



# THE BLUEBIRD

## Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

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

Volume 57 Number 1, Sept-Oct 2025, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd. Evansville, IN 47711

### SUMMER IS ENDING – FALL IS COMING!

#### What's Happening at Evansville Audubon Society

Dear Evansville Audubon Members,

I hope that you have managed to survive the several summer heat waves here in the Ohio Valley. The kids should be back in school and everyone should be more than ready for cooler weather and enjoying some of EAS's programs and birding walks.

Our first newsletter of the new season contains a good bit of detailed information inside these pages, but here's a brief overview:

Programs – Our September program speaker will be Kevin Wiener, the 'All Bugs Go to Kevin' guy. Be sure to bring the kids and grandkids as they will love this one. Remember, No Bugs; No Birds!

Fall Bird Walks – Alex Gansmann, EAS Director, has two birding walks planned with Wild Birds Unlimited.

Chasing Melody Project – EAS is once again supporting the MOTUS tagging of a Wood Thrush for this vital research project on a seriously declining species.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival – Check out the official dates for 2026 schedule of events.

Advocacy – EAS members can do their part by getting involved to protect the science that protects birds.

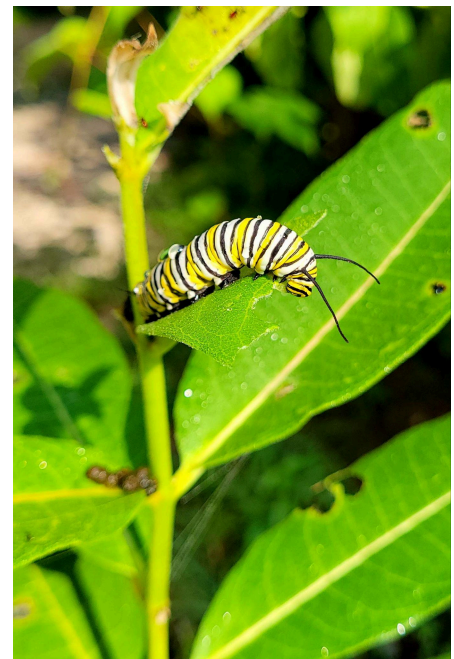
Field Trips – Bob Meier is working on a 'Big Sit' event at Cane Ridge WMA September 20, details will be announced later on our Facebook page and monthly email blast.

As always, you can keep up with us on our website [www.evvaudubon.org](http://www.evvaudubon.org), our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/evaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/evaudubon), or through monthly email blasts if you have given us your email at [info@evvaudubon.org](mailto:info@evvaudubon.org).

Oh, one last thing, be on the lookout for our annual fundraising letter soon. We will need to fund another round of education and conservation grant requests in the coming months.

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird,

Sue Vernier, President  
Evansville Audubon Society



## JOIN US FOR AN OCTOBER BIG DAY EVENT!

Evansville Audubon, Indiana Audubon, Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA), and Wesselman Woods are planning an October Big Day of Birding event for Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 - 11 a.m. central time at Wesselman Woods. This is the first year that Wesselman Woods is participating. The maximum number of participants for this location is set at 20. Bird sightings will be shared using the eBird checklist (username: ebirdindiana).

This event encourages both beginners, as well as seasoned birders, to enjoy nature and contribute to bird conservation. Simple breakfast snacks will be provided. Evansville Audubon Director, Alex Gansmann, will lead the hike. Further details about registration for the event will be announced via our Facebook page, and our monthly email blast to our members.

## PROTECT THE SCIENCE THAT PROTECTS BIRDS

The Bird Banding Lab and Breeding Bird Survey are two essential science programs run by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that help us understand birds. These programs reveal how our environment is changing, which species are declining, and where conservation action is most needed. **They've contributed to the understanding and protection of countless species, like Prothonotary Warblers, Piping Plovers, and Peregrine Falcons.**

**But funding for these programs, as well as much of USGS's biological research, is at risk of being cut. Urge Congress to keep these programs fully funded and invest in the science that protects birds and people.**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Next year's **Ohio Valley Birding Festival will be April 24 - 26, 2026.** Evansville Audubon will be planning a schedule of events that will include bird walks in a variety of habitats, as well as family fun activities at J.J. Audubon State Park.

