



# THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

## A Note from Our New President



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The difference between animals and humans is that animals change themselves for the environment, but humans change the environment for themselves.

Ayn Rand



September starts the new year for us and I am excited to serve as the president this year for the Evansville Audubon Society. I had to come up to speed quickly on dates, procedures, filling positions and arranging guest speakers. There have been some bumps in the road, but I am learning quickly with the help of our fantastic board and volunteers. Each member has their role and their eagerness to jump in and help is very welcome. Speaking of incoming president, nationally David Yarnold become the President and CEO of the Audubon Society replacing John Flicker. It will be interesting to see what changes will happen on the national level.

Wesselman's Nature Center has been our home in past years, allowing us to hold our meeting in this location. In the last half of the year though, we will be conducting our programs and meetings at the Central Library downtown due to the construction underway at the center. You can visit the Wesselman's nature Center website to see the progress they are making on improvements to the facility. <http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org/woods/renovation.php>.

Ecologically this year has been stressful with the major concern over the gulf oil spill. Images of oiled species such as the brown pelican, just removed from the endangered species list, has raised awareness and concern. Audubon Chapters across America have been leading hands-on habitat protection and restoration efforts at Important Bird Areas and other sites connected by birds to the Gulf. National Audubon Society Director of Bird Conservation, Dr. Greg Butcher quotes "This is another way that some of the 30,000 volunteers who registered with Audubon to respond to the Gulf crisis can make a significant difference, not only for the Gulf but for their own communities." Just as volunteers have had a direct impact on conservation in the Gulf, we have had a direct impact on conservation locally and will continue to preserve our natural ecosystems. Our past president, Richard Vernier, wrote a letter to Wesselman's Nature Society expressing our concern over the impact on lighting, drainage, etc. the suggested ball fields would have on Wesselman's nature Preserve. It was published in the Courier and Press and received some very good publicity.

The planning meeting for the Fourth Annual Ohio Valley Birding Festival has taken place and some good feedback was received. Once again the Evansville Audubon Society has taken on sponsorship of the event and we are proud to do so.

We had a record number of people turn out for our May Day and Christmas Bird Counts this past year. We added a Warrick county circle to our Christmas count and we were overwhelmed with the response in volunteers. If we continue the increased response from volunteers, then we can eventually consider a Posey County May Day Count to cover areas like Hovey and the Twin Swamps area.

We are in need of committee members to volunteer for education chair, program chair, and hospitality chair. These are vital functions to our organization and we would love to work with anyone volunteering for the positions.

**EAS MINUTES**  
June 15, 2010

**EAS MINUTES**  
**Planning Meeting**  
August 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM by president, Dick Vernier, at the Oaklyn Library. There was a correction to the April minutes. National Audubon Society granted \$880.10 to EAS. The treasurer's report:

<b>Bird Festival</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>\$5,951.40</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>- \$3,976.08</b>
		<b>\$1,975.32</b>
<b>Patoka NWR</b>	<b>Income (grant NAS)</b>	<b>\$880.10</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>- \$496.03</b>
		<b>\$384.07</b>
<b>Grant</b>	<b>(Fish and Wildlife Services)</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>Checking balance</b>		<b>\$9,789.50</b>
	<b>Less designated funds (grant)</b>	<b>-\$4,000.00</b>
		<b>\$180.00</b>
		<b>\$290.00</b>
	<b>Festival</b>	<b>-\$1,975.32</b>
		<b>\$3,344.18</b>
<b>CD</b>		<b>\$4,701.85</b>
<b>Bulk Mail</b>		<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Script (last month)</b>		<b>\$26.29</b>

The slate of officers for 2010-2011:

- President - Brian Taylor
- V-P - Richard Vernier
- Treasurer - Chris Pace
- Secretary - Joyce Padfield



We need people to chair programs and field trips, and also budget committee and audit committee. Steve and Delores Heeger will serve on the audit committee.

Sue Vernier, conservation chair, discussed details of NAS volunteer response center for the Gulf oil spill and an upcoming web-cast. She also gave an update on purchase of Peabody acreage of Patoka River NWR. U.S. Fish and Wildlife has recently submitted purchase proposal to Peabody and is awaiting their response.

Al Perry gave a program about polar bears.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM and was followed by the program.

Joyce Padfield, Secretary

The new Board, officers and directors, met along with committee chairs at the PAR Corporation. Sunday afternoon August 15. President Brian Taylor opened the meeting at 3:14 pm.

