



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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We Did It! The EPA Restores Clean Water Act Protections for Important Wetlands Along the Mississippi River

National Audubon recently announced that the EPA has restored the veto of the Yazoo Pumps, effectively halting the destructive agricultural drainage project. Once again, tens of thousands of acres of Mississippi Flyway wetlands are protected—some of our nation's richest habitats that support over 450 species of birds, fish, and wildlife, and are used by more than 28 million migrating birds each year.

Recognizing the hemispheric significance of this area, the National Audubon Society, along with hundreds of other conservation and social justice organizations, science professionals, and members of the public have long opposed the Yazoo Pumps proposal.

In January, National Audubon and several conservation partners filed a lawsuit challenging the previous administration's unprecedented revival of the harmful Yazoo Pumps and to ensure the EPA would uphold science and the law. The EPA's announcement to reinstate the veto of the Yazoo Pumps project was made in response to this legal challenge.

We are grateful for our members support to help secure a better future for birds and people in the Mississippi Flyway!



THANK YOU! To the following members and supporters who have responded to our annual donation appeal. Your response ensures our continued outreach to the community with our education and conservation projects.

Grant Hartman	Laurel Vaughn	Lois Rini	Vivian Ruff	Katherine Bell
Steve Heeger	Jim & Mary Jo Campbell	LD Harry	Phil & Pat Copp	James & Pamela Kimsey
Bill Vieth	Nancy Gehlhausen	Al Langen	Mike Lodato	Niles Rosenquist
Todd Reller	Charlie Carper	Jan Schrader	Jamia Dixon	Jeffrey Schaperjohn
Gail Heppner	Richard & Sue Vernier	Douglas Kirk	James Lodato	Kate Lynch
Carol Pettys				

If you have not yet contributed, it's never too late. Just mail your donation to Evansville Audubon Society, c/o Richard Vernier, Treasurer, 580 N 350 E, Princeton, IN 47670.

PROGRAMS

Programs are the third Tuesday of each month at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. Masks are required when entering the building.

NOTE: Our January program will be online only via Zoom. Our February program will return to being in-person at Wesselman. Any last minute changes to this schedule will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

Jan. 18, 2022 - "The Surprising Tales of Indiana's Changing Energy Utility Landscape", presented by Matt Skuya-Boss, Sierra Club.

Feb. 15, 2022 - "Songbird Conservation from a Forester's Perspective", presented by Allen Purcell, Director of Forest Conservation for The Nature Conservancy. A small but growing number of foresters believe that forest management and bird conservation could be better integrated. There is little doubt that eastern hardwood forests will be different in the future than they are now. As these forests continue to change over the next half century, we need to think clearly about what these changes might mean for bird conservation. This presentation will explore those possibilities.

SAVE THESE DATES

The Ohio Valley Birding Festival is tentatively scheduled April 22 & 23, 2022. For information, contact LD Harry at lharry0001@yahoo.com.

FIELD TRIPS

Feb. 13th, 2022 - KY Dams trip

*Meet at Rural King parking lot on Green St. Henderson, Ky, depart at 6:30am.

April 30th, 2022 - Bluegrass FWA Evening rip

*Meet at the main parking lot off B'ville/N. Harmony Rd, depart at 6:30 pm.

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes November 16, 2021

meeting in person and by Zoom

Program at 6:00 PM Friends of the Patoka River NWR, speaker Nancy Gehlhausen who discussed the wide range of the groups activities- eg habitat restoration, trail construction and maintenance, outreach to children and adult groups, land acquisition, intern support, refuge appreciation day, brochures.

Business Meeting convened at 6:59, quorum of 9 present

Minutes: accepted, as in newsletter

Treasurer's report: emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$1940.52, Bulk Mail \$130.09, CD \$4157.86, Checking w/o reserves \$959.68, Reserve Accounts 980.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$700.84, eScripts \$0.00, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), 14 new donation to the C & E total received \$795.00

Field Trips: Bob Meier reported that the last field trip of the year was to Goose Pond, eight people attended, 43 species sighted including whooping cranes, peregrine falcon and a Le Conte's sparrow.

Evansville Christmas Bird Count and the West Gibson Count will be on December 18, 2021. East Gibson and Newburgh Counts uncertain at this time.

Posey County Count will be on January 1, 2022

Programs: The program for December will be by Zoom only, the speaker Jeff Canada, owner of Wood Warbler Coffee in Indianapolis, (supplier of certified bird friendly coffee) will discuss wildlife friendly farming in Central America.

Junior Birders: Tentative plans for birding at the Wesselman Nature Center bird viewing area on the day of the Christmas Bird count, dependent on whether the Nature Center is putting out birdseed.

Conservation: Niles Rosenquist discussed the proposal by a Henderson company to establish a barge fleeting facility, conduct dredging for sand in the Ohio river and establish 90 acre on-shore industrial area just upriver from the Evansville riverfront on land north of the river that because of historic shifts in the river is part of Kentucky. Numerous Evansville government and individual entities have commented on impacts on city infrastructure (water plant, levee, roads) recreation and wildlife. The land is within the purchase boundaries of the new Green River NWR, A public hearing is likely, EAS could participate.

Education and Conservation Grants: A grant of \$600 was approved for Patchwork Central, Sue Vernier motioned, Brian Taylor seconded.

Sue Vernier has applied for an Audubon Collaborative Grant to potentially reimburse EAS for the grant to Susan Fowler approved last month.

Old Business: Chapter certification submitted, which will release our annual funding from national.

Online newsletter has gone out, hard copy about to go out.

Some liability forms still needed. (follow up note, earlier guidance is that these need to be retained at least three years.)

New Business: Bob Meier discussed the January birding contest, awards to most waterfowl, most at feeders, highest total, contest open for two days only January 1 and 2, email count results to Bob Meier. A motion was approved allocating up to \$150 for prizes for the contest. Bob Meier indicated that he would also seek sponsors for contributions to the contest prizes.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:40.

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: Richard Vernier, EAS Treasurer, 580
N 350 E, Princeton, IN 47670

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