



# THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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*We feel sorry for birds that have no people but sarrier for people that have no birds.*

George H Straley

The **Cornell** Lab  of Ornithology  
Exploring and Conserving Nature

Check out eBird Version 3: The ultimate birding tool, October 27, 2011

Dear eBird user,

If you haven't been to eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) in a while, it's time for another look. Over the past few months we've updated eBird so that it's easier to use and more useful than ever to the birding community. eBird can help you find birds through our "Alerts" or by exploring our newly revised mapping tools and bar charts. Recording and keeping track of your birds is easier than ever with a completely redesigned data entry system and our automated listing pages (My eBird). Most importantly, you'll become part of a growing community of tens of thousands of birders around the world whose data are now being used in real science and conservation. Best of all – it's free!

#### eBird Version 3 includes:

- Global scope—enter and explore observations from anywhere around the world
- Streamlined data entry—getting your data into the system is faster and more customizable than ever
- Improved range maps—explore interactive range maps for any bird in the world
- Alerts system—get customized reports about birds of interest to you in a region
- eBird Top 100—find out how your totals rank among other birders in any region
- Birding + Science connection—by participating, your data become available to the science and conservations communities

# eBird

We're proud of the new developments at eBird, and we hope you'll take the time to take the new tools for a test spin. Even if you don't enter data, you can still explore the information submitted by other eBirders. Moving forward we'll continue to develop eBird as the ultimate tool to serve the birding community, while always ensuring that the data we collect for science is of the highest possible quality. Join the flock, become an eBirder!

*Good Birding from the eBird team!*

*Chris Wood, Brian Sullivan, and Marshall Iliff*

# EAS MINUTES

## Meeting September 20, 2011

After a program by Christian Freitag of Sycamore Land Trust and a Patoka Refuge Friends announcement of a Refuge Open House October 1, the board meeting was called to order by President Brian Taylor at 8:18PM. The June and August meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Chris Pace reported balances in Checking \$4,778 (includes reserved funds of \$2,270); CD \$4,744; Savings \$5; eScripts \$247; Grant/Goodaker Memorial \$470; and Bulk Mail \$100. A discussion ensued regarding National Audubon's requirements for new members incentive payments to chapters. Brian Taylor will investigate and report back. Ted Hitch reminded the board that a donation appeal letter needs to be mailed to the membership. Brian Taylor will handle.

Committee Reports: It was suggested the field trip chair could use some help with fields trips and Bart Wilson was volunteered (in his absence). Lois Schmidt distributed her completed list of programs for 2011-2012.

Carol Pettys will handle the Vanderburgh CBC scheduled for 12/17/11. Brian needs a volunteer to help with the Posey CBC scheduled for 12/31/11. Susan Haislip volunteered to assist with the Oakland City count if Dan Collins is unavailable. As usual, Chuck Mills will cover Western Gibson.

LD Harry gave a report on the OVBF. Steve Rose was successful in obtaining \$500 from the Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau and WBU (Tim Griffith) has promised \$500. Chuck Mills will be keynote speaker. LD hopes to somehow incorporate "The Big Year" movie into the publicity effort.

Old Business: Carol Pettys wants all members to redouble their efforts to recruit friends and family to use Schnuck's eScripts card; it provides additional income for EAS's education projects. She has extra eScript cards.

After discussion, the board approved delaying publishing the next newsletter until November. Deadline for submission of articles is October 24.

New Business: Brian asked for articles and photos for the website. He also would like some help with the annual Chapter Report to National. Deadline is November 30.

Carol Pettys made a motion, seconded by LD Harry, and approved by the board, that EAS apply for a National Audubon Collaborative Grant due October 31. Susan Haislip will submit a request for \$500. **I t e m s** from the Floor: Carol Pettys advised that she sent a list of our education grants to Schnuck's eScript program to show how the funds were being used.

Carol advised that an anonymous donor will match the Grant/Goodaker Memorial Fund up to \$500. A new committee of Carol Pettys, Carolyn Bennett and Susan Haislip was formed to come up with a fitting memorial at WWNP—possibly a permanent display in the bird viewing room.

Bird sightings were shared. Meeting adjourned.

Sue Vernier, Secretary

## Meeting October 18, 2011

After an interesting and informative program on slime molds by Katie Winsett, the meeting was called to order by President Brian Taylor at 8:01PM. Due to lack of quorum, no motions requiring a vote were accepted and approval of the September minutes was deferred until next month.