Brian said Steve Heeger had some programs in mind. Dr. Ross Brittain for the September meeting on non-game bird studies for the entire state and Dr. Rashid on water conservation for October. We need people to volunteer for education chair, program chair, and hospitality chair. Members gave information on possibilities for programs. Donation letters are going out in September. Budget discussion will be at September meeting.

Discussion was held about baseball and softball diamonds at Wesselman Woods. Brian will ask about a representative from Audubon to be on the parks committee. Sarah Karges needs information about meetings to put in the newspaper.

Brian wants to have next year's planning meeting in July.

Tim Griffith resigned from the board.

Lois Schmidt has confirmed that EAS has the Browning Room B reserved at the downtown library from 6:30PM to 9:00PM for our programs/board meetings from September through January. The programs start at 6:30 and the board meetings at 7:30. We will be applying for a collaborative grant to support chapter conservation projects.



Meeting was adjourned at 4:25PM and was followed by a potluck dinner.

Joyce Padfield, Secretary



Treasurer's Report submitted by Chris Pace

**For end of the fiscal year  
6/30/10**

Operating Funds	\$5,682
Total of all Chapter Funds (Includes checking account, savings account, CDs, En- dowment account, etc.)	\$14,175

Chapter Funds reserved for specific use	\$6,726
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**Current Balances as  
of 7/31/10**

Checking Account	\$9378
CD	\$4708

## IAS FALL BIRDING FESTIVAL FAST APPROACHING

This year's Indiana Audubon Society's fall festival is being held at McCormick's Creek State Park, from October 1-3, 2010. The Canyon Inn will serve as headquarters for the festival.

The keynote speaker will be renowned bird humorist, Al Batt. Al Batt is a writer, storyteller, speaker, and humorist who entertained folks at last year's Midwest Birding Symposium. His articles and cartoons are syndicated nationally and he has written jokes for a former President of the United States.

Other great programs are being lined up, including birding tours to Goose Pond, Lake Monroe, and of course, through McCormick's Creek. Bring the kids, as an assortment of birding activities will on hand for them as well. For a complete list of programs and to register, visit the Indiana Audubon Society website ([www.indianaaudubon.org](http://www.indianaaudubon.org))

A block of rooms is being held at the Canyon Inn. Ask for the IAS group rate (1001AS) when calling (877-LODGES-1).

### *Calendar of Events*



**Tuesday, September 21, at the Central Library Browning Event Room at 6:30pm "A Vision for Bird Conservation", Dr. Ross Brittain.** Dr. Brittain will discuss the National Audubon Society's vision for bird

conservation in Indiana. Specifically, he will outline the Important Bird Area (IBA) program and detail the progress on three priority projects: 1) Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area Bird Conservation Plan, 2) Indianapolis urban bird conservation, (i.e., Eagle Creek Park bird surveys and bird banding stations, and the Wings Over Indy), and 3) a statewide bird conservation plan as part of the Indiana Biodiversity Initiative. Additional projects include creating a baseline database of bird populations in Indiana IBAs with funds from the USFWS. Business meeting will follow at 7:30 pm.

**Tuesday, October 19, at the Central Library Browning Event Room at 6:30pm, Dan Collins,** a local birder, spotted 86 species of birds in southern Indiana in one day. We will learn about his preparation and plan to achieve this state-record-breaking list. He will also speak about some tips and tricks to make us all better birders. His presentation will touch on a wide range of topics, including field guides, equipment, in-the-field techniques, listing, field notes, bird distribution, bird biology, behavior, and vocalizations. He's an inspiration to birders at all skill levels. Business meeting will be afterward at 7:30 pm.

**Tuesday, November 16: at the Central Library Browning Event Room at 6:30pm, Program TBA**

### **Interested in endangered species??**

The Indiana Endangered Species list can be reached via the DNR Wildlife Diversity Section page:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2356.htm>

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome! If you have an idea for future issues please let me know. If there is something else you would like included or deleted, I'm interested in hearing from you. I wish we could include photographs in the printed version but that is cost prohibitive. Your photos could be used in the online version if you are willing to share them.

I can be reached online at [therussells.golf@yahoo.com](mailto:therussells.golf@yahoo.com) or phone at (812) 491 7256 or (812) 484 9321

*Judi Russell*



**From the Editor**

## **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](http://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! Questions? contact Carol: [pettys1234@aol.com](mailto:pettys1234@aol.com) or (812) 867-6231



### **Used Fluorescent Bulbs**

I had burnt out compact fluorescent bulbs (that did not last five or more years) that I did not know what to do with. From Joe Ballard of the Vanderburgh Solid Waste District I learned that I could take them to the Service Desk at Home Depot. Illuminating Wxpressions at 5810 Vogel Rd. (437-5483) will also take them.

