon State Park in Henderson, and hikes at WWNP and Eagle Slough. **Friday** will include a hike with keynote speaker Dr. Eldon Greij; hikes at WWNP, Eagle Slough, Lincoln State Park, and Squaw Creek mine; 'Climate Change and its Effects on Wildlife' by Dr. Greij, and 'An Evening with Artist and Evansville native Pat Brentano Bramnick'. **Saturday** will have hikes at Goose Pond FWA, WWNP, Howell Wetlands, and Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge; FAMILY DAY at WWNP; 'Owl Pellet Dissection' with Hillery Koontz; 'It's For The Birds: Creating a Bird-Friendly Habitat' with Kathy Eicher; live raptor program with Lauren Preske; 'Birding with Technology' with Tim Griffith; 'Hands-On Bird Banding' with Scott Kramer; 'Drawing Owls' with Leanne Leach; 'Making a Birdhouse / Feeder from Gourds' with Debbie Goedde; 'Birdwatching Basics' with Dr. Eldon Greij; and the Keynote Address 'A Birding Moment with Dr. Eldon Greij'. On **Sunday** there will be trips to Cane Ridge (unit of Patoka River NWR), Twin Swamps, JJ Audubon State Park; a canoe trip on Patoka River; 'Explore Raptors' with Julie McDonald; '100 Hints to Keep your Hummers Humming' with Sharon Sorenson; 'Birding by Ear' with Evan Speck; 'A Walk with Bluebirds' with Bob and Judy Peak; and an art exhibit: 'We Don't Own Nature. We are Part of It' with Pat Brentano Bramnick.

Wow! That should keep you busy! Full details are at [www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org](http://www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org)

**Saturday, May 14 Indiana Big May Day Bird Count:** Spring bird count will cover Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. If you would like to sign up for a count area or to volunteer as a “feeder counter” please contact Brian Taylor at (812) 480-0588 or [brian.taylor@haubstadt.com](mailto:brian.taylor@haubstadt.com) or Carol Pettys at [pettys1234@aol.com](mailto:pettys1234@aol.com) or (812) 867-6231. **Bonus – Tim Griffith from Wild Birds Unlimited will be giving away a two-pound bag of birdseed to each participant!**

**Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Center: Alan Gehret “The Last Journey: Audubon's 1843 Missouri River Expedition”.** Alan, curator of the John James Audubon Museum in Audubon State Park, Henderson, Kentucky, will take us along on Audubon's grand last journey.

**Saturday, May 21, Volunteers Needed for the Great American Cleanup!** This project is sponsored by Keep Evansville Beautiful and our assignment is to clean up Igleheart Park. We'll meet at 8:30 am at the playground by Lloyd Pool. Ten volunteers should be able to complete the job in short order and enjoy brunch at the Pie Pan afterwards. Gloves, grabbers, bags, and water are provided (brunch at Pie Pan is not). Contact Carol Pettys at [pettys1234@aol.com](mailto:pettys1234@aol.com) or (812) 867-6231.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Newsletter Editor and Webmaster**

Judi Russell, our capable and long term newsletter editor and webmaster has informed us that, due to personal circumstances, she will have to step aside temporarily. We wish Judi and her husband Ron all the best and our thoughts are with them. Thank you Judi!

This leaves a big hole in our organization as Judi did both our newsletter and our website. Anyone with the motivation is encouraged to step forward. While computer skills are essential for being Webmaster, for many years our newsletter was published using the ancient art of cut and paste (or cut and tape). While the use of a computer does simplify the layout process it certainly isn't necessary. Enthusiasm and commitment along with good English skills are the primary qualifications for a candidate for the newsletter editor position. Please contact Brian Taylor at (812) 480-0588 or [brian.taylor@haubstadt.com](mailto:brian.taylor@haubstadt.com) if you are interested.