Treasurer Chris Pace reported balances in Checking \$2,472; CD \$4,746; Savings \$5; Ohio Valley Birding Festival (OVBF) \$2,871; Edu/Cons \$664; Grant/Goodaker Memorial \$470. Response to the donation appeal letter is slow with receipts of \$390. OVBF received \$600 (\$500 from Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau).

Committee Reports: Bart Wilson reported on the Hovey Lake canoe trip—five of seven attendees were new having heard about the trip from an IN-BIRD post and local newspaper article. Next month's trip is to Goose Pond. Brian announced Christmas Bird Count dates: Oakland City and Posey 12/31; Vanderburgh 12/17; Western Gibson 12/18; and Warrick 12/30. There was no official OVBF report in LD Harry's absence, but Brian said Steve Gifford was working on T-shirt designs and Bart thought they were discussing a "Big Day" contest. Sue Vernier reported on the Refuge Day event at Patoka River NWR. She also reported first-time visits to the Refuge of Senator Coats' and Congressman Bucshon's district directors.

Old Business: Brian announced that the Audubon Chapter report was submitted and a payment of \$1,035 will soon be received. The Audubon Collaborative grant deadline is Oct. 31. Articles for the Nov/Dec newsletter must be submitted by Oct. 24. The Grant/Goodaker Memorial committee has met and a report will be forthcoming shortly.

New Business: Brian has the Alcoa Environmental Open House invite. Steve Rose may attend.

Items from the Floor: Brian Taylor and Carolyn Bennett manned a table at the opening day of "The Big Year" movie. Only a handful of people bought tickets; two people stopped at the table.

Bird sightings were shared. Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM.

Sue Vernier, Secretary



**MCHUMOR.com** by T. McCracken



"Do you plan on getting up early to get the worm ALL your life?"

# Calendar of Events

2011-2012

The mailing list for this newsletter is provided by the National Audubon Society, comprised of National membership in our area. Membership in the National Audubon Society automatically makes you a member in the Evansville Audubon Society. If you have not yet attended an EAS program, make this the year that you do. Remember, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, members and non-members! We look forward to seeing you.

**Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Malaysia 2011- Pictures from Zoo Negarain Kuala Lumpur, the Wildlife of Borneo, and Conservation Efforts on the Kinabatangan River" presented by Jessica Franck McCauley, Primate Keeper at Mesker Park Zoo.**

Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.



**Tuesday, December 20, 6:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Festive Feast and 'Fotos' " Member show and tell follows the feast.**

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 17, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Bald Eagle, Nature' s Survivor"** Learn about this amazing creature's story and where you can see them in our area. **Presented by Julie McDonald**, native of northern Illinois, Naturalist (aka program services supervisor) at John James Audubon State Park.



Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

**Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Falconry" Adventures of a local falconer and birder. Presented by Mel Ladato**, retired teacher, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Evansville Audubon Society Board Member, and Board Member of Wesselman Nature Society.



Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

**Tuesday, March 20, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Sounds of Spring," Frogs and Salamanders of Wesselman Park and southern Illinois. Presented by Tom Cervone**, Principal/Director of Environmental Services Bernardin, Lochmueller, and Associates, Inc.

Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

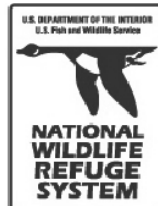


**Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Caves, Bats, and White Nose Syndrome" Presented by Diana Barber**, who has been at Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Gardens since 2000 and her duties are many. She has her PhD. In biology from the University of Illinois, specializing in the evolution and behavior of mammals, especially bats. She also teaches a class in environmental conservation at USI. Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.



**Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Birds and Other Wildlife at Patoka National Wildlife Refuge" Presented by Heath Hamilton**, wildlife refuge specialist at Patoka National Wildlife Refuge.

Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.



**Tuesday, June 19, 6:00 pm. Spring Picnic at Shelter #1.**

Bring a covered dish per person, place setting, and drink. Following dinner, Tim Griffith, local birder, hike leader, and owner of Wildbirds Unlimited will present "A Birding Surprise" Annual meeting and election of officers will follow the program.

