



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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I question not if thrushes sing, then followed that beautiful season... Summer... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Conservation News:

Scott Weidensaul Schuylkill Haven, PA
(from the Internet)

One of the biggest conservation stories ever emerged last week, but received relatively little press here in the States. The premier of Ontario has pledged to set aside half of the province -- about 55 million acres, an area the size of the entire UK -- for permanent conservation, with requirements that industry work with First Nations and the government to craft sustainable development plans for the rest.

Given that the boreal forest is the great bird factory of North America, producing billions of migratory songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, this is arguably the single biggest win in history for bird conservation.

Anyone who enjoys the seasonal flow of warblers, thrushes, sparrows and other Neotropical songbirds passing through Pennsylvania - and I'm guessing that's all of us -- owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty for his visionary move, part of the larger Boreal

Forest Conservation Initiative, a collaboration of conservation groups, First Nations and industry which aims to protect at least half of the 1.4 billion-acre Canadian boreal forest.

"I don't know if you have ever heard the soft flutey song of a Swainson's Thrush, but try to imagine three million of them singing at once."

Here's how my good friend Jeff Wells of the Boreal Songbird Initiative put it on his blog (<http://www.borealbirds.org/blog/>) this week, sending his own thanks to McGuinty:

"I don't know if you have ever heard the soft flutey song of a Swainson's Thrush, but try to imagine three million of them singing at once. That's the sound emanating into the sky on a June morning from the number of Swainson's Thrushes that would be found in the 55 million acres of northern Ontario's Boreal that you have just announced will now be protected. Even better yet, imagine 4.5 million renditions of the "Oh-sweet-Canada-Canada-Canada" song of the White-throated Sparrow echoing across the Boreal."

As Jeff went on to point out, the land that Ontario will permanently protect from timbering and mining is home to 5 million juncos, 4 million magnolia warblers, 3 million palm warblers and 2 million Tennessee warblers, just to name a few species.

You can find a story from the Toronto Star about the land deal at <http://www.thestar.com/article/460305>. You can also read a piece I wrote in 2007 for The Nature Conservancy on the Boreal Forest Conservation Framework at <http://www.nature.org/magazine/summer2007/features/?src=m1>.

And finally, you can send a note of thank you to Premier McGuinty via BSI's website, <http://www.borealbirds.org/> -- something every American birder who reaps the benefits of the boreal forest should take a moment to do.

EAS MINUTES

May 20, 2008

Dick Vernier explained the creation of the CD *Caves: Life Beneath the Forest* prior to showing the program. There was a spirited question and answer followed.

USI's Dr. Rashid presented preliminary information for a grant proposal to the TogetherGreen initiative, *Runoff Pollution Reduction through Watershed Management and Planning*.

Steve Heeger, president, convened the board meeting at 9:00.

Treasurer Dick Vernier reported balances as of 04/30/08, 1 month's activity.

Income: company matches, \$127.00; dividend/interest, \$3.97.

Expenses: education, \$1,874.45; bulk mail, \$100.00; forever stamps, \$24.60.

Balances: checking \$2,868.80; reserved funds (national collaborative), \$1,600; six-month CD, \$4,476.23; bulk mail, \$170.58. Note: \$600 is yet to be spent on summer camp scholarships for education. Education receipts for year \$1,628; expenditures \$2,474.45.

Education Twelve children will receive summer camp scholarships; a donation covers excess over amounts approved. Delaware School sent a thank-you for our help with their Earth Day. Carol Pettys thanked Birding Festival helpers in the children's area. Hike leaders and all involved were also thanked.

Bird Count 147 species, 7,315 birds. (See details on page 5 of this newsletter.)

Field Trips Tuesday, June 3, 7 AM Eagle Slough.

Nominating Sue Vernier presented next year's slate and thanked those retiring.

New Business Susan Haslip requested EAS be the 501c(3) organization needed to start a Friends Group for Patoka NWR. Lois Schmidt moved to do so; Sue Vernier seconded, motion passed.

Bird Sightings. Aaron Chenoweth saw a group of Cedar Waxwings at the nature preserve. I couldn't keep up with the other reports.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45.
Carolyn Bennett, secretary

June 17, 2008

Following the Annual Spring Picnic, Lauren Preske, Howell Wetlands Manager and WNS raptor docent manager, presented a program on birds of prey with an up-close view of raptors. The annual board meeting and election of officers convened at

8:25 pm. The April and May minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Dick Vernier reported balances as of 06-17-08.

Income: interest \$3.50, Education Donation \$595.00, WBU seed sale \$187.00.

Expenses: WWNC Summer Camp Scholarships \$1195.00, WNS Bird Fest collaborative grant \$500.00, Newsletter printing (2 issues) \$160.00, Oakland City CBC fee \$40.00, Web Hosting renewal \$99.00

Balances: Checking \$3224.27, Reserved Funds \$1287.00 (collaborative and seed sale) Six mo CD \$4493.95, Bulk Mail \$118.41

Education Carol Pettys had pictures and thank you letters. Susan Haislip reported a phone call from a grateful mother about the scholarship.

Conservation Sue Vernier asked us to call or email Representative Ellsworth, and Senators Bayh and Lugar reminding them how important funding of the Patoka Wildlife Refuge is. Numbers and addresses will be posted on our website. Sue moved to renew our membership to the Hoosier Environmental Council for a cost of \$97.00. After discussion the motion passed.