## Chasing Melody Indiana Wood Thrush Conservation Project Continues

Evansville Audubon Society is a 'Forest Steward' sponsor of the Chasing Melody Project collaborative initiative between Indiana Audubon, Indiana DNR, and global partners. Our Evansville Audubon members made this sponsorship possible through their conservation grant donations and a National Audubon collaborative grant!

The Chasing Melody project is continuing for another year and Evansville Audubon has again sponsored another Motus tagged **Wood Thrush**. And the good news is that "our bird" was tagged by Allisyn Gillet on 5/27/25 at Sam Shine Foundation Preserve in Monroe County. It looks like there have been several weeks of strong signals until it shifted territories in mid-June just outside the reach of the Motus tower. We are looking forward to "following" our bird when it begins its migration south!



## UPDATE ON STATUS OF DAMAGE TO EAGLE SLOUGH NATURAL AREA

Evansville Audubon Society is a Sycamore Land Trust "Adopt-a-Preserve" Sponsor at Eagle Slough.

Some of the effects from the ice storm this past winter and the damage caused by the ash tree, killed by the Emerald Ash Borer, coming down onto the Observation Deck still remain. However, the trail is open for use and, though the repairs have not yet been completed, the deck is also open and available for use. Some boards do need to be replaced on the deck and also on the boardwalk to Teal Pond. Sycamore Land Trust's planned improvements include new Tree Identification signage, which will replace the old and missing signs. Also planned is the installation of trail cameras in the parking area. Progress is being made, so when the weather cools, be sure to come out and watch for fall warblers as they make their way south.



## BIRDING OUTINGS SPONSORED BY WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED

Evansville Audubon Director, Alexander Gansmann, has two birding walks planned with Wild Birds Unlimited:

Friday, September 19, 2025, at Eagle Slough Natural Area at 5:30 P.M. central time

Friday, October 17, 2025, at Howell Wetlands at 5:30 P.M. central time

Contact Alex at [alexander.w.gansmann@gmail.com](mailto:alexander.w.gansmann@gmail.com) for further details.



## PROGRAMS

Programs are on the third Tuesday of every other month beginning in September 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.

**September 16, 2025 -- "Jewels of the Undergrowth", presented by Kevin Wiener, of All Bugs Go to Kevin.** Did you know that the majority of all animal species on Earth have six or more legs? Prepare to have your perceptions transformed as we explore the fascinating life cycles, behaviors, and ecological significance of these often-overlooked inhabitants of our planet -- the arthropods! Have you ever stopped to consider the intricate dance between a bee and a flower, or the silent work of decomposers breaking down leaf litter? Come with Kevin as he takes us on a journey, through his photography, to learn more about these amazing animals as he uncovers the crucial roles that insects, spiders, mites, millipedes, and their kin play in pollination, pest control, nutrient cycling, and as a vital food source for countless other animals (NO BUGS, NO BIRDS!).

**November 18, 2025 -- "Planting Native Trees", presented by Tom Guggenheim of Burr Oak Tree Service, New Harmony, IN.** Our speaker, Tom Guggenheim, is owner of Burr Oak Tree Service with over 100 species of trees and shrubs available at his nursery, which are primarily native species. Tom offers a variety of forestry services and has developed a unique and patented growing system that results in higher survival rates (<https://buroak.net>).

### **"BIG SIT" FIELD TRIP AT CANE RIDGE WMA - Saturday, September 20, 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Come join us for our second annual Big Sit at arguably the best wetland area in southern Indiana. We will meet up to watch out for and record waterfowl, waders, and raptor species in our 4-hour window. There should be plenty of migrant shorebirds and passerines stopping by to fuel up!

