



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

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The Florida Scrub-Jay, a bird endemic to that state, is continuing to experience steady population declines despite decades of being listed as an endangered species, according to a new survey.

The 2010 report was based on surveys by 280 volunteers with the Jay Watch Program, run by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with Archbold Biological Station. It found that of 63 scrub-jay sites studied in the early 1990s, more than half had fewer jays in 2010 and 15 had none.

The scrub-jay's favored habitat of evergreen oak scrub, scattered throughout the Florida Peninsula, has proven ideal for agriculture and development. Combined with fire suppression, this has resulted in the loss of about 93% of the species' historic range.

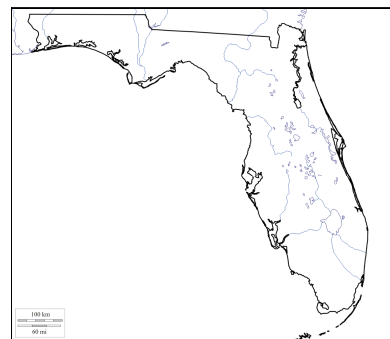
The Florida Scrub-Jay employs a cooperative breeding strategy, where birds typically mate for life and the offspring stay with parents as "helpers" until a mating opportunity opens up nearby. They are highly territorial, and typically will not travel more than five miles from where they hatched. Their territorial boundaries remain fairly stable from year to year. Unfortunately, this tendency toward site fidelity makes the species ill-adapted to search for new territories when faced with the loss and fragmentation of its habitat.



Florida Scrub-Jay Headed for Extinction? The Florida Scrub-Jay was designated as Threatened by FWS in 1987 due to this ongoing loss and degradation of its habitat. It is also classed as a Red List (Highest Concern) species on the U.S. WatchList. Because there can be a lag time of five to 15 years between actions such as controlled burns and the re-growth of ideal scrub-jay habitat, significant portions of potential jay habitat are still in poor condition, even at sites where appropriate habitat restoration actions have been taken.

"It is time that the Florida Scrub-Jay was uplisted from Threatened to Endangered. It is on a downward path, and unless we accelerate conservation for the species it could be headed for extinction," said ABC Vice President, Mike Parr.

Read the complete 2010 survey at www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/florida/jaywatch-report-2010.pdf



September strews the woodlot o'er

With many a brilliant color;

The world is brighter than before,

Why should our hearts be duller?
—Thomas W. Parsons (1819–92)



EAS MINUTES

June 21, 2011

Following a program by Larry Hazelwood titled "Remediation of Brine Damaged Soil", the meeting of EAS was called to order by President, Brian Taylor.

There were no additions or corrections to the April and May minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Brian read the treasurer's report in the absence of Chris Pace.
Checking balance \$3046.65
OVBF \$1903.02
Education and conservation \$179.74
Memorial fund \$470.00

Old Business- Brian announced that the field trip to Goose Pond on June 25th must be cancelled.

Judi Russell will continue as editor of the newsletter.

Both EAS and OVBF websites are now hosted for free thanks to myhosting.com.

Brian Taylor is investigating "Together Green" application submissions from Eagle Slough and Howell Wetlands.

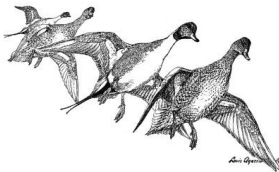
New Business- A request was made for storm damage clean up at North Woods on June 23rd from 6 to 8 A.M.

The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for 2011-2012:

President - Brian Taylor
V-President - Dick Vernier
Secretary - Sue Vernier
Treasurer - Chris Pace

Directors- Term ending 2014

Don Batema Carol Pettys Susan Haislip L.D. Hary



A request was made for article writers and photos for the newsletter and website. Send to Judi Russell or Brian Taylor.

Another request was that field trips be planned for the year and that a stipend be paid to the drivers either from the treasury or donations from the riders and thirdly try to avoid conflicts with recycle days.

Sightings - cormorants and flock of indigo buntings (where and by whom - Unknown. Secretary pro-tem dozing after the yummy indoor pot luck picnic dinner.)