Newsletter/ WebSite Judith Russell showed us a sample format of the next newsletter. She reported delays and problems with our current web host and requested changing to a new one. Sue Vernier moved to approve the \$99.00 with a second by Joyce Padfield. Motion passed.

Field Trips Susan Haislip reminded us of the trip on Saturday, June 21, to Cane Ridge and Gibson Power Plant, leaving from WWNP.

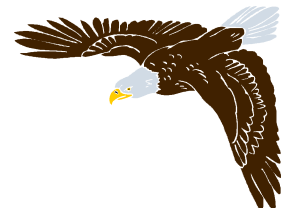
The Planning Meeting for the next season has been scheduled for August 10 at 3:00 pm at Virginia and Bill Simmons, followed by a yummy pitch-in dinner.

The nominating committee of Steve and Dolores Heeger, Richard and Sue Vernier and Carol Pettys presented the slate of officers and moved that they be approved by acclamation. Joyce Padfield seconded and the motion carried.

New Officers: President—Richard Vernier, Vice President—Lois Schmidt, Treasurer—Ted Hitch, Secretary—Carolyn Bennett, Directors, term ending 2011—Don Batema, Susan Haislip, Sarah Karges, Jim Lodata, one year term ending 2009—Aaron Chenowith

The producer and photographer who made the CD on caves of southern Indiana is now working on birds of southern Indiana. The Verniers and Susan Haislip have led him to some of our hotspots. The most exciting sighting was gray fox kits in the Hitches wildlife area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30
Lois Schmidt, secretary pro tem



Hello All,

Many of you will recognize my name as Treasurer from various years in the past. In June, I was elected to succeed Steve Heeger as Evansville Audubon Society President when he decided to retire from the position.

By way of introduction, I have been a member of the EAS since the late 1970's and have been a Director or Treasurer for many of those years. I am a retired product design engineer from the former Siemens Potter and Brumfield company in Princeton, Indiana and have had an interest in nature and the out-of-doors all of my life. Besides birding with my wife Sue, I also enjoy nature photography, caving, cycling, camping, hiking, and skiing.

Most recently, I have been serving as President of the Indiana Karst Conservancy, Inc., a statewide non-profit dedicated to preserving and studying the karst resources of the state (karst is a general term applied to a region underlain with soluble rock strata, including such features as springs, caves, sinkholes, etc.) After retiring from that position, I was asked to run for President of EAS and was elected at the annual business meeting.

My focus will be on conservation and it is my intent to keep our organization concentrated on education, as I believe that this is the best way we can contribute to that cause. To that end, we will continue our interesting and informative monthly programs, our newsletter, and our grants to students and schools to facilitate nature studies. We will also continue to address local and regional issues involving habitat, air quality, and species diversity. As well, along the way, we will promote the enjoyment of nature in general and birds in particular through many of our programs and field trips.

I would like to extend my thanks to Steve Heeger for his service and express my hope that I can do as well. I'm looking forward to working with everyone at Evansville Audubon in the future.

Richard Vernier

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 PM, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Introduction of Kim Meadors, new Executive Director of Wesselman Nature Society, followed by "Using Native Plants in Your Landscaping" by Tim Griffith. Dinner at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

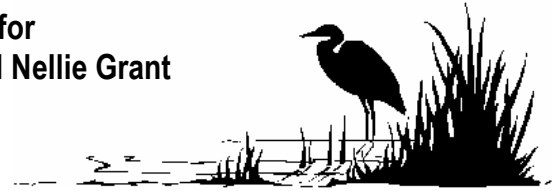
Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 PM, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. "Birds of Britain and Ireland" by Don Batema of University of Evansville. Dinner at 5:30 PM at the Eastland Mall Food Court.

Visit our Website at www.evvaudubon.org
Latest information regarding field trips, photos,
recent bird counts, etc.

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



Memorial for Glenn and Nellie Grant



The Evansville Audubon board is soliciting contributions for a memorial to Glenn and Nellie Grant. Ideas for a fitting memorial and contributions should be sent to the Treasurer, Ted Hitch, 8713 Camellia Dr., Evansville, IN 47711. Make checks payable to Evansville Audubon So. with a notation "Grant Memorial".

EAS Minutes– Planning Session

August 10, 2008

The new Board, officers and directors, met along with committee chairs at the home of member Virginia Simmons Sunday afternoon August 10. President Dick Vernier opened the meeting about 3 pm.

Sue Vernier presented the proposed budget along with explanations. Expenses exceed expected income.

Funds from National Audubon about cover newsletter expense. All funds in response to education letter go for education. NAS collaborative grants must be spent on the requested project. Sue moved, Steve Heeger seconded and the budget was adopted.

Discussions included the production of a quality newsletter economically, proposed programs and field trips.

Meeting adjourned around 5 and was followed by a potluck dinner. Carolyn Bennett, secretary



Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, October 4, 10AM (?) Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge Appreciation Day. Planned events include refuge tour, canoe trip, bird walk, food, music and socializing. Contact Sue Vernier, 812-385-5058, rsav1@juno.com for information

A word from the new Editor:

This is the first issue I have published as editor for the EAS newsletter. I welcome your comments on the new format and your suggestions for future issues. A big Thank You to Sharon Sorenson for all the hard work she did on past newsletters!

If there are topics you would like to see included or if you would like to submit an article, please contact me by email at therussells.golf@yahoo.com or by phone at 812 491 7256.

I welcome all comments, positive and negative!!

Evansville Audubon Society
Evansville, IN
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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

Name _____

My check enclosed

Checks payable to: National Audubon Society

Address _____

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

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