



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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Evansville Audubon now has a Facebook Page!

You can find us by searching "Evansville Audubon Society" or by the following address:

www.facebook.com/evvaudubon

Please Like our page. We will be sharing news about the chapter and all our events.

EAS Newsletter Editor Judith Russell Retiring!

Long time EAS newsletter editor Judith Russell has informed us that she must retire. Judi says that she has enjoyed doing the newsletter these many years but must now give it up. We will miss her very professional work and the energy and style she brought to this publication. If you should see Judi please join us in expressing our gratitude for her service! We can report that a new editor will be in place by September.



The National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, along with many local organizations like the Evansville Audubon Society are joining in a yearlong celebration of birds. Throughout the year we will be celebrating birds while raising awareness about their troubles.

Evansville Audubon Society will do our part by monthly programs along with content in this newsletter and on our website, evvaudubon.org. Additionally, you can find out what our national partners at National Audubon, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab will be doing by visiting their websites.

The call to action in April emphasized the importance of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and recent threats to its continuing implementation to help migrating birds in the US, Mexico, and Canada. One hundred years ago, our country's most important bird protection law was signed. Since then, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has saved countless birds' lives from human threats. Back then, hunters and poachers were the biggest concerns. Now, industrial hazards such as oil pits and power lines endanger birds daily. Thanks to the MBTA, industries had to work to prevent bird deaths caused by their activities and equipment.

Despite all of the MBTA's success, though, the Trump Administration and some in Congress are trying to weaken the law by giving a free pass to industries. From nefarious language in congressional bills to a damaging new interpretation of the Act, the MBTA is under attack. Under Trump's new directive the MBTA will no longer be applied to such events as the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill that destroyed or injured up to a million birds.

So, as migrants return to your yard this spring, don't just help them with bird seed and water. Speak up for the birds by showing your support for a strong Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as check out all of the Year of the Bird Monthly Calls to Action link found under News and Events on our website, evvaudubon.org.

Sue Vernier, President

Upcoming Field Trips:

June 2, 2018, Harmonie State Park, Meet at old west-side Walmart parking lot at 6:30 am, leave at 6:45 am. 3-4 hours. John Meridig will lead.

Field trip chair is Bob Meier, if you have any questions about any EAS field trips, please contact him at birderbob68@yahoo.com or 812-449-3723.

EAS Minutes 17 April, 2018

Vice-Pres. Don Batema called the meeting to order with a quorum present. Jim Campbell moved and Steve Heeger seconded that the March minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Niles Rosenquist reported the following:
Bulk Mail: \$130.02 CD: \$4907.14 Savings: \$5.09 Checking w/o Reserves: \$2111.39 Checking w/Reserves: \$2872.34 Reserve Accts. Total \$760.95 Reserve Accts. Balances: Educ.& Cons. Available: \$ -318.73 E-Scripts: \$679.88 OVBf:

\$319.17 NAS Whooping Crane Grant: \$2.63

Field Trips: Current schedule will closely follow the OVBf's.

April Howell trip was rained out and has been rescheduled for the first weekend in May.

Programs: Butterfly program with Lisa Hoffman will be in May.

Conservation: Sue Vernier has forwarded an article about the Migratory Bird issue to Judy.

Education: There was no report. No Tekoppel billing received yet.

OVBf: The schedule has been set, with many programs at J.J. Audubon State Park.

Old Business: Maryann reported on progress to fill nominations. There is still no one to fill the Secretary position. At least 2 other board positions need candidates. Carolyn Bennett announced she will serve out her term and will maintain the historical records. Steve Heeger continues to look for Vanderburgh County and yard counters for the 12 May count.

New Business: Newsletter deadline is 26 April. Earth Day will be celebrated 21 April. Bill McCoy will retire from PRNWR on that day also.

Items from the Floor: Recent bird sightings included: Chipping Sparrows and Orchard Oriole. The meeting was then adjourned for Dr. Alex Champagne's program: The Physiology of Bird Migration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nomination Committee of Maryann Watson, Sue Vernier, and Richard Vernier present the following slate of candidates for the annual June election of officers and directors:

Officers:

Sue Vernier - President

Vice-President - Don Batema

Treasurer - Niles Rosenquist

Secretary -

Replacement Director, term ending 2019:

Maryann Watson (replacing Brannndon Castellano)

New Directors, term ending 2021:

