



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org

Volume 53 Number 10, Nov-Dec 2023, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd. Evansville, IN 47711

NEWSLETTER GOING ONLINE

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

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. This November/December issue will be the last paper copy to be mailed. Don't forget to send us your email address so that we can send email notifications with the attached newsletter beginning in January.

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>

What if I don't have reliable internet, computer, or cellphone technology to receive an email, view Facebook post or Website? Please mail a request to Evansville Audubon Society, 551 N. Boeke Rd., Evansville, IN 47711, with your contact information and we will respond with suggested alternatives.

Please support our effort to be better stewards of the environment and allow us to devote even more funds to our education and conservation grants program.

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.

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. **NOTE: ZOOM only program.**

March 19, 2024 -- "Natives and You" presented by Donnarae of Ancient Roots Native Nursery. A program on planting native.

AUDUBON'S 124TH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Each winter, thousands of volunteers across the country pack up their binoculars and bird guides and head out on a mission. They are joining the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count!

The Evansville Audubon Society invites birdwatchers to participate in the longest-running community science survey. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome to contribute to this nationwide community science project which provides a crucial snapshot of our native bird populations during the winter months. **To sign up for one (or more!) of our local area counts, please contact one of the following count compilers before the listed count day:**

Western Gibson CBC – **Sat., Dec. 16:** Dan Collins, dancollinspest@gmail.com
Vanderburgh CBC – **Sun., Dec. 17:** Jacob Scheller, jscheller@warrick.k12.in.us
Warrick CBC – **Sat., Dec. 23:** Jacob Scheller, jscheller@warrick.k12.in.us
Oakland City CBC – **Wed., Dec. 27:** Heath Hamilton, heath_hamilton@fws.gov
Posey CBC – **Sat., Dec. 30:** Jared Emmack, jemmack@dnr.in.gov

Volunteers will be assigned to small groups to cover the marked routes counting every bird they see. Feeder watchers are also welcome. To find a detailed map of the circles and contact information, you can go to [Join the Christmas Bird Count | Audubon](#)



Evansville Audubon Society

October, 2023

Dear Evansville Audubon Society Supporters and Friends,

Last year we were able to fund all of our programs, including a variety of education and conservation grant requests. This could only happen because of the generosity of supporters and friends like you! Thank you!! It's only through your ongoing support that we will continue our mission to promote the awareness, appreciation, and preservation of birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation.

The following recipients of our grants were able to provide outreach to those who might otherwise never experience the wonder and appreciation of nature:

- . Michelle Adam-Smith, teacher – Tekoppel School 2nd grade classroom birding project
- . Patchwork Central – Summer camps with gardening and art projects that emphasize nature
- . Ohio Valley Birding Festival – Bird banding event
- . Susan Fowler, EAS ambassador – Nature education outreach to schools, scouts, camps and more
- . Sycamore Land Trust – 'Sponsor a Preserve' at Eagle Slough Natural Area to help preserve, restore & maintain

This year we have an opportunity to support three exciting new projects:

- . Eagle Scout Project – Upgrade and landscape bird feeding/wildlife viewing area at J. J. Audubon State Park
- . Hovey Lake FWA – Observation deck for a new rail marsh birding trail
- . Indiana Audubon 'Chasing Melody' – Sponsorship to monitor & stop decline of Wood Thrush in Indiana

To fund these new projects, as well as our usual recipients of yearly grants, we have set a goal of \$5,000. Together we can do this. Please help us to continue this kind of outreach by supporting us again! For your convenience a donation form is included with this letter. Remember, your contributions are fully tax deductible as Evansville Audubon Society is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Also, many employers will match donations to local nonprofits, so be sure to check with your employer!

Brian Taylor, President
Evansville Audubon Society

DONATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Amount of donation: \$20 ___ \$40 ___ \$60 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ Other _____

Email (To Receive Newsletters & Notices of EAS Activities): _____

Checks payable to: Evansville Audubon Society

Mail to: Evansville Audubon Society, 551 N. Boeke Rd., Evansville, IN 47711

Families of a Feather

Birding for Beginners

presented by Wesselman Woods and the
Evansville Audubon Society



**FREE
PROGRAM!**

Families of A Feather is an engaging, educational program designed specifically for families who are curious about the fascinating world of birds.

