



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



Inside This Issue:

Page 3

*May & June, 2018
Minutes*

Page 4

*The New Audubon Bird
Guide App*

LWCF Call to Action

Page 5

2018-2019 Programs

New Newsletter Editor

As I step into the role of EAS Newsletter Editor, I would like to thank Sue and the Board Members for their help and guidance.

Sharing news and information about birds, birding, and backyard wildlife is something I have become passionate about as head of Customer Service for JCs Wildlife for the past 6 years.

I look forward to gaining and sharing knowledge in this position, and to serving the Audubon Society and our feathered friends!

Amanda Joest, Editor

Barn Owls Occupy (Briefly!) a Barn Owl Box at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

Evansville Audubon members may remember that their donations helped pay for the purchase of two Barn Owl structures mounted on poles in the grassland of Columbia Mine Preserve at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. This past June, my husband and I were privileged to witness the transfer of two young Barn Owls to one of those structures!



Barn Owl "hacking" at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge with Talon Trust

On June 21, Talon Trust's Lauren Norvell (another recipient of Evansville Audubon grants) brought two young Barn Owls to the Refuge for a hacking release. The two had been rescued from a barn in southern Indiana (the parent had been found dead); one of the owls had literally been rescued from a black rat snake attempting to make a snack of it. We followed Lauren, her volunteers, and the Refuge staff to the chosen release site and

Continued Page 2

Barn Owls at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (Cont'd)

watched the show. The owls were feisty and vocal as they were carefully placed in the high box with some frozen mice snacks. The plan – if the owls cooperated – was to have the Refuge's intern place mice in the box on a daily basis until the owls took flight. Lauren estimated it could be a couple of days or nearly a week.

As it turned out, they were gone within 24 hours. We wish them well, the Columbia Mine Preserve grassland habitat is an ideal hunting area. Barn Owls widely disperse after they leave the nest, but a few overwinter in Indiana. If you happen to be in the area some evening, keep your eyes, and ears, open for a rare glimpse of a state-endangered species.

We can also report good news with another Evansville Audubon grant supported project. The Jr. Birders built and placed several American Kestrel nest boxes at Bluegrass FWA a couple of years ago. One of the boxes had five Kestrels fledged this summer!



Evansville Audubon Society Junior Birders successfully fledged American Kestrels with a nest box.

I trust this inspires you to make your contributions to Evansville Audubon when you receive your donation request letter in the mail in a few weeks.

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird!

Sue Vernier, President

EAS Minutes 15 May, 2018

President Vernier called the meeting to order. Jim Campbell moved and Steve Heeger seconded that the April minutes be approved, Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The following balances were reported.

Bulk Mail: \$ 130.02	CD: \$ 4909.56	Savings: \$ 5.09
Checking w/o Reserves: \$ 1901.52	Checking w/ Reserves: \$ 2809.95	
-Reserve Accts. Total \$ 908.43		
-Reserve Accts. Balances:		
Educ.&Cons. Available: \$-293.73	E-Scripts: \$721.84	OVBF: \$477.69

NAS Whooping Crane Grant: \$ 2.63 OVBF expenses (\$129.48) have been paid and we received a net of \$ 80.52 .

Field Trips: There will be a 2 June Harmonie State Park trip. Anyone interested should meet at the boat ramp at 7:15 a.m. The recent Blue Grass trip had good results for its 15 participants.

Programs: The 19 June meeting will be our annual, informal pot luck and election. Members were asked to bring a dish to share.

Conservation: The Board was alerted to the Dept. of the Interior's proposed auction of Arctic Refuge drilling leases, and all are encouraged to send comments during the 90 day comment period.

Education: Andrew reported that he will attend the upcoming Tekoppel presentation. EAS has not yet received any request from Patchwork.

Jr. Birders: Jim Campbell reported that the Jr. Birders (4 adults and 2 youngsters) met at Eagle Slough.

OVBF: The 5 May event had 5 children and 10 adults with minimal songbird success, possibly due to the 3:00 p.m. time slot. Don B. reported that there's a Blue Grass Kestrel chick photo posted. There have been 5 fledglings and one box used by Tree Swallows. LD has indicated he will organize for next year's events. It was noted that the Davies Co. Aud. Society was pleased with EAS participation and inquired how they, too, might participate. Maryann moved and Don seconded that we approve their participation. Motion carried.

Bird Counts: Steve Heeger reported that the 12 May event was good. 155 species were noted on the Big Day—a new record ! Don suggested that we consider joining the Davies Co. team, too.

Old Business: Sue reported that 3 officer positions have been filed: Pres.(Sue) V-Pres.(Don) and Treas. (Niles). Solicitations for Sec and Directors have been successful.

New Business: Amanda Joest has volunteered to produce the newsletter. Volunteers are needed for the Playscape Event on the 26th of May

Items from the Floor: Recent bird sightings include: Indigo buntings; a Red Shouldered Hawk nest with chick; 9 Cattle Egrets. The meeting was then adjourned for Lisa Hoffman's butterfly program.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson
Secretary

EAS Minutes 19 June, 2018

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m. following our pitch-in dinner.

