



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org

Volume 53 Number 9, September-October 2023, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd. Evansville, IN 47711

NEWSLETTER GOING ONLINE

Change is coming but it will be a good change for the environment and it will allow us to devote even more funds to our education and conservation projects!

After careful consideration, the Executive Board of Evansville Audubon has made the decision to cease distributing the newsletter by mail; but instead, will make it available online. This decision was made for a variety of reasons—one of the two volunteers handling the big job of prep and mailing of paper copies of our newsletters is retiring; the bulk mail permit and mailing costs are increasing year over year; and our printing costs dictates a reduced content newsletter with limited information.

The good news is that this change will:

- Benefit the environment—no cutting down trees to provide the raw material and no paper waste to dispose of afterwards.
- Reduce costs to EAS—This past year \$835 was spent printing and mailing the newsletter.
- Allow more pages and color photos—no cost restrictions to an online newsletter.
- Increase our ability to fund even more education and conservation projects!

When will this happen? The changeover to online newsletters will happen with the Jan/Feb 2024 issue. There will be one more mailed copy—the Nov/Dec issue—to give everyone time to send us their email address so that we can send email notifications with the attached newsletter.

If anyone does not have email, but has a cell phone and uses some social media, we will post a link to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/evvaudubon. Also, our newsletters can always be found on our website: <https://www.evvaudubon.org/newsletter>

Don't forget! To receive your online newsletter beginning January, 2024, please send your email address to info@evvaudubon.org before January.

PROGRAMS

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

Sept 19, 2023 - "Curiosities Discovered Along the Bluebird Trail", presented by Bob and Judy Peak. The Peaks will discuss some of the unusual things they have encountered during their 34 years of monitoring and managing bluebird boxes.

Nov. 21, 2023 - "Dancing with Grouse in the Sandhills" presented by Richard and Sue Vernier, long-time Evansville Audubon members and photographers. The Verniers will share their experience viewing Prairie Chickens and Sharp-tailed Grouse in Nebraska. A bonus feature will include Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River.

Jan. 16, 2024 - "Cranes Over Indiana" presented by the International Crane Foundation. The program will focus on both the Sandhill and Whooping Cranes, their history, and current conservation.

EVANSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION & CONSERVATION GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE

Evansville Audubon Society is now accepting applications for their education and conservation grants! We are offering small grants (generally \$300 to \$750) for individual or group projects that are either educational in nature or support a conservation need and include an emphasis on the environment.

Applications should include:

- * A brief description of the project
- * Items/activities to be accomplished by the project
- * Budget amount to meet the goal
- * Timeline for completion of the project

If you have an education or conservation project in mind for which a small grant would be beneficial; or you know of an organization or individual in need of a grant, simply email the information to info@evvaudubon.org. All grant requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all funds available are expended.

Projects that we've funded in the past include: Talon Trust; Tekoppel 2nd grade classroom bird watching project; "Sponsor a Preserve" project at Eagle Slough; Wesselman Woods summer camp scholarships; Friends of Patoka River NWR pollinator gardens; Howell Wetlands prairie restoration; and education outreach to schools, scouts, community groups, and more.

Evansville Audubon Society Annual Meeting Minutes June 20, 2023

Potluck and Program: 6 PM – Potluck followed by speakers Mark Nowotarski of Green Drinks 812 & Sue Vernier of Evansville Audubon.

Annual Members Meeting and Elections: 7 PM – Brian Taylor called meeting to order. Introductions from incoming directors Jeremy Ross, Eric Howard and Ellen Raibley.

Treasury: Brian announced that Pat and Phil Copp have agreed to audit the treasury records.

Committees:

Education & Conservation Grants – Sue Vernier made a motion to spend up to \$900 for the Hovey Lake FWA Rail Marsh Birding Trail observation deck. Pam Kimsey seconded. Motion approved.

Field Trips – Bob Meier had 20 people on the 5/12 trip.

Jr. Birders – Incoming Director, Ellen Raibley, volunteered to become new Jr. Birders leader.

Conservation Advocacy – Sue Vernier discussed the U of E property acquisition by Wesselman Woods.

