



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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Hink Pink

Solve the clue to come up
with two 1-syllable
rhyming words:

A bird that delivers letters

Answer on Page 7

A Message from Our President

THANKS!!

To all of you who have contributed to Evansville Audubon, we thank you for your support. Your response ensures our continued outreach to the community with our education and conservation projects.

Marcia Onnybecker
Lois and Jack Schmidt
Carolyn Egan
Mike Lodato
Lynn Hanganu
JCs Wildlife
Peggy Short
Greg and Susan Meyer
Phil Potter
Heath and Emily Hamilton
Nancy Guse
Lois Rimi
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Stephen Heeger
Sandra and Brent Junge
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Stephen and Margaret Rose
Anne Butsch
James and Mary Jo Campbell
Richard and Sue Vernier
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew R. Lee
Allen Langen
Peter Vollenberg and Hetty Sloots
Dennis and Jenifer Hargett
Charles and Barbara Carper
Marietta Smith
Michelle Collins (Collins Pest
Management)
Charles Mills
David Miller
Nancy and Terry Gehlhausen
Margaret Thomas
Laura and Robert Martin

To date we have received \$2670 from these 35 donors!

Remember, if you have not yet made your contribution, it's never too late. Just make your donation to Evansville Audubon Society and send it to Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville IN 47714.

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird,
Sue Vernier, President

Tekoppel Elementary School

In the November/December 2017 Newsletter I discussed one of the ways in which EAS uses donations from our membership and friends to further our mission of supporting worthy education and conservation projects. In that article I talked about the role that Susan Fowler plays as our Audubon Ambassador in reaching children in schools and other venues with her interactive storytelling about nature related topics. For this edition of the Bluebird, I want to highlight another wonderful example of how donations are used.



For the last few years we have given support to a second-grade teacher, Michelle Adams-Smith, at Tekoppel Elementary School in Evansville to enhance her curriculum with a focus on birds and their habitats. With grant money from EAS, Mrs. Smith has taken her classes on a number of field trips including places such as, Howell Wetlands, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, JJ Audubon State Park and for informative programs at Wild Birds Unlimited.

While these field trips have allowed students to see the birds first hand in their native environments, it is what happens in the classroom that is really inspiring. Their classroom faces a

courtyard which is being transformed to a bird friendly environment complete with native plants and feeders. Watching birds in the courtyard is a daily activity and the observations they make are part of their curriculum that includes science study, language arts, and creative arts. They research birds and their habitats and incorporate this knowledge into stories they write, as well as draw pictures, make clay models, and Paper Mache birds that reflect their increasing understanding of birds.

In addition to supplementing curricular activities with bird study, they have worked on dissecting owl pellets and participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count. They have regular visitors come to class to share their love and experience with birds. Carol Pettys, EAS member, has joined the class to demonstrate how to make simple bird feeders that they can use in the courtyard garden and at home. Susan Fowler has come with her storytelling props and generated lots of excitement with her stories and shared her abundant enthusiasm.



And what better way to share all this new-found knowledge and passion for birds then to invite parents and friends to an end of the year program where the students present what they have learned. The end of the school year program that Mrs. Smith's students put on is a huge success and the everyone enjoys the celebration. So, until that time of year rolls around, you should check out the photo gallery of previous second grade classes on our EAS website (www.evvaudubon.org) and click the Education heading to be directed to our education page to get an appreciation of what these students have accomplished.

EAS is proud to sponsor Mrs. Smith's second-grade class and the work they do because each year she is reaching 20-25 students who, we feel, will grow up with a more informed view of nature and a better appreciation of birds and their habitats. Isn't that what our organization

is all about? To reach young people and instill in them a love a nature and the knowledge to protect it for the future. So, if you find this story inspiring, we hope that you will continue to support this education effort and others so EAS can achieve its mission.

Submitted by Don Batema

Breeding Bird Survey at Wesselman Woods

Experienced birders needed to conduct a breeding bird survey at Wesselman Woods. The dates are: May 30th, June 6th, and June 13th. You can sign up for all or some of the dates for this year's survey. The survey has been ongoing for several years now and the goal is to monitor changes in the bird population over time.

If you are interested in volunteering for the survey, please contact Shelby Hall at the Wesselman Woods Nature Center at shall@wesselmannaturesociety.org.

Upcoming EAS Programs

January 15, 2019: "The Role of Wesselman Nature Society in Connecting People to Nature" Presented by Levy Schroeder, Executive Director of WNS. [Rescheduled from November]

February 19, 2019: "How Your Yard Can Mean Life or Death for Migrants" Presented by Sharon Sorenson, Birding Club of Evansville, Local Conservationist, and Author.

South Fork Boardwalk Trail at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge...

Have you visited the new South Fork Boardwalk trail at the Refuge? The trail is from the other side of Buck's Marsh and the new boardwalk offers a wonderful view of the expanse of marsh. Someone has already taken video from the boardwalk of five otters playing in the marsh. Go check it out and enjoy (and be sure to thank the Friends of the Patoka River NWR volunteers for making it possible)!