This FREE interactive program takes children age 8+ and their guardians* on a flight into the birding realm, equipping them with the essential skills and knowledge needed to become confident birdwatchers and at-home conservationists.

Fall 2023	Topics (10-11 AM CDT)
OCT 28	Challenges of Being A Bird (Bird Conservation & You)
NOV 25	Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds
DEC 14	Ecosystem Engineers: Birds as Architects

Different classes held in Spring 2024!

Learn more and register online at:
wesselmanwoods.org/featherfam

About the Topics

Challenges of Being A Bird -

Scientists and researchers have raised concerns about the decline of many bird species across North America, including many of our favorites! Join us as we take a dive into the many challenges birds face in your yard and beyond.

Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds - While birds face many challenges in the wild, there is still hope! Humans can adopt seven simple actions into their everyday lives to help bird populations thrive.

Ecosystem Engineers: Birds as Architects - Did you know that birds can be architects? Let's talk about the important contributions birds make to forest ecosystems.

**Adult guardians must be present*

this program is made possible by the
Lewis Memorial Fund & Evansville Audubon Society



Evansville Audubon Society Minutes September 2023

Program: at 6:00 PM – Curiosities Discovered Along the Bluebird Trail, presented by Bob and Judy Peak.

Business Meeting: convened at 7:11, quorum present

Minutes: approved as distributed by email

Treasurer's report (August):

Previous Month's Checking Account Balance: \$7,208.67

Income: Donation \$20.00, Interest \$0.03, Total Income \$20.03

Expenses: Total Expenses \$0.00

Current Checking Account Balance: \$7,228.70

Checking Without Reserves: \$2,196.37

Reserve Account Balances (in checking)

Education & Conservation \$742.33, Jr. Birders \$280.00, Lewis Memorial \$4,010.00, Total Reserve \$5,032.33

Other Accounts

Bulk Mail \$142.79, Savings \$5.09, Certificate of Deposit \$4,299.87, Total Other \$4,447.75

Note- no income or expenses reported in the July treasurers report

Budget for 2023-2024 , distributed by email, approved.

Budget notes- budget deficit due to Lewis funds collected last year will be spent on a family birding program (still being worked out) and there is an approximately \$900 savings from going to email only newsletter from eliminated printing, mailing costs.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips:

- Howell Wetlands at 5 PM on Friday, September 29
- Eagle Slough at 5 PM on Friday, October 6
- Nov. 4th Field Trip. Rend Lake and Crab Orchard NWR in ILL. Plan on meeting up at the N Hwy 41 Schnucks parking lot at 6:30am and carpool to sites. We had a good turn-out for our 1st fall Evansville Audubon migration walk on September 15th. 13 people showed up to help us find the 44 species on our walk, 11 warbler species!

Events: no events currently scheduled

Programs: November, "Dancing with Grouse in the Sandhills" presented by Richard and Sue Vernier, long-time Evansville Audubon members and photographers. January, International Crane Foundation, by Zoom

Junior Birders: no activity scheduled for this month

Conservation: Sue Vernier reported on canceled petroleum leases in the Arctic Refuge, Niles Rosenquist reported on local issues (pickleball, dog park, Eagle Slough)

Education & Conservation Grants: Requests received-

- Michelle Adam-Smith, Tekoppel Elementary School, Bird watching Grant - \$700.
- Sarah Market, BSA scout troop G374, Upgrade Feeding Stations at JJ Audubon S.P. - \$120. An anonymous Audubon member will be donating \$100 for the project, with the request that the scout be asked to present a program to Evansville Audubon once the project is done.
- Patchwork Central, Summer Camps that emphasize nature - \$600.
- Indiana Audubon, Wood Thrush Motus Tagging Project - \$560.

Each grant request was approved, with the understanding that funds would be paid out as income is received from the annual fund raising campaign.

Old Business : Still have vacancy for president and one director

New Business: none

Items from the floor: none

Bird observations: Limpkins at Cane Ridge, flamingos near Louisville

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

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

President: Brian Taylor, 812-480-0588, brian.taylor@par.consulting
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)215-4201, amanda.joest02@gmail.com
Visit our website at: www.evvaudubon.org Or Facebook:
www.facebook.com/evvaudubon

To receive newsletters & notices of EAS activities:
Go to our website at <https://www.evvaudubon.org>
and sign up at the bottom of the page, or send your email address to
info@evvaudubon.org

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____