Mary Jo Campbell

Steve Heeger

Jim Kimsey

Richard Vernier



Upcoming Programs

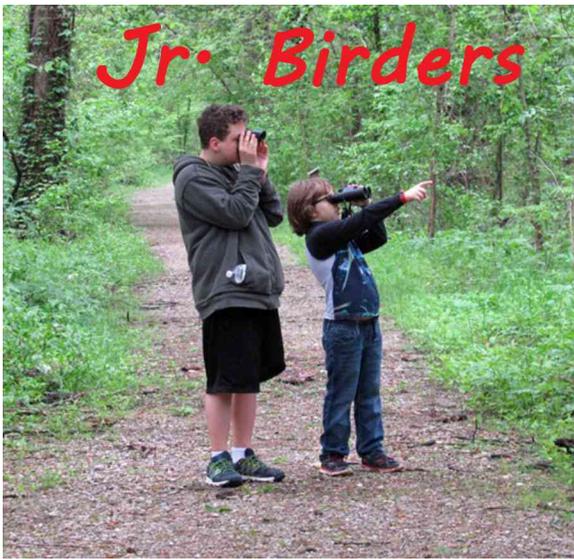
Presented at Wesselman Woods
Nature Preserve: 7:00pm

May 15, 2018, Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden

Landscape Lisa Hoffman Parks Programs Services Supervisor
John James Audubon State Park - Join Lisa Hoffman, Master Naturalist and Parks Programs Services Supervisor at Audubon State Park, for an informative presentation about butterflies. She will share some butterfly basics with us, including the roles butterflies play, and highlight threats to their existence. A look at some of our local butterflies will be included, as well as tips and information to consider when attracting butterflies to your garden sanctuaries.

June 19, 2018, Annual Meeting and Potluck

Join us at 6 PM (note time change) for election of new officers and directors followed by an indoor picnic potluck. Bring your own table service, drink of choice and a dish to share! Invite your friends and family to share good food and birding stories. (There will be no formal board meeting or program.)



Thanks to all the Jr. Birders, parents, and newcomers who joined us at Audubon State Park for a day of fun activities.

Tora and Canaan had a brief walk in the morning before the bird banding session. Although we didn't go far, we were able to see some nice birds around the parking lot at the museum. These included Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, Black-throated Green Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Several Jr. Birders and festival participants then got some hands on experience with banding and releasing birds. Several birds were banded, including Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Red-winged Blackbirds, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and American Goldfinch.

After banding, some folks continued to enjoy festival activities like the live raptor show put on by the Talon Trust, a lecture by Sharon Sorenson on the common owls that occur in our area, or dissected owl pellets.

At 3 pm the Jr. Birders gathered again for a walk down warbler road. It was great to have families from as far away as Lexington, KY, join us on our hike. We were able to see some of the same birds that Tora and Canaan saw

earlier in the day, but also added some species. Several people were able to get good views of the Scarlet Tanager. Other birds we saw were Turkey Vultures, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Northern Cardinal, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

To celebrate the Global Big Day on Saturday, May 5, 2018, the Jr. Birders had an outing to Eagle Slough. Despite the overcast skies the half mile hike from the parking lot to the observation deck was a huge success. The Jr. Birders officially recorded 55 species of birds that included many migrants, especially rich with warblers.

Of the species seen, several offered very good looks by the group including; bald eagle, a day roosting common nighthawk, blue-gray gnatcatcher, prothonotary warbler, common yellowthroat, hooded warbler, northern parula, American redstart, magnolia warbler, yellow warbler, palm warbler, and copious numbers of brown-headed cowbirds.

The Jr. Birders (and their parents) enjoyed a great outing and Evan received his Jr. Birder Eagle Optics t-shirt.

Jr. Birders also have great news to share about the American Kestrel nest boxes they built and placed at Bluegrass FWA a couple of years ago. One of the boxes has a clutch of 5 kestrel eggs!

We wish all of the Jr. Birders a good summer. The next outing will be in September – *Jim and Mary Jo Campbell*

National Audubon Renewal Notices, and Email Notices

The system that National Audubon uses to manage subscriptions is sending out notices that it's time to renew one's membership, when in actuality it might not be nearing that time. It's not uncommon for members to respond to these frequent reminders and end up paying for several years into the future. (We are working with National Audubon to try and address this situation.) Each member's actual expiration date is printed on the mailing label on the Evansville Audubon newsletter, so you can check your actual expiration date and ignore these early renewal reminders. If you have any question on your expiration date, you can contact Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net or 812-499-0177.

Also, if you are not receiving the email notices on upcoming events and announcements, and would like to, or you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please use the above contact information.

Steve Heeger, Membership Chair

Evansville Audubon Society
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Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
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Evansville, IN 47711

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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

Name _____

My check enclosed

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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City _____ State _____

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

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