



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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GREAT LAKES PIPING PLOVERS HAVE A RECORD-BREAKING BREEDING SEASON

The Great Lakes population of Piping Plovers, an endangered shorebird that nests along the coastline of all five Great Lakes, had a 2022 breeding season for the record books. Piping Plover recovery partners are celebrating as the summer season came to a close and their efforts saw a big difference for these little birds. In 2022, 150 chicks fledged in the wild—from 72 breeding pairs—the greatest number of chicks fledged since the population was listed as federally endangered in 1986!

After a spectacular 2022 season, the plover recovery partners are looking forward to the hopeful return of even more breeding adults next year. Despite the steady increase in pairs since the listing, the population is only about halfway to the recovery goal of 150 breeding pairs. With the largest fledgling cohort ever and the continued dedication of hundreds of partners and volunteers, the future is looking brighter for the Great Lakes Piping Plovers. Audubon Great Lakes and the recovery team are hopeful for a restful winter and successful fall migration and cannot wait to welcome them back to the Great Lakes beaches next spring!

To learn more about Audubon Great Lakes and their "Vision for Restoring the Great Lakes", which make the recovery of the Piping Plover possible, join Evansville Audubon during our online Zoom program January 17, 2023, at 6 PM central time.

MORE EXCITING NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

National Audubon has officially launched the Bird Migration Explorer to the public at: birdmigrationexplorer.org.

The Bird Migration Explorer will be the first-of-its-kind interactive, free digital platform to combine multiple types of migration and conservation data for hundreds of species of migratory birds mapped at a hemispheric and local level. It reveals insights about the journeys of individual species, the connectedness, through migratory birds, of any given location in the hemisphere, and also details how migratory birds encounter 19 different conservation challenges.

The Bird Migration Explorer can also show when each of these species passes through a location, and the extent to which each of those species overlaps with any number of conservation challenges such as light pollution or power lines along their journeys. More generally, a user can see how countries in the Americas all are connected to each other by migratory birds, underscoring the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in the research and conservation of these species.

This is just the start of Explorer, as more data will be added and updated.

PROGRAMS

Programs will be the third Tuesday of **every other month beginning in September, 2022**, at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. NOTE: Any last minute changes will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

Nov. 15, 2022 -- "Restoring Wetlands Along the Lower Wabash River" presented by Carrie Parmenter, Lower Wabash Project Director, The Nature Conservancy.

Jan. 17, 2023 -- "A Vision for Restoring the Great Lakes" will be presented by Daniel Suarez, Audubon Great Lakes. **ZOOM only meeting.**

March 21, 2023 -- "Mesker Park Zoo: Helping to Bring the Eastern Hellbender Back From the Brink of Extinction in Indiana" presented by Leigh Ramon, Animal Curator, Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden.

Evansville Audubon Society Education & Conservation Grants Are Available

Evansville Audubon Society is now accepting applications for their education and conservation grants! We are offering small grants (generally \$250 to \$500) for individual or group projects that are either educational in nature or support a conservation need and include an emphasis on the environment.

Applications should include:

- * A brief description of the project
- * Items/activities to be accomplished by the project
- * Budget amount to meet the goal
- * Timeline for completion of the project

If you have an education or conservation project in mind for which a small grant would be beneficial; or you know of an organization or individual in need of a grant, simply send the information to our education and conservation grants chair, Jim Lodato, jclodato@yahoo.com. All grant requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all funds available are expended.

Projects that we've funded in the past include: Talon Trust; Howell Wetlands prairie restoration; Tekoppel 2nd grade classroom bird watching project; "Sponsor a Preserve" project at Eagle Slough; Ohio Valley Birding Festival and education outreach to schools, scouts, community groups, and more.

Audubon's 123rd Christmas Bird Count

It's not too late to volunteer for the annual Christmas Bird Count in December! The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a free community science project organized by the National Audubon Society. Counts are open to birders of all skill levels. To learn more about participating, go to the National Audubon site, <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>

Or to sign up directly for the Vanderburgh, Warrick, and Posey County counts, contacts are:

Vanderburgh County: Jacob Scheller, jrscheller85@gmail.com CBC Date Dec. 18, 2022

Warrick County: Jacob Scheller, jrscheller85@gmail.com CBC Date TBD

Posey County: Jared Emmack, jemmack@dnr.in.gov, 219-869-1492 CBC Date Jan. 1, 2023

Going Green? Online Newsletter!