We will meet at the Observation Deck at 6:30 a.m. There will be plenty of information, light refreshments, and goodies to give away. (A portable toilet will also be available.) Bring the kids, we will see you there!

Contact: Bob Meier, Field Trip Chair, [birderbob68@yahoo.com](mailto:birderbob68@yahoo.com)

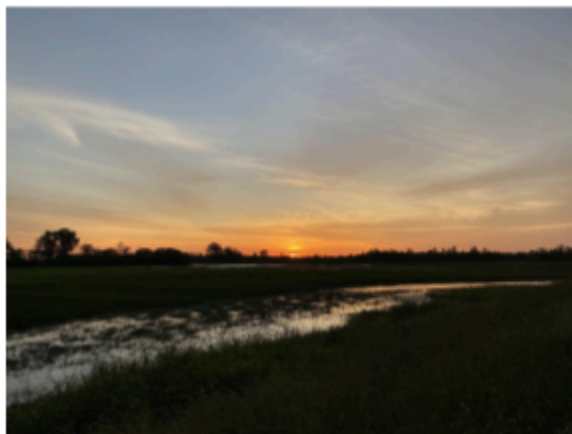


Photo courtesy of Bob Meier

## Evansville Audubon Society Minutes May 20, 2025

**Program:** at 6:00 PM – “Wildlife Wonders”, presented by nature photographer Bill Vieth. A photo slideshow featuring birds of the Brazil Pantanal and Costa Rica.

The program was given at the Wesselman Woods Nature Center.

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The business meeting convened at 6:58pm after the program concluded. A quorum was present with nine board members - Brian Taylor, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Jim Kimsey, Pam Kimsey, Hope Hartmann, Pat Copp, Phil Copp and Alex Gansmann.

**Minutes:** The March 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Richard Vernier gave the treasurer's report ending 4/30/2025.

Income of \$140.02 in interest fees and donations.

Expenses of \$181.50 in additional OVBF flyers and speaker fees.

Current checking balance is \$4,910.51.

Checking account without the reserve account balances is \$4,054.01.

Reserve account balances

Education & Conservation \$576.50

Jr. Birders \$280.00

Total \$856.50

Other Accounts

Savings \$5.09

CD 14 month at 4.85% \$3,572.47

Total \$3,577.56

### Committee Reports:

**Field Trips-** Bob and John Meridig hosted their annual Harmonie State Park walk on May 17th. Bob led an afternoon migration walk on Friday, April 25 at 5pm at Howell Wetlands for the Ohio Valley Birding Festival with 16 attendees. The Big Sit originally scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>, was rescheduled on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am at Eagle Slough on the observation deck as part of the OVBF.

**Programs-** June 17<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Wesselman Nature Center will be the “Annual Meeting & Elections” A social get-together with fellow Audubon members to share light refreshments & birding stories, and elect incoming officers/directors.

**Junior Birders-** Hope Hartman gave an update on the April 26<sup>th</sup> Beginning Birdwatching Program at Red Bank library. 12 people including 8 kids, with all families were present signing up a child for Jr. Birders. The hike scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> had no one in attendance.

**Advocacy-** Sue Vernier told the group about the National Audubon's 2025 State of the Birds Report (article in newsletter). She also discussed Audubon Chapter Sign-on Letters for ESA, Refuge System, and the Migratory Bird Act.

**Education and Conservation Grants-** No report.

**Events** – Sue Vernier reported that Susan Fowler represented EAS at Mesker Zoo's Party for Planet 4/12 (2300

attendees) and Amanda Joest represented EAS at WW Earth Day 4/19 (620 attendees).

**Media/Marketing-** No report.

**OVBF:** The Ohio Valley Birding Festival was held from April 25<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. There were 528 participants in 18 activities. It continues to grow.

**Old Business:**

Sue Vernier reported Niles Rosenquist has volunteered for the program chair position.

Alex Gansmann reported no one has come forward to fill open director seats term ending 2028. The search will continue.