## Upcoming Field Trip

The January Field Trip will be January 21, 2012 at the Sauerheber Unit of the Sloughs WMA. It is located South and West of Henderson, Ky and Should take about 45 minutes to get there from Evansville. With a little luck, we can see 10's of thousands of geese including Canada geese, Snow geese, and White Fronted geese. Bald Eagles as well as numerous duck species are known to hang out there. We will meet at the Donut Bank on Hwy 41 and Lincoln Ave. at 8:00 a.m. and should return to Evansville between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. ....Jim Lodato

## ALL SEASON (NO MELT) SUET RECIPE

from former EAS member, Sue Hirshman



melt together  
1 cup crunchy peanut butter  
1 cup lard (can be labeled Manteca) Must be lard  
  
mix dry ingredients  
2 cups quick cook oatmeal  
1 cup white flour  
2 cups corn meal  
1/3 cup sugar

stir dry mixture Into peanut butter/lard mixture  
optional additions - seeds, raisins

freeze in whatever size container fits your suet feeders

Many birds like this. Sue put this near the house to discourage Starlings. I put the suet in a mesh (onion) bag before putting into the upside down feeder to discourage Starlings.

.Submitted by Carolyn Bennett

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: [brian.taylor@haubstadt.com](mailto:brian.taylor@haubstadt.com)



## Word Search: For the Birds

W	K	D	R	E	K	C	E	P	D	O	O	W	H
O	W	N	R	S	W	A	N	N	F	O	J	A	Y
R	A	O	U	I	G	M	I	N	G	I	V	M	T
C	H	E	R	L	B	T	B	N	O	U	N	U	I
P	T	G	E	R	R	K	I	U	L	C	R	C	M
E	E	I	O	A	A	M	C	T	D	K	L	O	H
L	E	P	M	S	A	P	U	A	E	G	C	A	U
I	K	O	W	L	T	R	S	Y	L	K	I	M	F
C	A	L	F	H	E	R	O	N	I	B	E	E	O
A	R	L	C	A	R	D	I	N	A	L	V	D	N
N	A	U	K	C	U	D	G	C	E	S	O	O	G
A	P	G	R	R	O	B	I	N	H	D	D	G	B
R	M	A	G	P	I	E	N	E	K	C	I	H	C
Y	N	E	W	R	E	N	T	O	R	R	A	P	I
E	R	S	D	D	R	A	V	E	N	A	N	Y	M

- |           |          |             |            |
|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|
| BLACKBIRD | EAGLE    | MARTIN      | ROBIN      |
| BUDGIE    | EMU      | MOCKINGBIRD | SEAGULL    |
| CANARY    | FALCON   | MYNA        | SPARROW    |
| CARDINAL  | FINCH    | OSTRICH     | SWAN       |
| CHICKEN   | FLAMINGO | OWL         | TURKEY     |
| CRANE     | GOOSE    | PARAKEET    | VULTURE    |
| CROW      | HAWK     | PARROT      | WOODPECKER |
| DODO      | HERON    | PELICAN     | WREN       |
| DOVE      | JAY      | PIGEON      |            |
| DUCK      | MAGPIE   | RAVEN       |            |

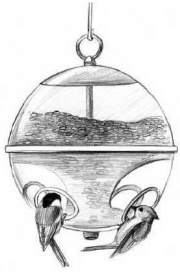


### EVANSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY ESCRIP PROGRAM

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

## Bird Feeding Myths Exposed.



With the first chill in the air after a hot and humid summer, thoughts of feeding the birds come to mind for all backyard bird lovers. We visit our favorite store and stock up on sunflower seeds, suet, and a host of other foods for a bird's dinner. As we engage in this ever growing hobby, we should all be aware of certain bird feeding myths that seem to linger year after year. Let us get to the truth of these myths, so we can all sleep at night knowing we have not harmed our fine feathered friends.

Myth #1- Once we start feeding the birds in the winter, we should not stop, even for a short period of time. If you forget to fill your feeder for a few days, birds remain hungry and don't forget to eat. They will simply find another source, such as your next door neighbor's feeder or the home a few blocks away. Birds will not remember to come back to your empty feeder. I hope you feel more at ease, but please continue to fill those feeders. The birds need your help during long hard winters.

Myth #2 will be exposed in our next newsletter.

Submitted by Chris Pace

Source: \* Feed The Birds" by Helen and Dick Witty

## “Conservation Matters”

by Sue Vernier, Conservation Chair

**Refuge News:** A beautiful crisp fall day greeted those who attended the October 1<sup>st</sup> Refuge Day event at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, a joint effort of Friends of the Refuge and Refuge staff. There were early morning birding hikes, a “Big Sit”, nature walk, children's activities, live raptor display, grilled hot dogs and bowls of chili to warm the insides. A highlight of the day were five circling Bald Eagles (mature and immature) with a flyby of an Osprey. If you missed it, don't worry, you will have another opportunity as future events at Patoka Refuge are being planned and all are invited!

