



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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I wanted to know the name of every stone and flower and insect and bird and beast. I wanted to know where it got its color, where it got its life - but there was no one to tell me.

George Washington Carver

A Letter From the Newly Elected President of the Evansville Audubon Society

I have some big shoes to fill. Our out-going president, Don Batema, oversaw some exciting education and conservation projects during his 3-year tenure. I hope to continue his excellent record of supporting Evansville Audubon Society's mission of promoting the awareness of and appreciation for birds and their habitats through education and conservation.

Expect to see a continuation of our efforts to provide education grants to teachers which foster an appreciation of nature by their students, to support our Jr. Birders program so our youth will grow in their understanding and appreciation of birds and nature, and to continue our sponsorship of the Ohio Valley Birding Festival with its educational programs, workshops and hikes. Likewise, we will provide conservation grants to groups that share our conservation mission and initiate our own conservation projects (previously, we've helped to provide essential new habitat—towers and nest boxes—for chimney swifts, American kestrels and barn owls).

You probably already know me through the occasional Audubon action alerts that I send out to the membership as Evansville Audubon's Conservation Chair. Though I will be moving into the new position of President, don't think that I will be lax in keeping everyone informed of the issues important to the futures of your children and grand-children.

Together with our great group of officers, directors, committee chairs, and volunteers I promise to continue to pursue our mission into the future with your continued support. Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird!

Sue Vernier

The kiwi, a fuzzy, pear shaped bird that serves a New Zealand's unofficial symbol, is not only flightless, it's also the only bird in the world that has no wings.

Future Field trips

Our Field Trip Chairman is our field trip chair is Bob Meier and the contact info: Bob Meier, 812-449-3723, 6second79@twc.com

Bob is sure to have some interesting trips in the future.

EAS Minutes

May 16, 2017

President Batema called the meeting to order. With no quorum at the time, the minutes from the previous meeting were not approved.

Audubon Treasure's Report

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Bulk Mail | 75.78 |
| Savings | 5.09 |
| Certificate | 4880.19 |
| Checking | 3234.58 |
| Checking w/o reserves* | 1707.79 |
| *Reserve Accounts | |
| Total | 1526.70 |
| Education and Conservation | 183.77 |
| E Scrip | 362.71 |
| OVBF | 980.31 |

Treasurer's Comments:

The Educ. & Cons. Balance reflects the \$ 692.49 for the Tekoppel educ. project. Anticipated OVBF expenses have not yet been entered.

Committee Reports: Field Trips: Some owls were seen on the 12 May walk. Jr. Birders will be at Eagle Slough on 20 May. 3 June is date for Harmonie Park walk.

Programs: Susan Fowler's Indiana Bicentennial presentation will be our final program.

Conservation: Board members were alerted to the impact recent executive orders may have on our national parks.

Education: No report. Andrew is in Costa Rica.

OVBF: LD reported that thanks yous had been sent. There were 261 participants. 2018 dates are under consideration.

Old Business Updates:The Spring bird count was competed. Volunteers are being sought for state breeding birds count. There will be a picnic potluck for our June meeting. Board vote will be the only business -- a pres. candidate is still needed,



And if you would like to get meeting reminders and last minute notices of field trips, send your email address to carolyn.evv@gmail.com

New Business: President Batema reminded board members to calculate and submit EAS volunteer hours to him. Members were alerted to the 3 possible I 69 Ohio River crossing sites --one of which would have a mega-negative impact on Eagle Slough. EAS received an invitation from Willard Library to participate in their adult services which could be a good opportunity for cross-promoting. No specific date was discussed.

Items from the floor:Jim Campbell has a sack of EAS memorabilia and Don will take it for safe keeping now.

Bird sightings included: Purple Gallinule at Audubon Wetlands and Chris Newman Ruff reported a Ruff in Warrick County.

The meeting was then adjourned. Paul Bouseman from Mesker Zoo will present " Attracting Beneficial Insects to Your Landscape to Reduce the Use of Pesticides.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson
Secretary



Crippling Conservation Cuts Threaten Birds

With Congress back from their August recess, they will be working on proposed budget cuts that will be devastating for birds. The President's 2018 budget blueprint would eliminate the EPA programs that are cleaning up the Great Lakes and other vital habitats. It zeroes out coastal restoration programs, and drastically cuts clean energy funding. It would cut by 84 percent the habitat-protecting Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has enable us to protect places like Florida's Everglades. It opens up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, the Arctic coastal plain being one of the most prolific bird nurseries on the planet. Unfortunately, the list goes on.