Lois Schmidt

EAS MINUTES Planning Meeting August 24, 2011

After a delicious potluck, the meeting was called to order by Brian Taylor at 6:52PM. The June meeting minutes will be published in the next newsletter and approved at the September meeting.

Treasurer, Chris Pace, gave the 6/30/11 year-end balances: ET-FCU \$5; Bulk Mail \$55.89; CD \$4,740.01; Checking \$5,711.80 which included reserve funds of \$2,270.69 Edu/Cons.; \$179.74 eS-crypts; \$111.80 Refuge Grant; \$470 Grant/Goodaker Memorial. Audit Committee has approved the finances.

Sue Vernier presented the proposed budget for 2011/2012 year. She discussed the loss of income over the decade and steps that have been taken, including proposals in the present budget, to reduce the decline. After lengthy discussion, Steve Heeger made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Carolyn Bennett. Motion passed.

For additional savings, Bart Wilson made a motion to change the publication of the newsletter from six to four times a year. Jason Reffett seconded. Motion passed. A notice will be in the next newsletter encouraging people to switch to electronic copy to save printing/ mailing costs. Judi, Russell, Editor, suggested the email announcing the newsletter is available for viewing should provide a link to the PDF on the website. Judi announced a deadline of August 29 for the September issue. After more discussion it was decided that the other three issues will be Oct/Nov/Dec; Jan/Feb/Mar; and Apr/May/June.

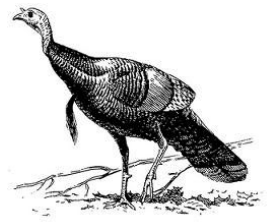
Under new business, Susan Haislip asked whether EAS had done strategic planning. Suggestions were made on how to appeal to more members to participate in programs and field trips, as well as ideas for more fund raising. Steve Heeger made a motion to appoint a committee consisting of Bart Wilson, Susan Haislip and Chris Pace to investigate. Susan Haislip seconded. Motion passed.

Lois Schmidt, Program Chair, read out a list of upcoming programs. She still needs speakers for October, March, May and June. Brian and others suggested possible speakers. Brian said that Steve Rose has made it his personal mission to get publicity for our programs and meetings in the newspaper.

Jim Lodato, Field Trip Chair, reported nine people were on the Falls of the Ohio trip. He distributed a list of upcoming field trips.

LD Harry, OVBF Chair, announced the next OVBF meeting is August 25, at 6PM at WWNP.

Bird sightings were shared. A wild turkey has been hanging out at WWNP; and before the meeting started, some of us saw a Kentucky Warbler at close range at the water feature. Bart Wilson had a "show and tell" bottle of white sand in salt water from Mobile Bay which had turned black, possibly the result of oil contamination or maybe just natural bacterial action. Meeting adjourned.



Sue Vernier, Secretary

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, September 20, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Speaker: Christian Frietag, Sycamore Conservancy
Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Program, TBA
Join us beforehand for dinner and camaraderie at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 pm, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, "Malaysia-2011" presented by Jessica Franck, 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.)



**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! Questions? contact Carol: pettys1234@aol.com or (812) 867-6231

Would you rather receive an email notice that the newsletter is available online and stop receiving a paper copy? This would help us cut down our mailing expenses! Contact Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net

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 or phone at (812) 626 0865 or (812) 484 9321

Judi Russell



From the Editor

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, September 17, Howell Wetlands and Burdette Park. Meet at Howell Wetlands at 8:00 am. Look for warblers, shore birds, and forest birds.

October, TBA

Saturday, November 19, Goose Pond, Linton, IN Meet at Buehler's Buy Low by 4H Center at 7:00 am Return around 1-2 pm. Hope to see sandhill cranes, waterfowl, and raptors.

December 17 – January 1: Christmas Bird Counts, Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, and Warrick counties

January: date TBA Look for eagles at Sauerheber



Bird migration is the one truly unifying natural phenomenon in the world, stitching the continents together in a way that even the great weather systems,

which roar out from the poles but fizzle at the equator, fail to do.

Scott Weidensaul, *Living in the Wind*, (1999)

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

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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 _____

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