TOX AWAY DAY in Vanderburgh County will take the old style long fluorescent bulbs as well as the compact ones.. The next opportunity is September 11 from 9-2 at Roberts Stadium.

Posey County Solid Waste District (838-1613) has several drop-off locations. To get to the one near Marrs School, go north on Ford Rd. from Rt.62. Shortly before the Fire Station there is a Green Pole Barn, set back from the road. Hours are Thursday 10-6 and Saturday 9-12.


Carolyn Bennett

Cont. from page 1

As a lifetime resident of Gibson and now Vanderburgh Counties, I can honestly say I love this area and am committed to the mission of the Audubon Society which is **“To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.”**

I am a graduate of the University of Evansville with a Bachelors in Biology. I have four young children which open my eyes and teach me things daily as I teach them. I am here for any of you in any way I may be of assistance. This is going to be a great year and I am glad you are a part of it.

Sincerely,  
Brian Taylor



Have you ever observed a humming-bird moving about in an aerial dance among the flowers - a living prismatic gem.... it is a creature of such fairy-like loveliness as to mock all description.

~W.H. Hudson, *Green Mansions*

## Field Trip Report

On Saturday, August 28, a group of 15 birders attended the Warrick Co. field trip led by Jim Campbell and LD Harry. Lola Perrett shadowed us for the day to write an article for the Warrick Co insert of the Courier and Press. We had a successful day seeing 47 species with our first being a Mississippi Kite at Scales Lake. It was a great way to kick off the day. We searched high and low for a singing Bell's Vireo even though it sounded like it was right in front of us and learned the locations of several great birding spots unknown to many before that day. Brian Taylor

Visit our Website at [www.evvaudubon.org](http://www.evvaudubon.org)  
Latest information regarding field trips, photos,  
recent bird counts, etc.

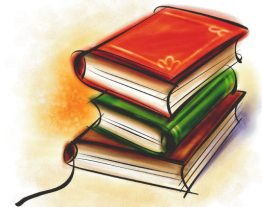
Contact the webmaster at: [therussells.golf@yahoo.com](mailto:therussells.golf@yahoo.com)



## *The Field Guide to Fields: Hidden Treasures of Meadows, Prairies, and Pastures* by Bill Laws

Taken from Amazon.com (suggested by Dolores Heeger):

For millennia, fields in their myriad forms have been among the most fundamental elements of the landscape of human civilization. Illustrated with 300 photographs and handsome linocut-style prints, the book explains how different landscapes, climates, and cultures produced a variety of field types, from the terraced rice paddies of Southeast Asia to the impenetrable hedgerows of Northwest Europe, each reflecting both ancient traditions and agricultural progress. We see how Old World methods were adapted to new environments like the American prairie, the Australian outback, the African veldt, and the Argentinean pampas. We trace the development of the implements we've devised to work our fields, from hand tools to modern tractors and mechanical harvesters.



And as we learn to recognize various types of fields, we also explore their characteristic flora—wildflowers, grasses, and nourishing plants like grains, herbs, mushrooms, fruits and berries— and fauna, from tiny but indispensable bugs to field-mice, sheep, cattle, and more. Detailed identification guides catalog a wealth of plant and animal life, and wide-ranging sidebars discuss everything from how to plow a field and sow seeds to how to plant a hedge, build a dry stone wall, and shear a sheep.

Here too the rich diversity of field folklore, from rural superstitions, fairy rings, and crop circles, to local legends, weather lore, folk remedies, and more. Both a thoughtful and colorful gift and a practical, informative reference, *The Field Guide to Fields* portrays an intriguing no-man's-land between true, chaotic wilderness and the orderly arrangement of human communities.

Book Review from Booklist.com

Not for nothing are “amber waves of grain” celebrated in our national anthem, but set aside the iconic imagery, and the fact still remains that fields of oats, wheat, rice, and corn have sustained the world's great civilizations since time began. Yet how, when, and why this agricultural phenomenon and landscape paragon came into being has been both a source of mystery for archaeologists and fount of inspiration for artists who recognize and celebrate the importance and beauty of fields. From rice paddies in Asia to sheep meadows in Australia, from Mideastern olive groves to Midwestern corn fields, nearly 40 percent of the earth's surface is covered with crop fields that feed the human population and fuel its productivity. Exploring the history of today's modern farm fields, examining the impact of environmental threats, and mapping the future of field management, Laws' unique, succinct yet comprehensive resource celebrates the folklore and chronicles the flora and fauna that comprise the stunning variety of field habitats across the globe. --Carol Haggas

# Quiz: For the Birds

Question 1: Zuni & Hopi tribes painted hummingbirds on water jars. What did the hummingbird represent?

