



# THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

[www.evvaudubon.org](http://www.evvaudubon.org)



Inside This Issue:

**Page 2**  
Programs

Update on Pickleball  
Development at  
Wesselman Park

Field Trips

OVB 2023

**Page 3**  
Minutes

## A LETTER FROM THE EAS PRESIDENT

Dear Evansville Audubon Society Membership,

The past year has been an adventure. We transitioned from having programs offered virtually to a hybrid approach of virtual and in-person. This year we will be doing primarily in-person programs and will offer a virtual option for those that request it in advance. We hope to see you and always enjoy the company while learning something new.

This year we will be having programs every other month starting in September instead of our normal schedule of every month with the summer months taken off. This will let us focus a little more on the programs we have and the other activities we provide.

Our bird hikes have been growing exponentially over the past year with many thanks to Bob Meier. His knowledge of the birds and their habitat are amazing and his patience and mentorship are truly appreciated. He has many hikes scheduled so check out the newsletter, our website, and our email notices for places, dates and times.

I would like to take this time to say thank you to all that attend our programs, hikes and events and would like to encourage you to write me if you feel there are important issues you would like to discuss or things you would like to see Evansville Audubon do. My email is [info@evvaudubon.org](mailto:info@evvaudubon.org).

Sincerely,  
Brian Taylor  
President  
Evansville Audubon Society

## PROGRAMS

Programs will be the third Tuesday of **every other month beginning in September, 2022**, at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. NOTE: Any last minute changes will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

Sept. 20, 2022 -- "What's New at Eagle Slough and Columbia Mine Preserves" presented by Sycamore Land Trust.

Nov. 15, 2022 -- "Restoring Wetlands Along the Lower Wabash River" presented by Carrie Parmenter, Lower Wabash Project Director, The Nature Conservancy.

Jan. 17, 2023 -- "A Vision for Restoring the Great Lakes" will be presented by Daniel Suarez, Audubon Great Lakes. ZOOM only meeting.

## UPDATE ON PICKLEBALL DEVELOPMENT AT WESSELMAN PARK

The Evansville residents who have been voicing their support for the protection of the woods and green space of Wesselman Park received some excellent news at the Parks Board meeting on August 3. The proposed pickleball development has been modified. Eliminated now are the new road into the tennis area and the new parking lot ( both of which would have been constructed in the area that is now mature woods), and the tennis stadium. What remains are the 24 pickleball courts proposed to fill the open grassy field in front of the tennis area.

## FIELD TRIPS

Sept. 2 at Burdette Park at 5pm

Sept. 9 at Howell Wetlands at 5pm

Sept. 23 at Burdette Park at 5 pm

Sept. 30 at Howell Wetlands at 5pm

Oct. 8 at Howell Wetlands "8am" A Global Big Day Event

Oct. 29th Goose Pond trip meet at 6:15 at Schnucks on N Hwy 41 and caravan from there to site

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Evansville Audubon's **Ohio Valley Birding Festival will be April 28-30, 2023**. Schedule of events will include bird walks in a variety of habitats, as well as family fun activities at J.J. Audubon State Park.

## **Evansville Audubon Society Minutes April 19, 2022**

meeting by Zoom and in person

**Program** at 6:00 PM, "How Birds Behave: What They Do and Why They Do It" by Sharon Sorenson.

Business Meeting convened at 7:42, quorum present

**Minutes:** approved as distributed by email

**Treasurer's report:** emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$3034.72, Bulk Mail \$179.67 CD \$4169.04, Checking w/o reserves \$1033.78, Reserve Accounts 2000.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1720.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), annual donations \$1740, 30 donors, no new donors this month. Paid this month \$75 for bird banding for OVBF, committed but not paid \$1000 to SLT for Eagle Slough and \$300 to Susan Fowler, net \$420.84 not committed is Education and Conservation

**Field Trips:** Good attendance on April 1, 8 and 15 field trips, may need to separate into two groups in the future.

April 22nd – Howell Wetland

April 28th – Burdett Park

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

**Programs:** Program on May 17 will be by Mike Morton on the new Green River National Wildlife Refuge. Possible program in June with Audubon Great Lakes.

