



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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Regular editor Judith Russell is recuperating from surgery. Filling in as editor is Richard Vernier. Get Well Soon Judi!

The 100 in January Contest!

We're introducing a new contest this year. The object is to identify as many bird species by sight or sound as you can in January. Prizes will be awarded to the first 5 people to reach 100 species, also most backyard species recorded, most species found in the fewest counties and most species found on January 1st.

Go to our website www.evvaudubon.org for details and information or contact Bob Meier BirderBob68@yahoo.com

Thank You!

As this new year begins, with all our cares and concerns for the future of our world and for the creatures that live in it and by so doing make it livable for us, we wish to thank those donors who make it possible for Evansville Audubon Society to, in its small way, help that future to be one of hope.

Lynn R. Hanganu
Juanita and James E. Lindsey
Sarah C. Karges
Dan Collins
Ronald M and Norma Jean Faust
Gregory G. Meyer
Arthur B. and Jonette Aarstad
Margaret W. Short
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Jimmy and Vivian Ruff
Patricia Goodaker
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Stephen and Margaret Rose
William and Kathleen Pierrot
Andrew and Martha Thieneman
Lois Rini
Terry and Nancy Gehlhausen
Marietta Smith
Alice Hertli
Allan Langen
Richard and Sue Vernier
Gregory Gordon
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Lee
Douglas and Emily Kirk
In Memory of Mariline Patterson (Anne Crafton and Chip and Craig Crafton)

Charles and Barbara Caper
Carol Pettys
Jeremy Efroymson
Kathryn Lynch

Thanks as well to all the volunteers who work in the background - our officers and directors, our committees and their leaders and those who just pitch in, set up chairs at meetings, make phone calls, run errands write letters, offer encouragement - often unrecognized and unthanked.

Evansville Audubon Society

As We Were: Evansville Audubon Society 1912 - 1913

The society was organized in the spring of 1912 by a few enthusiastic bird lovers. There were 41 charter members. The first meetings were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Clifford, 716 Upper First Street. That first year the local membership fee was \$.50, later reduced to \$.25. The first officers elected and continued in office for many years were:

President: Mr. George S. Clifford

Secretary: Miss Edith Trimble

Treasurer: Miss Nellie Wright

In the fall of 1912, Junior Audubon Societies were established. Miss Faddis, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and an ardent student of nature, did much to encourage the work. Miss Lida Edwards, a teacher at Wheeler School, also worked with the Junior Audubon Societies, helping to organize them in all the city schools. Being a teacher of first grade, she took her students on trips and wrote stories about what they had found. At one time she had a class of six-year-olds who could identify 105 wild flowers.

Mr. George S. Clifford was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the State Society to represent Southern Indiana. On May 1, 1913, the State Society held its annual meeting in Evansville. A program was presented at the Walnut Street Presbyterian Church. A special guest engaged for the occasion was Miss Harriet Audubon, a granddaughter of the famous naturalist, John James Audubon. She had spent much of her early life with her grandparents and was able to recount many interesting tales.

The day's activities included a trip to Henderson, KY to view the site of a mill built by John J. Audubon in 1817. The public was invited and a fee of \$.50 was charged for the excursion across the river on the "City of Evansville." The boat was well-filled. After paying the captain, there was a sizeable sum of money left over for the treasury. This event gave the Society a great deal of publicity and the membership grew.

(Paraphrased and edited by Jenny Medcraft, Historian, from reports written in 1945 by Mrs. Emily O. Clifford, Mr. J.L. Coopridge, Miss Lida Edwards and Miss Virginia Smith.)

{Jenny Medcraft was once Historian for Evansville Audubon Society. This task has passed down through numerous individuals through the years and the mantle will soon be assumed by volunteer Carolyn Bennett. As you can see we have a long and rich history..editor pro tem}

Field Trips

February 3: Sloughs – Sauerheber WMA (KY) (8am)

February 17: Cane Ridge (8am)

March 3: Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (7am)

Contact Bob Meier 812-449-3723, Birderbob68@yahoo.com for meeting locations and further information.



Upcoming Programs

Presented at Wesselman Woods
Nature Preserve: 7:00pm

January 16, 2018, Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan, Brad Feaster, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator

The Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is a guide and strategic vision for preserving the state's fish and wildlife resources. Brad will discuss SWAP, updates on DNR activities to address threats to wildlife resources, and provide information on opportunities that conservation partners (like EAS) have in collaborating (both with the DNR and with other partners) in conservation and outreach activities. This talk is designed to allow plenty of time for questions/discussion.