- A. Good Fortune
- B. Rain
- C. Fertility
- D. Evil spirits

Question 2: I was not as stupid as most people think, but that doesn't change the fact that I'm extinct. What type bird am I?

- A. Yellow-bellied sapsucker
- B. Mockingbird
- C. Dodo bird
- D. Bufflehead

Question 3: Why does the Greater Honeyguide call out to get the attention of a ratel?

- A. It is in distress
- B. It is lonely
- C. It needs help opening a bee's nest
- D. It is imitating the ratel's voice

Question 4: Which strange bird never drinks a drop of water?

- A. Kiwi
- B. Ruddy Duck
- C. Black-legged Kittiwakes
- D. American Bittern

Question 5: The Fairy Tern is also called the \_\_\_\_\_ because of its ethereal beauty.

- A. Holy Ghost Bird
- B. Royal Tern
- C. Guardian Angel
- D. Black-eyed Tern

Question 6: The male bower bird builds elaborate structures to..

- A. Protect himself from predators
- B. To shelter his young
- C. To store food
- D. To attract a mate



Question 7: A study of chickadees revealed that they have relatively good memories. What behavior led to this conclusion?

- A. Complex communication
- B. Nesting
- C. Scatter hoarding
- D. Sleeping

Question 8: Which speedy bird is quick enough to grab a rattlesnake for dinner without getting bitten?

- A. Roadrunner
- B. Masked Boobie
- C. Helmet Shrike
- D. Kiwi

Question 9: In many parts of the world, loons are considered a nuisance. Which country welcomes their presence?

- A. Taiwan
- B. Brazil
- C. Japan
- D. England

# Quiz: For the Birds (Answers)

1. (A) Rain Hummingbirds were thought to intervene on behalf of humans, convincing the gods to bring rain.
2. (C) In the year 1598 A.D. Portuguese sailors on the island of Mauritius discovered a previously unknown species of bird, The sailors mistook its gentle spirit and lack of fear for stupidity. They named the bird "dodo," which means simpleton in Portuguese. The dodo bird is believed to have died out around 1681 A.D.
3. (C) The Greater Honeyguide of eastern Africa loves to eat honey, but it can't open bee's nests by itself. When it finds one, it goes looking for an animal called a ratel, or honey badger. After it attracts the badger's attention, it flies toward the bee's nest, making sure it is following. The badger tears open the nest with its strong claws and both the animals enjoy the spoils.
4. (A) Kiwis never drink and also refuses to bathe! New Zealand's kiwi has wings but can't fly. Nocturnal and nearly blind, the kiwi can only see six feet ahead at night and two feet past its beak during the day.
5. (A) The Fairy Tern has silky pure white plumage, slender translucent wings and large, black-rimmed, midnight blue eyes. Its shining white plumage is highly visible in the dark, making it easy prey for European barn owls. The Fairy Tern snatches small fish or squid from the surface without ever getting wet. Unlike other seabirds, its delicate plumage is not waterproof.
6. (D) In order to attract a mate, the bower bird builds a structure out of twigs, leaves, and moss on the floor of the Australian rainforest. It then decorates the bower with colorful feathers, pebbles, berries, and shells. When a female arrives to inspect the bower, the males truts and sings. Once he has seduced her, she builds a nest nearby. At this point, he tries to convince another female to join his family!
7. (C) Scatter hoarding is the storage of food items in countless locations over several acres of land. Scientists gave the birds seeds tagged with radioactive and magnetic materials to show that they store food, and return to collect it. This, along with other studies, shows that the chickadees remembered where they stored their own food.
8. (A) The roadrunner is one the very few animals that can successfully catch a rattlesnake. After using its wings like a bull fighter's cape, it snaps the rattlesnake by the tail and cracks it like a whip, repeatedly slamming its head against the ground until it is dead. Swallowing the snake whole is a bit hard to do, so the roadrunner strolls around with the snake dangling from its mouth, digesting it a bit at a time.
9. (C) Near the island of Seto, in the sea of Japan, fishermen depend on the red-throated and Arctic loons to help them fish. The loons drive the fish into schools, which makes it easier for the fishermen to catch them with their nets. The loons have become so tame that they follow the boats, even when they are not fishing!

If you would like more like this, contact the editor



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

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

**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.**

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

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

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My check enclosed

Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

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

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