**Junior Birders:** Field trip planned on April 23 as part of the OVBF, at Audubon Museum. Steve Heeger is planning on attending the Boy Scout Leader Event on May 5 to try and recruit Jr. Birders and let them know of possible involvement on invasive clearing ant North Woods.

**Conservation:** Niles and Sue discussed the selection of "Route P" as the preferred alternative for the proposed "Mid State Corridor" highway project. This avoids the impacts on forest and karst areas that would have occurred if either of the eastern routes had been selected, but, as a new terrain north-south route paralleling US231 it unnecessarily impacts farms and homes, with upgrading US231 as the alternative. Niles updated on plans for the "Energy for All" coalition, Sierra Club Beyond Coal rally at the future site of the "CenterPoint Square" park on Main St, April 22 at 5:00 and a Town Hall on April 23. 11:00 at the EVPL

**Education & Conservation Grants:** Michelle Adams-Smith of Tekopple School has requested a grant of \$800 for the 2022-2023 school year. Moved and approved that we contribute \$400, with plans to contribute the additional \$400 when funds are available after our next donation campaign in the fall. She indicated that after this year's activities are wrapped up in early May, she will submit receipts for the year. There will be a presentation at the school on May 12 at 1:00, and 4 or 5 Audubon members will be invited. A student teacher has been involved in this year's activities. Susan Fowler has provided a detailed report on her activities supported by our grant to her, 10 programs reaching 534 children and 42 adults.

**OVBF:** This weekend, April 22-24th. See the Audubon website for the current list of activities, also printed in the newsletter. Fliers have been distributed at various locations.

### **Old Business**

**New Business:** Sycamore Land Trust has scheduled a tree giveaway on Arbor Day April 29, and will be distributing literature on EAS during the event, as we are a sponsor of Eagle Slough. The event will be at the Old National Bank downtown from 11:00 to 2:00. Amanda will represent Audubon at "Party for the Planet" at Mesker Zoo on Earth Day, April 23. Patoka River NWR and Friends of the Patoka are putting on a migratory bird event at Cane Ridge. Scopes will be set up in select areas normally closed. Volunteers from EAS are requested. Deadline for May/June newsletter is 4/22.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:10

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

## **Evansville Audubon Society Minutes May 17, 2022**

Meeting by Zoom and in person

**Program** at 6:00 PM – Mike Morton on the new Green River National Wildlife Refuge.

Business Meeting convened at 7:05, quorum present

**Minutes:** approved as distributed by email

**Treasurer's report:** emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$2634.73, Bulk Mail \$179.67 CD \$4171.27, Checking w/o reserves \$1033.89, Reserve Accounts 1600.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1320.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280 ), annual donations \$1740, 30 donors , no new donors this month. Paid this month \$400 to Tekoppel School, committed but not paid \$1000 to SLT for Eagle Slough, \$300 to Susan Fowler for additional programs and \$400 additional (in the fall) to Tekoppel School.

**Field Trips:** None scheduled

**Programs:** Program on June 21 will be by Jared Emmack, Assistant Property Manager, Hovey Lake F&W Area, on volunteer opportunities. Junior Birders: Steve Heeger planned on attending the Boy Scout Leader Event to try and recruit Jr. Birders and let them know of possible involvement on invasive clearing at North Woods.

**Conservation:** Niles reported that the draft EIS for the pipeline that would supply natural gas to CenterPoint's proposed new power plants is open for comments until June 6. The Board approved submitting comments on behalf of Audubon if it appears appropriate. Sue reported that AIG (American International Group, Inc.) has become the first US insurance company to issue a policy stating that they will not underwrite or support investments in Arctic energy exploration activities, the first US insurer to limit insurance for the Arctic oil & gas sector.

**Education & Conservation Grants:** Michelle Adams-Smith of Tekopple School has submitted a detailed summary and receipts for the year. Susan Fowler has provided a detailed report on her activities , 10 programs reaching 534 children and 42 adults. This will be reported to NAS as she was funded by an Audubon collaborative grant. Sycamore Land Trust has requested payment of the \$1000 we previously committed as a sponsor of Eagle Slough, will be paid.