Help Evansville Audubon save postage and paper (trees) and send an email request to Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net and ask to begin receiving your newsletter electronically. If you have already been using this option and have recently changed your email address, please send your new address to Steve.

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes September 20, 2022

meeting by Zoom and in person

Program: at 6:15 PM – “What's New at Eagle Slough and Columbia Mine Preserve” by Sycamore Land Trust, Susan Haislip Daleke, Administrative Director. **Special Guest:** 6:00 PM Nicholas Braeman told us about his Eagle Scout project for the fishing line receptacles at Blue Grass. Jim Campbell has checked them three times, they are being used.

Business Meeting convened at 7:15, quorum present

Minutes: approved as distributed by email

Treasurer's report: Proposed budget for 2022-2023: emailed to the Board, \$ 686 in the red, which is sustainable for now, but long term we need to make changes. The largest expense is printing and mailing the newsletter (\$892) and we need to consider converting to email distribution, which other chapters have done, with hard copy offered to only those who specifically request. Approved as distributed. Donation appeal letter: will go out in October. There was discussion and request for suggestions on its content and on new individuals and businesses we could be sent to. Treasurer Report: emailed to the Board, Checking Account Balance \$1355.77, Bulk Mail \$130.18 , CD \$4180.42, Checking w/o reserves \$1034.93, Reserve Accounts 320.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$40.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), paid \$300 to Susan Fowler for additional programs and \$22 IN Business Entity fee and received \$70 donation.

Field Trips: Sept. 23 at Burdette Park at 5 pm, 13 people. 37 species, Sept. 30 at Howell Wetlands at 5pm, Oct. 8 at Howell wetlands 8am, Goose Pond FWA- Oct. 29 at 6:15am, Bob Meier- Field Trip Chair Birderbob68@yahoo.com

Programs: November 15 th “Restoring Wetlands Along the Lower Wabash River” by Carrie Parmenter, Lower Wabash Project Director, The Nature Conservancy

Junior Birders: Oct. 8 at Howell Wetlands, 8am

Conservation: Sue Vernier reported sending a letter to the IDNR on behalf of EAS and at the request of the Nature Center in support of the Nature Center's efforts to acquire the 41 acres just south of the nature preserve from the U of E. Our letter will be helpful to show local support. Niles reported that the recreational development in Wesselman Park has been scaled back, no tennis stadium, new road, or parking lot, no trees removed only the pickleball courts in the open field remain in the plan. Much discussion on using the nearby open ground (par 3 golf course, “Roberts Park”) for pickleball to avoid congestion within the Park. Niles gave a brief update on CenterPoint's “Integrated Resource Plan” that had its first session in August.

Education & Conservation Grants: We still have a commitment to Tekoppel School for \$ 400 (\$400 already paid) to be paid when funds are available from the new appeal. A final report was received from Susan Fowler on her activities supported by last year's grant. Paid \$300 to Susan Fowler (see above)

Events: Amanda Joest has volunteered to chair a new Events committee. Amanda has already been doing events, such as Party for the Planet at the Zoo and a Girl Scout Unleash Strong event at Camp Carson. Volunteers needed for the committee.

Old Business: none

New Business: We received a request from Elizabeth Sankovitch “we have asked mourners to make donations to the Evansville Audubon Society in memory of my Dad R. Jack Lewis, Jr. My siblings and I would like to use the donations for a special bird project (to be determined in November) with a memorial plaque in Dad's memory. Once we know the total of the donations, we can meet with you to brainstorm ideas. Dad loved feeding his birds and watching the hawks and eagle soar over his home“ Ms. Sankovitch had met some of us when a rare spotted tohee appeared at her feeder and some of us remembered Mr. Lewis attending field trips. Jim Lodato has been working with Seton Harvest to develop a bluebird trail. They have between 20 and 30 acres of land on the far westside, in woods and organic farm production. Jim sees it as an ideal place for a bluebird trail and they are on board. Motion approved to provide \$100 for the project.

Items from the floor: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

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

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** may renew directly with National Audubon Society at www.audubon.org

Chapter Code C9ZH030Z

\$20 minimum membership includes one year of the award winning Audubon magazine

My check enclosed made payable to:
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Mail to: Sue Vernier, EAS Treasurer
580 N 350 E
Princeton, IN 47670

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