#### **Publicity Chair**

Sarah Karges, publicity chair, would like someone else to take over this responsibility for next year. The position involves giving information about our activities to the local media. Please contact Brian Taylor at (812) 480-0588 or [brian.taylor@haubstadt.com](mailto:brian.taylor@haubstadt.com), if you are interested.

### **Minutes of Evansville Audubon Society Director's Meetings:**

#### **February 15, 2011**

Dick Vernier presented a program on the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge that was informative and showed us new opportunities there. Sign-ups for Friends of PRNWR were taken.

President Brian Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:55. Following a motion by Susan Haislip the minutes were approved as printed. Treasurer's report as of 2/12/11: Checking \$ 4664.59, CD \$4729.54, Bulk Mail Account \$132.98.

Education: Carol Pettys has distributed information to teachers in Warrick and Vanderburgh counties. She has received 2 grant applications. The split between conservation and education from donations to be determined later.

Birding Festival: L. D. Harry – making progress. Carol Pettys requests donations of door prizes for Family Day.

Conservation: Sue Vernier distributed contact sheets for federal legislators.

Susan Haislip asks that birders send her bird counts made at PRNWR to help with a checklist.

Old Business: Bart Wilson reported on his findings concerning newsletter advertising. More information and a committee are needed prior to a decision.

New Business: EAS will participate in the Great American Cleanup May 21.

Bird Sightings: Bart Wilson – 210 Sandhills. Highlights were: Black Vultures, Crows in Mt. Vernon, Bald Eagles at Heron Rookery south of Ohio river bridge, 300 Snow Geese.

Carolyn Bennett, Secretary Pro Tem

## **March 15, 2011**

Following a program by Don Batema on Skomer Island, the business meeting was called to order at 7:55 P.M. by president Brian Taylor.

The minutes from the Feb. meeting will appear in the newsletter.

There is \$3021.10 in the checking account and \$4731.54 in the CD *{The amount reported for checking does not include reserved accounts which are: OVBF \$2250.07, Education \$852.44, Donations \$2000.90, Memorials \$470 for a total checking account balance of \$8594.51...editor}*

L.D. Harry reported the Birding Festival committee has been successful in planning the 2011 event. A driver is needed to drive a van on some field trips.

Sue Vernier reported that NAS requests that chapters sign a letter that will be delivered to Senators from every state where a chapter has signed urging them NOT to support HR1, the House bill making devastating cuts to funds which provide clean water, air, and vital natural areas for birds, wildlife and people. Brian will sign the letter for Evansville Audubon Society.

Jim Lodato has scheduled a trip to Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge on Mar. 19th.

On April 9th a trip is planned at Audubon State Park to view wildflowers as well as birds. Meet at the Audubon Museum parking lot.

Indiana Audubon Society is planning field trips for July 7, 8 and 9 to various areas. All will leave the Lowe's East -north end- parking lot at 8:A.M.

Old business - A motion passed to fund and partially fund ten education grants presented by Carol Pettys. *{totaling \$2796...editor}*

New business - EAS will participate in Earth Day activities at Howell Wetlands on April 16th. We will also participate in the great American clean-up on May 21. Our area will be North Woods and Igleheart Park areas.

A motion passed to update our insurance to cover small claims to members or guests on hikes and other sponsored activities. *{Cost is \$22, to be split between EAS and OVBF...editor}*

Sightings: white-fronted geese, Ross's goose, and bufflehead at Mesker Park Zoo lake; northern pintail in borrow pond off I-164.

Spring bird count - coming up, need feeder counters in Posey County. Contact Brian Taylor.

Adjourn - 8:40 P.M.