February 20, 2018, Hartman Arboretum and Plants That Attract Birds, Grant Hartman, curator of Hartman Arboretum
Hartman Arboretum, located on the west side of Evansville, was founded in 2001. The facility serves as an outdoor classroom and highlights the diversity of trees and shrubs of southwestern Indiana. Mr. Hartman will discuss the arboretum, its plant diversity, the adjoining gardens and meadows, and what plants in particular are beneficial and attractive for birds.



**ATTENTION SCHNUCKS
SHOPPERS!!**

Please support Evansville Audubon by shopping at a Schnucks grocery store. Just pick up a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card at the customer service desk and follow the directions on the card to register. Our group ID number is: 500023419

A percentage of your purchases at Schnucks will benefit the education funds of EAS. It's just that easy! Every time you shop at Schnucks, give the checker your eScrip card to scan. It won't cost you a thing! We thank Schnucks for donating over \$400 to our education funds via eScrip. This money is then used for various school environmental/conservation projects.

EAS Minutes 21 November 2017

President Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Minutes from the Oct. meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report :The following balances were reported:

Bulk Mail: \$57.63 CD \$4894.97 Savings:\$5.09

Checking w/o Reserves: \$3049.87 Checking w/ Reserves:\$4244.97

- Reserve Accts. Total: \$1195.10

- Reserve Accts. Balances

Educ. & Conser. Available: \$- 323.72 E-Scripts: \$529.99 OVBF: \$988.83

It was noted that we've received \$885 from 16 annual fund donations and \$1035 from National Audubon.

Field Trips: Bob Meier reported that 16 participated in the Goose Pond trip, and the next outing is the 9 Dec. Owl Prowl at the Somerville Mine.

Programs The Dec. meeting/movie night will feature "Everglades of the North, Great Kankakee Marsh". Volunteers are needed to bring popcorn, soda, etc.

Conservation: Sue V. noted that emails were sent regarding the Migratory Bird Treaty Amendment and Public comment regarding the EPA Repeal of Clean Power Plant Plan. Niles also reported that the ANWR drilling proposal is still unresolved.

Education: Our financial assistance with the wetlands dip nets was noted in a newspaper article. Don reported that two aid requests have been received, and Sue noted that we may be participating in the NAS Collaborative Grant which has a Dec. 11 deadline.

Jr. Birders: Jim Campbell reported 2 upcoming walks (Dec. 2 and 3) which are posted on both the Jr. Birder's and EAS websites.

Christmas Bird Counts: Scheduled are: Vanderburgh County 16 Dec. (Steve Heeger); W. Gibson County 17 Dec. (Dan Collins); Oakland City 30 Dec.(Heath Hamilton); Pike County 2 Jan.

Old Business: Annual Release of Liability forms should be completed. A Donation Request Letter was sent, and a Lapsed Membership notice is included in the newsletter.

New Business: Many thanks to: Carolyn Bennett, our new historian, and Steve Heeger who will coordinate our email list; Don Batema for donating a new EAS display to replace the water damaged display. We still need a Posey County Bird Count compiler, and volunteers are needed for the Spring Marsh Bird Survey. Contact is Ken Wilson (kwilson2@dnr.IN.gov) for the Marsh Bird Survey.

Items from the floor: Bob Meier described a possible contest for Jan. (recording as many species that you see or hear). He suggested an Indiana area within 100 miles of Evansville. Ideas of management, prizes etc. can be sent to Bob. Niles suggested that we might want to promote E-Scripts more in the newsletter.

Bird sightings included: Black and Surf Scoters and a Long-Tailed Duck.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson
Secretary

Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area Outing on December 2.

Due to a couple of cancellations, only Tora, Canaan, and their mother were able to join us for birding on a beautiful, late fall morning. We spent so much time enjoying the birds at our stops that we weren't able to do the whole planned loop but still managed to get most of the target species. At the first observation area we found several Ring-billed Gulls and even had a brief look at a stunning Bonaparte's Gull as it flew off. While there we also saw several Killdeers and a few Pied-billed Grebes.

On the way to the next area we stopped by the huge eagle nest and had fantastic scope views of two adult Bald Eagles with their white heads glistening in the morning sunlight. Then we went to another place where we could view the lake and found a Common Loon, a few Gadwall ducks, several Greater White-fronted Geese, two Snow Geese, and two unexpected Canvasback ducks.

Although we didn't spend much time on other types of birds, we did have good looks at a Downy Woodpecker, a Song Sparrow, and a Swamp Sparrow. All in all it was a fine morning for birding.

Jim Campbell



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

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President: Sue Vernier, (812) 385-5058, rsavcaver2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Judi Russell, (812) 626-0865, jrussell@usa.com
Visit our website at: 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. **Current members** should renew with National Audubon Society. **Chapter Code C9ZH030Z**

\$20: 1 year introductory rate

\$15: 1 year Student/ Senior (62 and over) rate

\$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville, IN 47714

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My check enclosed

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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