Your representatives in Congress need to hear your voice as they make decisions in the coming days and weeks. Please speak up for the birds and conservation to make sure they are recognized for the incredible value they bring to each of us and to this country.

Sue Vernier, Conservation Chair, Evansville Audubon Society

Interested in endangered species??

The Indiana Endangered Species list can be reached via the DNR Wildlife Diversity Section page:
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2356.htm>

Jr. Birder Hikes

On Saturday, June 3, three Junior Birders braved the heat to see birds at Bluegrass Fish and Wildlife Area in Warrick County. Our main goal was to see the eagle nest which has two young. The nest was large and impressive, but the young birds remained hidden most of the time. One adult flew to the nest tree but also stayed out of sight behind limbs and leaves.

We did, however, get to have great looks at some birds of the open country, including a Killdeer pretending to be injured, an Eastern Kingbird on an open branch, a stunning Indigo Bunting, and a Dickcissel singing at close distance. We even got to see an uncommon Black Vulture soaring with a wake (group) of Turkey Vultures. We called it a day after about an hour due to the increasing temperature.

For having participated on her third outing, Tora received a Junior Birders t-shirt

Junior Birders will have their first fall outing on September 23 at Howell Wetlands in Evansville where we should find songbirds such as vireos, warblers, and tanagers on their way south to Central and South America.

We plan to meet at 9:00 AM, and the walk should last about an hour and a half. Everyone aged eight to eighteen years old and parents or grandparents are welcome. Binoculars and insect spray will be provided and a drink and snack will be available when we are finished.

Please wear appropriate shoes for trail walking. If you have any questions please contact me, Jim Campbell, at jcampbell27@roadrunner.com. We can't miss seeing some great birds, and there is no charge!!!

Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge Event October 28, 2017

The Patoka River NWR and Friends of the Refuge organization are planning a big event this coming **October 28, 2017**, from 9AM to 2PM at Wirth Park & Community Center in Oakland City, IN.

To whet your appetite, here's a preliminary schedule of planned activities: A refuge bus tour; a Talon Trust live bird program; an IN Div. of Historic Preservation & Archaeology program (all morning activities). In the afternoon will be a Wabash and Erie Canal presentation followed by a bus tour to the historic sites. There will be a 2,000 gallon fish tank stocked with fish from the Patoka River Refuge waters and Fisheries staff will be available to interact with the public and answer questions. There may even be a fly fishing demonstration. In addition to the many nonprofit booths, there will be food booths and others selling products such as honey and syrup.

All are welcome to this free and open to the public event. Bring the whole family as there will be children-oriented activities as well!

Sue Vernier



Upcoming Programs

Programs are at WWNP, at:700pm

September 19, 2017 *Birding the Patoka River Wildlife Refuge and Management Area*, Jeremy Ross

October 17, 2017, *Birds of Wesselman Woods* Shelby Hall, Natural Resource and Operations Manager, Wesselman Woods Nature Center

Shelby will be talking about the annual breeding bird survey that has been conducted at Wesselman Nature Preserve since 2015. Learn how the survey is being conducted, why it is being done, and how you can be part of it.

November 21, 2017 *Trees Talk*, Sandra Messner, Outreach Director, Indiana Forest Alliance

Recent scientific research has unveiled an incredibly complex forest ecosystem, in which trees communicate with each other and with animals, share resources, and "work together" to ensure a healthy forest ecosystem. You will also learn about the state of forests in Indiana, and how you can protect them.

December 19, 2017 *Movie Night, The Everglades of the North: The Story of the Great Kankakee Marsh*

The Great Kankakee Marsh once occupied nearly one million acres in Northern Indiana and Illinois. This film, presented by Lakeshore Public Television, relates the story of the diverse ecology, history, and controversy surrounding the use (and abuse) of this wetland.



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.

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

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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

Address _____

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

City _____ State _____

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

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