Lois Schmidt, Secretary Pro Tem

### **Evansville Audubon Awards Education Grants**

The EAS is pleased to award ten grants to further conservation/environmental education. The money was made available from the generous donations of EAS members and the Schnuck's eScrip program. Winners this year are:

Highland Elementary School: \$336 for Audubon Artists program; combining art and nature

Methodist Temple: \$195 to establish a butterfly garden; expand their outdoor educational program

Central High School: \$300 to defray costs of Canoe Evansville trip in fall of 2011

Patchwork Central: \$350 to sponsor Susan Fowler for 7 days during their summer program

Harrison H.S. Environmental Club: \$480 to begin a schoolwide composting program

New Tech Institute: \$280 for signage of their Outdoor Lab and 2 trips to Howell for study of plants

Caze Elementary School: \$230 for Roots and Shoots (Jane Goodall) membership and 1 program

Boonville Middle School: \$250 for courtyard improvements

Washington Middle School Green Team: \$175 for a new landscaping project by school's sign

Lodge Elementary School: \$200 to enhance their outdoor learning lab

Thank you donors! Carol Pettys, Education Chair

### **Fourth Annual Ohio Valley Birding Festival**

The fourth annual Ohio Valley Birding Festival will be from Wednesday, April 27 through Sunday,

May 1. That's five full days of hikes, family activities, lectures, and workshops designed to appeal to all ages and all levels of bird enthusiasts!

Multiple hikes are planned to: Goose Pond; Bluegrass Fish & Wildlife Area; Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve; Eagle Slough; Howell Wetlands; Audubon State Park; Gibson Lake; Lincoln State Park; Squaw Creek & other Warrick County stops; Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge; Cane Ridge; Twin Swamps; and more! Some hikes require preregistration. For details go to:

[www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org](http://www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org)

Dr. Eldon Greij will be the keynote speaker on Saturday evening, 7:00 PM, at the University of Evansville's Schroeder School of Business Building, Room SB 170. His program is titled "Birding Moments". Dr. Greij started the magazine, Birder's World, where he served as publisher and editor. His passion for teaching and the knowledge of birds he has gathered over the years is evident in the programs he presents to birding groups, Audubon chapters, and at birding festivals. Dr. Greij will also lead a hike on Friday, April 29, to various locations in the Tri-State. And he will speak on Birdwatching Basics at Family Day on April 30, 2:00 PM, at WNP.

The ever popular Family Day of the Ohio Valley Birding Festival will be on Saturday, April 30, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Wesselman Woods Nature Center. Evansville Audubon Society members and Master Naturalists will present a fun-filled day for the whole family! There will be over a dozen 'birdy' activities that will include making binoculars, a scavenger hunt, Bird Olympics, making a bird feeder and planting seeds that will attract birds to your yard. Workshops include dissecting owl pellets, bird banding, raptor show, drawing owls, creating a bird friendly habitat, birding with technology, and making birdhouses from gourds. All activities are FREE! This event will take place rain or shine. For more information contact: [www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org](http://www.OhioValleyBirdingFestival.org)

The OVBF is made possible thanks to the generous donations from our sponsors:

Evansville Audubon Society  
The National Audubon Society  
Save the Screech Owl Foundation  
John James Audubon State Park  
Wesselman Nature Society  
Wild Birds Unlimited Store  
Henderson County Tourism Commission  
Southern Indiana Master Naturalist Association  
Product Acceptance and Research  
Friends of John James Audubon State Park  
University of Evansville  
SignPost, Inc.  
Methodist Temple

### **Conservation Activities**

Below is important information for the new 112<sup>th</sup> Congress (1<sup>st</sup> Session) that will allow you to contact your Congressman and Senators about important conservation issues:

Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN)  
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4814  
Webmail:

[www.lugar.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.lugar.senate.gov/contact/)

Senator Dan Coats (R-IN)  
B40E E. Dirksen Senate Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5623  
Webmail:

[www.coats.senate.gov/contact/](http://www.coats.senate.gov/contact/)

Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN-8<sup>th</sup>)  
1123 Longworth House Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-4636  
Webmail:

[www.bucshon.house.gov](http://www.bucshon.house.gov)