**Take Action:** Also this fall, first-time visits to the Refuge were made by Senator Coats' and Congressman Bucshon's district directors. The aides were given a special tour of the Refuge by Bill McCoy, Refuge Manager, accompanied by Evansville Audubon and Friends of the Refuge members Richard and Sue Vernier. We hope we have conveyed what a special place the Refuge is to Southern Indiana and **now would be a good time for Audubon members to contact the local offices of Senators Lugar and Coats and Congressman Bucshon and ask for support for the Refuge!** President Obama's budget has \$900,000 earmarked from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for Refuge land acquisition--revenues that are already available since it comes from offshore oil and gas royalty payments--and we need Congressional support to keep it in the budget. Tell them what the Refuge means to you and ask them to support it with funding.....

[Contact information: Lugar – 812-465-6313;  
Coats – 812-465-6500; Bucshon - 812-465-6484]

## Field Trip- Hovey Lake FWA, Posey County

On October 15th, Bart Wilson led a group of kayakers/birders to Hovey Lake in Mt. Vernon, IN. We met at the USI parking lot at 7am and were joined by Dave Ellis from Brownsburg, IN, a member of the Hoosier Canoe Club, Kathy McClain from Jasper, IN, a member of Indiana Audubon Society, and three local kayakers from Evansville, Scott Gatton, Cathy Vowels, and Barbara Woodruff.

A beautiful morning presented itself, with sunny skies and not a cloud in the sky. It was a chilly 48 degrees when we started our paddle, but soon warmed up as we began our adventure. It was not long into our paddle, before we put our binoculars to good use. We began near the shore and were welcomed by yellow-bellied sapsuckers, red-headed and red-bellied woodpeckers. There were many dead trees which provided great habitat for these birds. Numerous tree swallows swarmed above us as they searched for insects on the wing. Soon, the swallows were flying within a few feet of our kayaks. Birding does not get much better than this.

Leaving the shore, cypress trees ahead of us stood stoically waiting for us to maneuver through them. I have kayaked Hovey Lake before, and finding your way through these trees is always the highlight of the paddle. As our search for birds continued, we were greeted by the ever present double-crested cormorants. They numbered in the thousands, and were quite enjoyable to watch either perched on the trees or on the water. Cormorants do not have water proof feathers, so they spend a majority of their time sun bathing. What an easy life!

Two hours have passed since we began, and the sun begins to warm the day as its reflection sparkles against the open water. If you have ever kayaked, the body begins to stiffen, especially for us middle-aged folk. We find dry land and while we stretch, an immature bald eagle makes his or her presence known to us with a low flight. We were fortunate enough to spot an adult later in the day.

Continuing on with our paddle and taking in the scenery, conversations between each other are frequent as we discuss such topics as birds, our work, and previous kayaking trips. Our boats and the water create a bond between strangers who just met not long ago. As we approach early afternoon, great blue Herons squawk at us as we enter their territory, and we eye a great egret in the far distance. I was surprised to read that in South America there is a recent demand for the great egret's feathers which could pose a new threat to them.

We have paddled over five miles, and our bodies tell us to refuel. We are having a difficult time finding a resting place, but Bart guides us to an old oil rig and we find just enough space to dock our boats and enjoy a quick bite to eat. As we are eating, a warbler dances among the trees, but does not sit still long enough for us to identify it.

Lunch has been consumed and we are on the back end of our trip. As we approach the dock, a pied-bill grebe dives under the water searching for lunch as well. Cormorants are still in abundance, and red-winged black-birds greet us with their familiar call. Other species seen throughout the day include the wood duck, turkey vulture, American coots, ring-billed gull, northern flicker, blue jay, American crow, and yellow-rumped warbler.

As Bart guides us safely back to our starting point (no one was swallowed by an Asian Carp), we have reached our journey's end. This journey has brought us closer to nature, while at the same time making new friends. Hovey Lake is a gem located right here in Southwest Indiana and should not be taken for granted. It is a wonderful place for both kayakers and birders alike.

Chris Pace  
Treasurer-Evansville Audubon Society

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

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**Evansville, IN**  
**Permit No. 1666**

President: Brian Taylor, (812) 480-0588, brian.taylor@haubstadt.com  
Newsletter Editor: Judi Russell, (812) 491-7256, therussells.golf@yahoo.com  
Visit our website at: 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

My check enclosed  
Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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