Nominations – The following slate of candidates were presented:

Officers

President – Brian Taylor (interim until he finds replacement)

Vice-President – Richard Vernier

Secretary – Niles Rosenquist

Treasurer – Sue Vernier

Directors

Jeremy Ross

Eric Howard

Ellen Raibley

Brian called for the vote, all were approved. Sue Vernier announced her retirement from being programs chair and asked for volunteer to fill position. She will give on-the-job training.

Bird Sightings: Bob Meier finally saw the Black-bellied Whistling Duck at State Hospital grounds. The Campbells had a Swainson's Warbler and Painted Bunting briefly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by Sue Vernier, Secretary pro-tem

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes May 2023

meeting in person

Program: at 6:00 PM – “Native Plants for Birds in Small Areas”, Sharon Sorenson

Business Meeting convened at 7:37, no quorum present

Minutes: approved as distributed by email

Treasurer's report:

Previous Month's (February) Checking Account Balance: \$7373.01

Income: Corporate & Non Appeal Donations \$800.00, OVBF Bluebird Box Materials Grant \$150.00, Appeal Donation \$100.00, NAS Membership \$20.00, Interest \$0.03

Total Income \$1,070.03

Expenses: Newsletter printing \$70.00, National Audubon Membership \$20.00, Events Material \$28.51.

Total Expenses \$118.51

Current Checking Account Balance (April): \$8,324.56

Checking Without Reserves: \$2,312.23

Reserve Account Balances (in checking):

Education & Conservation \$1,072.33, Jr. Birders \$280.00, Lewis Memorial \$4,510.00, Bluebird Box Kits \$150.00

Total 6012.33

Other Accounts

Bulk Mail \$91.47, Savings \$5.09. Certificate of Deposit \$4,243.40

Total: \$4,339.96

(Two months expenses and income combined here, previous month balance is from February report, current balances from April report.)

Expended Education and Conservation Money

General \$200. Tekoppel School \$400. Susan Fowler \$750. Patchwork \$600. OVBF \$40. Wesselman Woods 300. Mesker Event Materials 28.51

total \$ 2318.51 (All commitments are caught up, paid)

Committee Reports:

OVBF: Three days of activities, 419 participants, 115 on hikes, 304 at the Audubon Museum, Bob Peak led bluebird box build and owl pellet lab.

Field Trips: Harmony Warbler Madness 5/6, Eagle Slough 5/12

Events: Mesker Zoo Party for Planet 4/22, Amanda Joest. Numbers were down, Bird Matching Game game was popular. Sycamore Land Trust tree giveaway at Old National Bank, EAS flier and bird strike flier distributed.

Programs June 20 Potluck followed by annual meeting elections and program presentation by Danni Schaust. Potluck begins at 6 PM. Elections and program at 7 PM.

Junior Birders: no activity scheduled for this month

Conservation: Several on going issues but no action items.

Education & Conservation Grants: Sponsor a Preserve at Eagle Slough, \$500 proposed from EAS, with \$500 match from Lewis Memorial Fund. (Note: approved after the meeting by email vote)

Newsletter: no discussion needed

Old Business Nominating Committee Report

Officers

President – VACANCY
Vice-President -Richard Vernier
Treasurer - Sue Vernier
Secretary - Niles Rosenquist
Committee Chair Vacancies:

Directors Term Ending 2026

Jeremy Ross
Brian Taylor
Eric Howard
Ellen Raibley
Junior Birders, Education and Conservation, Programs

New Business A meeting is scheduled on May 19 on Lewis Memorial Grant with Zack Garcia (Nature Center) , Will Schaut (Wild Birds Unlimited) and Brian Taylor (EAS) . The Lewis family has proposed underwriting a series of family birding educational programs with a number of specific suggestions for topics and schedule. Of the \$4510 in the donation \$4010 would go for these programs, \$500 to Eagle Slough.

Items from the floor Jared Emmack from Hovey Lake presented a plan for a new 2 mile loop trail in a 140 acre Rail Marsh area south of the main lake. Funding is needed for lumber for a viewing platform (\$900) and signage (\$300). EAS tentatively approved donating the remaining \$500 in the Education and Conservation Fund.

Bird observations.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:15
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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President: Brian Taylor, (812)480-0588, brian.taylor@haubstadt.com
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)215-4201, amanda.joest02@gmail.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

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

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City _____ State _____

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