



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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If You Build It, the Barn Owls Will Come!

Evansville Audubon members and supporters may remember that their donations to our education and conservation fund were used a few years ago to purchase two Barn Owl structures to be mounted on poles in the grasslands area of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.

At the end of 2021 we received an update from Heath Hamilton, Wildlife Refuge Specialist, at Patoka River NWR. While doing a burn at the Refuge in March, 2021, refuge personnel checked one of the boxes and found five Barn Owl eggs!! Returning in June, they found healthy chicks filling the box. They also checked the other box and found an adult Barn Owl using it.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of Evansville Audubon Society's annual appeal for donations to our education and conservation fund. Your efforts have proved the old adage, "if you build it, they will come", at least for the Barn Owls that make their home at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE

The Nominations Committee is looking for volunteers to fill out a slate of Board of Directors and Officer positions. The nominations slate of (4) officers and (4) directors will be submitted for a vote at the June annual meeting. (Only the treasurer's position is term limited; the remaining officers and directors are eligible to serve again if they wish.) If you are interested in helping Evansville Audubon with this important need, please contact us at info@evvaudubon.org.

Note: the treasurer nominee should be proficient in internet/computer use and able to file online the simple federal and state tax forms

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. Be kind and wear masks when entering the building. NOTE: Any last minute changes to our meeting in-person at Wesselman will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

Mar. 15, 2022 -- "Spring Wildflowers of Audubon State Park", presented by Lisa Hoffman, Parks Program Services Supervisor, John James Audubon State Park.

Apr. 19, 2022 -- "TBA", presented by Sharon Sorenson, noted author and conservationist. Her programs about birds are always informative and entertaining.

May 17, 2022 -- "Green River National Wildlife Refuge and How It Finally Got Here", presented by Mike Morton, wildlife biologist and supervisor for over 30 years of the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in western Henderson County.

SAVE THESE DATES

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

Jr. Birders Hike will be April 23 in conjunction with the OVBF

FIELD TRIPS

Spring Migration Hikes for 2022:

Friday, April 1 @ 5 PM, Howell Wetlands

Friday, April 8 @ 5 PM, Burdette Park

Friday, April 15 @ 5 PM, Howell Wetlands

Friday, April 22 @ 5 PM, Howell Wetlands

Thursday, April 28 @ 5 PM, Burdette Park

Saturday, April 30, 'Grand Finale' at Harmonie State Park, Warbler Madness with John Meredig. All participants will meet at the park, time to be determined

April 30th, 2022 - Bluegrass FWA Evening Trip

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

NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON ON TOP POLICY WINS...

Nearly \$1.1 billion will be provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program to support projects in 2022. This funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that was signed into law in Nov., 2021, and represents a sweeping investment in the Everglades.

Bird protections were restored when, in Dec., 2021, the Biden administration repealed the rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) by the previous administration. Critical bird protections returned for the first time in nearly four years.

Audubon won its lawsuit last year to stop a Trump-era rule that allowed sand mining on pristine, undeveloped coastlines. Audubon, joined by several partners, filed suit against the rule that weakened the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) and in response to the lawsuit, the Biden Administration revoked the rule, solidifying this victory for birds and their coastal habitats.

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes December 21, 2021

Meeting by Zoom

Program at 6:00 PM, Jeff Canada, owner of Wood Warbler Coffee in Indianapolis, (supplier of certified bird friendly coffee) discussed wildlife friendly farming in Central America.

Business Meeting convened at 7:00, no quorum present

Minutes: accepted tentatively, as distributed by email

Treasurer's report: emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$3243.53, Bulk Mail \$79.11, CD \$4160.06, Checking w/o reserves \$1602.69, Reserve Accounts 1640.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1360.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), annual donations \$1455, 25 donors (\$660, 10 donors this month) totals overall generally comparable to past years. Notes: Chapter Base Payment received \$1035, expenses are usual newsletter related (printing, mailing), \$600 outstanding commitment to Patchwork Central to be paid in 2022,

Field Trips: January Contest, prizes for waterfowl, bird feeders, big weekend January 1,2 in 75 mile radius of Evansville, send results to Bob Meier. No other field trips until February.

Junior Birders: no activity

Christmas Bird Counts:

Western Gibson County Dec 18, bad weather, 97 species, most unusual Chipping sparrow, several common species missing, count not final.

Evansville Dec 18, rain, several new birders, no final count, but quite a few species.

Posey County, January 1.

Programs: January program Robyn Skuya-Boss, Sierra Club Beyond Coal, "Surprising Tales of Indiana's Changing Utility Landscape", Zoom only.

Conservation: Sue Vernier brought up a request for EAS to support in the upcoming legislative session a proposed Resolution acknowledging the problem of climate change and a Bill to establish a Climate and Environmental Justice Task Force, sponsored by Sen. Alting. We agreed to support.

Education and Conservation Grants: No new requests for grants received this month,

Old Business: No old business

New Business: Newsletter deadline for articles December 27.

Unusual Bird Sightings: 45 tundra swans, 2 whooping cranes and a rock wren (but not on bird count day!) in Gibson County

Meeting adjourned at about 7:40.

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes January 18, 2022

Meeting by Zoom

Program at 6:00 PM, Robyn Skuya-Boss, Sierra Club Beyond Coal, "Surprising Tales of Indiana's Changing Utility Landscape"

Business Meeting convened at 7:02, attendance – 7 board members, no quorum

Minutes: accepted tentatively, as distributed by email

Treasurer's report: emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$3078.54, Bulk Mail \$179.11, CD \$4162.36, Checking w/o reserves \$1277.70, Reserve Accounts 1800.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1520.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), annual donations \$1615, 28 donors (\$160, 3 donors this month)

Field Trips:

Kentucky Dam on Feb 5th. Meet at Columbia Pilot , leave by 6:15

April 1st – Migration Walk at Howell Wetland

April 8th – Burdette Park

April 15th – Howell Wetland

April 22nd – Burdette Park

April 28th – Howell Wetland

April 30th – Harmonie State Park. Warbler Madness with John Meridig.

Programs: Feb. 15 program will be "Songbird Conservation from a Forester's Perspective", presented by Allen Purcell, Director of Forest Conservation for The Nature Conservancy.

Junior Birders: no activity

Conservation: Niles Rosenquist distributed a letter written on behalf of EAS urging Sen. Mark Messmer to schedule a hearing on the Climate Resolution SCR3 and Climate Task Force Bill SB255, and urged members to also contact the senator. Otherwise, many bills are filed, only about ten days for hearings, uncertain which will get hearings and survive.

Education & Conservation Grants: no new requests for grants. Collaborative grant decision was expected by 1/14, to cover Susan Fowler as Audubon Ambassador. A suggestion was made that we consider renewing our sponsorship of Eagle Slough with Sycamore Land Trust if funds are available.

OVBF

April 22-24th.

Friday April 22nd will be the "Friday at 5 migration walk"

Sunday April 24th will be 7am Eagle Slough with Bob Meier

Bird Counts:

Evansville, good results, several new participants

Posey County, poor weather (rain), Jared Emmack, Assistant Property Manager for Hovey Lake, helped lead, ducks at Hovey

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Items from the Floor: Results of the January Birding Contest posted on Facebook, three prizes will be awarded, prizes provided by Wesselman (mug, passes), Wild Birds Unlimited (\$50 gift card) EAS (\$50 gift card).

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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Evansville, IN
Permit No. 1666

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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** 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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Address _____

City _____ State _____

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