### **Field Trip: Patoka River National Wildlife Reserve**

On Saturday March 19, 2011 Richard and Sue Vernier, Steve Rose, Jim Lodato, Bob and Judy

Wargel, Bob Wilson and I Birded Patoka River NWR. We had excellent weather with temps ranging from 45 in the morning to 65 by afternoon. There were clear skies and light winds. We started with a trip to the pit north of Francisco mine. This is the pit that the Long-tailed duck had been seen in this winter. From there we traveled the bottoms in the area with no great results. After encountering several flooded roads, with the prospect of many more, we headed east toward Buck Marsh. From there it was on to Snakey Point and Maxey Marsh. With these stops out of the way we headed to the large marsh on Meridian Rd. We then decided to go to Dillin Bottoms. After a lot of driving and a lot of good birding our species list was as follows:

Savannah Sparrow	Turkey Vulture	Bufflehead
Killdeer	Carolina Chickadee	Lesser Scaup
Northern Flicker	Red-Tailed Hawk	Ruddy Duck
Bald Eagle	American Crow	Green-winged Teal
Red Wing Blackbird	Mute Swan	Gadwall
Tree Swallow	Northern Cardinal	American Wigeon
Eastern Bluebird	Tufted Titmouse	Blue-Winged Teal
Greater yellowlegs	Song Sparrow	Wood Duck
Double Crested Cormorant	Canada goose	Common Goldeneye
Pied-Billed Grebe	Horned Lark	Hooded Merganser
American Coot	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Shoveler
Eastern Meadowlark	Red-Bellied woodpecker	Ring-Necked Duck
Great Blue Heron	Mallard	

When it was all said and done we had a very enjoyable first trip of 2011.

Bart Wilson

#### Notices:

**e-Mail Reminders for Meetings and Field Trips:** If you would like to receive these reminders and updates please send your name and preferred e-mail address to [paul-carolyn-bennett@insightbb.com](mailto:paul-carolyn-bennett@insightbb.com). It's a good way to stay current on last minute changes due to weather etc.

**Evansville Audubon is looking for a few good men and women!** The nomination committee is looking to fill open positions beginning next September: Secretary--job entails recording minutes at board meetings. Two directors' positions for term ending 2014—job requires attendance to at least 50% of board meetings. Please contact Sue Vernier at (812) 385-5058 or [rsav1@juno.com](mailto:rsav1@juno.com) if you are interested.

#### **Currently serving Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs of Evansville Audubon**

<b>Officers:</b>	<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Committee Chairs:</b>
President: Brian Taylor	<u><b>Term ending 2011</b></u>	Field Trips: Jim Lodato
Vice President: Richard Vernier	Don Batema	Programs: <Open>
Secretary: Joyce Padfield	Susan Haislip	Membership List: Steve Heeger
Treasurer: Chris Pace	Sarah Karges	Publicity: Sarah Karges
	Jim Lodato	Education: Carol Pettys
		OVB: L.D. Harry
	<u><b>Term ending 2012</b></u>	Bird Counts: Brian Taylor
	Carolyn Bennett	Conservation: Sue Vernier
	Dolores Heeger	Email List: Carolyn Bennett
	Judith Russell	Webmaster: Judith Russell
	Ron Russell	Newsletter: Judith Russell
		Newsletter Mailing: Vivian Ruff
	<u><b>Term ending 2013</b></u>	Hospitality: Lois Schmidt
	Jessica Franck	
	Jason Reffett	
	Stephen Rose	
	Bart Wilson	

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

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US Postage  
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Permit No. 1666

President: Brian Taylor, (812) 480-0588, brian.taylor@haubstadt.com

Visit our website at: [www.evvaudubon.org](http://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.

\$20: 1 year introductory rate  
 \$15: 1 year Student/ Senior (62 and over) rate  
 \$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Chris Pace, EAS Treasurer, 8722 Whirlaway Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630

Name \_\_\_\_\_

My check enclosed  
Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Code C9ZH030Z

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_