**OVBF:** L.D. Harry reports that attendance was good at OVBF events, six guided hikes, 105 participants.

**Old Business:** Amanda reported on our successful participation in Party for the Planet, at Mesker Zoo, about 1000 attended, many preschoolers, much interest in Audubon. The tree give away on April 29 by SLT with Audubon participation was successful, 150 trees given away, all Audubon brochures and newsletters passed out, Eyewitness News covered the event.

**New Business:** Audit committee needed after books close June 30, Pat Copp and Niles Rosenquist volunteered.

**Items from the floor:** Bird sightings. EdZooCation Event, June 2, 6:00 PM Oaklyn library, "Impacts of Wildlife Diseases" particularly covid and avian influenza by Michelle Benavides Westrich Indivisible Evansville will have a program on Environmental Issues, Browning Room, Central Library , 6:00 , May 24., Beyond Coal, Sierra and Citizens Climate Lobby will present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

## **Evansville Audubon Society, Annual Meeting, Minutes June 21, 2022**

Meeting by Zoom and in person

**Program** at 6:00 PM– Jared Emmack, Assistant Property Manager, Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area

Business Meeting convened at 6:55, eight board members (quorum not required for the annual membership meeting)

**Minutes:** approved as distributed by email

**Treasurer's Report:** emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$1582.73, Bulk Mail \$130.18 CD \$4171.27, Checking w/o reserves \$981.89, Reserve Accounts 600.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$ 320.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280). Paid this month \$1000 to Sycamore Land Trust for Eagle Slough Sponsorship, committed but not paid. \$300 to Susan Fowler for additional programs and \$400 additional (in the fall after the next fund raising campaign) to Tekoppel School.

**Field Trips:** Bob Meier is planning on doing Friday migration walks from the first Friday in September to the first Friday in October. Maybe a field trip around the end of October.

**Programs:** Sue Vernier is requesting help with programs. If any director or member has a program idea, she would like them to contact the potential speaker and find out if they are interested. If they say yes, Sue can take it from there to work out the details. We need speakers for October thru June.

**Junior Birders:** Nicholas Braeman would like to complete an Eagle Scout project at BlueGrass constructing 7 fishing line recycling stations. Costs of the stations will likely be covered from donated materials and funds donated from the scout troupe membership. The request to our group was for long term maintenance, emptying the stations and recycling the lines. Our members, including Jim Campbell, agreed to take on that responsibility.

**Conservation:** Niles provided an update on the status of the CenterPoint gas power plant and the draft EIS for the pipeline that would supply gas to the plant, decisions on both are pending. Niles discussed a proposal for construction of pickleball courts and a tennis stadium within Wesselman Park, included new parking lots and a new road, that would result in loss of wooded areas and green space in the park. Suggestions were to let the Nature Center take the lead and to let individuals make comments. Niles mentioned a news report that \$25 million has been allocated by the State from American Rescue Plan funds for purchase of environmentally important lands. Grants will be made to nonprofits (eg SLT) and local governments, 25% matching required. Jared Emmack commented that \$4 million will go directly to state agencies, no match required.

**Education & Conservation Grants:** See treasurer's report for payments and outstanding commitments.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Election of Officers and Board Members for 2022-2023

### **Nominations Slate: Officers**

Brian Taylor, President; Richard Vernier, Vice President; Sue Vernier, Treasurer; Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

### **Directors, term ending 2025**

Jacob Scheller (replacing Maryann Watson); Phil Copp; Pat Copp; Jim Kimsey (replacing Jim Campbell)  
There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously.

**Items from the floor:** none

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**

**Non Profit Org.**  
**US Postage**  
**Paid**  
**Evansville, IN**  
**Permit No. 1666**

President: Brian Taylor, (812)480-0588, brian.taylor@haubstadt.com  
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)567-0477, amanda@jcswildlife.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** may renew directly with National Audubon Society at [www.audubon.org](http://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: Sue Vernier, EAS Treasurer  
580 N 350 E  
Princeton, IN 47670

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_