The main item of business was the election of officers and directors. The Nominating Committee presented the following:

Board: Sue Vernier - President	Don Batema - Vice Pres
Niles Rosenquist - Treasurer	Carolyn Egan - Secretary

Director (Term ending 2019) Maryann Watson

Directors (Term ending 2021) Jim Kimsey, Richard Vernier, Mary Jo Campbell, Steve Heeger

All nominations were approved. Pam Kimsey and Maryann Watson volunteered for the Treasurer's audit, which will be done after the 30th of June.

Treasurer's Report: Niles reported the following balances:

Bulk Mail: \$ 88.31	CD: \$ 4912.89	Savings: \$ 5.09
Checking w/o Reserves: \$ 1,809.14	Checking w/ Reserves: \$ 2,477.53	
-Reserve Accts. Total \$ 668.39		
-Reserve Accts. Balances:		
Educ.&Cons. Available: \$- 31.93	E-Scripts: \$ 0	OVBF: \$697.69

Whooping Crane Grant: \$ 2.63

The Tekopple grant (501.89) has been paid.

We were informed of the new rest room at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge's Snaky Point area.

No other business was conducted. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson
Secretary



**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.

New and Completely Redesigned: The Audubon Bird Guide App

The new [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) is here! You can now use the app to stay up to date on Audubon news, read about our conservation wins, and take action on behalf of the birds we all love. For example, you can tap the "My Audubon" icon in the lower right corner of the app, scroll down to the "Take Action" section, and tap "Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

This also includes the bird guide app similar to I-Bird and you can go to the explore portion that has link to E-bird sightings and hot spots in your area. Enjoy.

Sue Vernier, President
Evansville Audubon Society

Take Action- Save Land and Water Conservation Fund

One of the most important land acquisition tools for National Wildlife Refugees, National Parks and Forests is at risk. Authorization for this vital and bi-partisan program expires September 30, unless Congress re-authorizes it.

The LWCF is an essential tool for securing vital public land habitats. Funding consists of proceeds from offshore oil and gas royalties. The LWCF mitigates extraction of mineral resources with natural resource protection for state and federal land, both by purchase of land and conservation easements. All this and it doesn't use your tax dollars!

Please take action and urge Congress to re-authorize LWCF before September 30 and to support bills S.569/HR 502 to permanently authorize and fully fund the LWCF. Call the Congressional switchboard 202-224-3121 and ask for your lawmaker by name and leave a message, or contact Representative Bucshon and senators Donnelly and Young directly.

Sue Vernier, President

LIKE THE MARINES, EVANSVILLE AUDUBON IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN & WOMEN...

Evansville Audubon Society can always use a few new board members! One of our Directors is moving to Michigan (she will be missed) and another Director has expressed a desire to take a break. Are you interested in devoting an hour of your time each month? The only requirement for Director is to attend at least 50% of our monthly meetings, which are the third Tuesday of each month from September through June (we are on break July and August). We meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve at 6 PM for an hour. If you have any interest in volunteering, please contact me at rsavcaver2@gmail.com or call 812-385-5058.

2018-2019 EAS Programs

Our speaker for September 18, 2018, will be Heather Zenglar. During her talk, "Are you Helping or Hurting Our Feathered Friends?", learn about invasive plants and how they affect birds and their habitats. Also, learn about native alternatives that can be more beneficial to wildlife.

Heather is the Invasive Species Technician for the Vanderburgh Soil and Water Conservation District.

The following table includes speakers planned for the 2018-2019 EAS Programs:

Date	Speaker	Title and Description of Presentation
October 16, 2018	Leigh Ramon Assistant Animal Curator Mesker Park Zoo & Botanical Garden	"Indiana's Endangered Hellbender" Leigh's talk will focus on what a hellbender is, why they are in trouble, and what YOU can do to help.
November 20, 2018	Levy Schroeder Executive Director Wesselman Nature Society	"The Role of Wesselman Nature Society in Connecting People with Nature" Levy will discuss various activities that allow the WNS to connect people with nature and will include current and future projects.
December 18, 2018	Julia Loehr Patoka River Watershed Coordinator Gibson and Pike Soil and Water Conservation District	"Mammals of the Patoka River NWR" As coordinator of the Patoka River Watershed, Julia has gained a great deal of experience with wildlife and habitat in Gibson and Pike Counties. She will share her expertise on the mammals of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge
January 15, 2019	NONE	Movie Night
February 19, 2019	Sharon Sorenson Birding Club of Evansville, Author, and Conservationist	"How your Yard Can Mean Life or Death for Migrants" Sharon's talk will focus on the importance of native plants in your yard on how your plantings assist in the survival of migrating birds. This talk will be based on her new book "Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard". The book will be available for purchase.
March 19, 2019	Amy Kearns Assistant Nongame Bird Biologist Indiana DNR	"Barn Owls in Indiana" Amy will talk about the Indiana DNR's 35 year old barn nest box program, including the most recent results from the 2017 nesting program
April 16, 2019		
May 21, 2019	Dr. Eric McCloud Associate Professor University of Southern Indiana	"Damned if You Do and Damned if You Don't: Migratory Birds and Climate Change" Dr. McCloud will address how climate change can cause migratory birds to lose synchrony with their breeding food supplies and whether affected species can evolve to avoid trouble given the rapid pace of climate change.

Evansville Audubon Society
Evansville, IN
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Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
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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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