**New Business:**

Alex Gansmann, Nominations Committee Chair and Sue Vernier announced the slate of officers and directors emailed & published in May/June Newsletter. A motion was made by Brian Taylor and seconded by Jim Kimsey to approve slate of officers and directors to be voted on in June.

The following slate of officers for one-year terms and two directors for term ending 2026 (filling vacancies) will be submitted for a vote at the June annual members meeting:

President - Sue Vernier Directors - term ending 2026 Vice-President - Niles Rosenquist Greg Meyer (filling vacancy) Treasurer - Richard Vernier Jim Kimsey (filling vacancy) Secretary - Brian Taylor

The following Directors serving out their terms ending 2026 and 2027 are not up for election but listed for your information:

Directors - term ending 2026 Directors - term ending 2027 Jeremy Ross Pam Kimsey  
Hope Hartmann  
Alex Gansmann

**Items from the floor:**

Sue vernier told the group she has blue birds that attempted to nest and lost 4 hatchlings. They are now re-nesting in a second blue bird box. Pat Copp has a chickadee nesting in one of her bird boxes. Hope Hartmann told about an Eastern Kingbird pair on her property.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm  
Submitted by Brian Taylor, Secretary

**EVANSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 17, 2025**

6:00 PM Social Get-Together – Light refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Call to Order – The annual meeting was called to order at 6:23 P.M. by President Sue Vernier, with six Board members present (Richard and Sue Vernier, Pam and Jim Kimsey, Alex Gansmann, and Niles Rosenquist), and Committee member Don Batema.

Minutes – The March 20, 2025 meeting minutes, as emailed to the Board, were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The report was previously emailed to the Board. The Treasurer gave a brief summary: Income of \$20.02; no expenses; checking balance \$4,930.53; and checking without \$856.50 in reserve funds is \$4,074.03. Pam Kimsey and Brian Taylor have volunteered to audit the treasury after the June 30 fiscal year closing.

Committee Reports

Field Trips – Alex Gansmann will be leading a trip to Howell Wetlands 6/27 at 5:30 PM.

Programs – Niles Rosenquist announced the 9/16/25 program speaker will be Kevin Wiener (All Bugs Go to Kevin) discussing the benefits of Insects. The 11/18/25 program speaker will be Tom Guggenheim, Burr Oak Tree Service, discussing Native Trees & Shrubs.

Old Business – Sue Vernier reported that EAS's adopted Motus-tagged Wood Thrush has returned from Mexico and as of 6/10/25 was at Ipswich River Sanctuary, MA.

Alex Gansmann made the motion, seconded by Jim Kimsey, to elect the slate of officers and directors (previously submitted to the membership via email and published in the May/June Newsletter) for the coming year. Motion was approved by all members present.

New Business – None

Items From the Floor – Sue Vernier had a report from Jim and Mary Jo Campbell that the fishing line receptacles at Bluegrass FWA were all still in service and being used (Evansville Audubon supported this project.) Sue also briefly discussed whether EAS should move to another location (library) for the March 2026 meeting due to the salamander gate closures and the often unavailable large conference room due to Indiana Master Naturalists classes. This will be an item for further discussion in September.

Bird Sightings – There was much discussion about the Crested Caracara found near Sullivan, IN. Meeting adjourned at 7 P.M.

Submitted by Sue Vernier, Secretary Pro-Tem

**Evansville Audubon Society**  
**551 North Boeke Rd.**  
**Evansville, IN 47711**

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.

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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](mailto:info@evvaudubon.org)

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).

\_\_\_ \$20 minimum membership includes one  
year of the award-winning Audubon  
magazine

**Chapter Code H03**

\_\_\_ My check enclosed made payable to:  
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Mail to:  
EAS Treasurer  
c/o Evansville Audubon Society  
551 North Boeke Rd.  
Evansville, IN 47711

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (to Receive Newsletters & Notices of EAS Activities):  
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