Directions: Go north on Hwy 57 past the intersection of state Hwy. 64 and Hwy 57. Continue north on Hwy 57, and take the very next road to the right AFTER the turn-off for Hwy 357. When you exit to the right from Hwy 57, immediately take the one-lane gravel road (Base road) angling left, do not continue to the right on the paved rd. The one-lane gravel road will go straight into the parking area after crossing the RR track. CAUTION! RR track is an active track without signal lights or crossing arms so be careful. The new trail begins behind the gate in the parking area.

Future Field Trips

Jan. - 100 in January contest
Feb. 2 - Ky dams trip
Mar. 16 - Crab Orchard WMA
Apr. 26 - Bluegrass evening trip(OVBF?)
June 1 - Harmonie SP trip

Recommendation: An Excellent Documentary on John James Audubon

Audubon, released in 2017, and written and directed by Al Reinert, the DVD "brings to life his timeless paintings with dazzling footage of the living birds he immortalized - and celebrates visually the natural world he described in his writings. Interviews reveal the man, explore his art, and put his groundbreaking work in modern perspective." (from amazon.com) The DVD is very well done, and is available from EVPL and Willard Library.

Submitted by Steve Heeger

Are You Interested in Serving on Evansville Audubon's Board of Directors?

Evansville Audubon Society can always use new Board members! We have a couple of Board members who would like to take a break. If you are willing to devote an hour of your time the third Tuesday of each month from September through June, please contact me, Sue Vernier, EAS President, at rsavcaver2@gmail.com or call 812-385-5058.

EAS Minutes 20 November, 2018

President Sue Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum being present. Minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported: Bulk Mail \$146.26. Savings \$5.09. CD \$4950.69. Checking w/o reserves \$2270.34. Checking w/ reserves \$4410.93. Reserve Accounts total \$2140.59: Ed & Cons available \$1503.07. eScrip \$181.33. OVBF \$456.19. "Checking" is from check register, includes transactions not yet on the bank statement. \$500 grant to WWNP (Gena Garrett) from ed/con reserve account. \$1035 received from NAS. Liability insurance, which was split with OVBF, went up \$64 for Hired Physical Damage coverage for van rental.

Committee Reports

Field Trips- Bob Meier sent a report on field trips. The report gave highlights on the Twin Swamps/Hovey Lake and Goose Pond trips. The next hike is the Somerville Owl Prowl on December 8th. Included with the report was a trial copy of the revamped 100 in January contest to identify as many different bird species in the month of January, by sight or sound. Prizes will be awarded.

December 18th Program- Julie Loehr "Mammals of the Patoka River NWR".

Junior Birders- Two children and 7 adults attended the November 10th trip to WWNP.

Education & Conservation Grants- President Vernier will submit a collaborative grant request to National Audubon Society for \$500 to underwrite school field trip fees for low-income school students to experience outdoor-based environmental science.

Christmas Bird Counts- December 15th Vanderburgh, December 16th Western Gibson, and December 22nd Oakland City.

Old Business

Annual Chapter Certification was filed on October 17th.

Audubon Chapters Great Lakes Gathering was held October 19-21. Don Batema gave an interesting and comprehensive report on the Gathering.

New Business

The 2019 Audubon Collaborative Grant submission deadline is 1/18/19. Decision 3/1/19.

Items From the Floor

Susan Fowler, Audubon Ambassador, has submitted her 2018 EAS Chapter Grant Report.

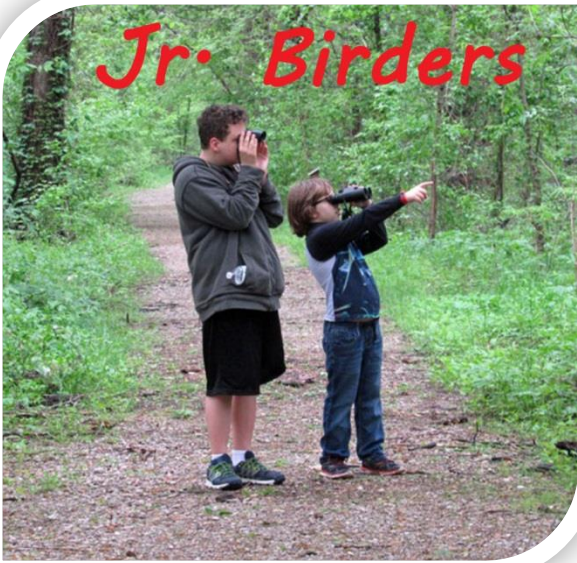
Bird sightings – Sue Vernier saw Sandhill Cranes and a Whooping Crane fly over her house.

Members are encouraged to submit photos for the EAS web site.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. Unfortunately, the evening's speaker was not able to attend.

Carolyn Egan, Secretary

Jr. Birders



Evan and Nicholas (and parents) spent a morning in the viewing room at Wesselman Nature Center on Saturday, November 10, to get close up views of birds at the numerous feeders set up. They saw 15 species come and go, as birds were busy consuming sunflower seeds and suet.

Being that close to the birds allowed ample time to study the birds and work on their identification skills. Both Evan and Nicholas were able to take some pictures as well. Nicholas also enjoyed reading descriptions of the birds, range maps, and playing songs and calls on the Merlin app that was available in the viewing room.



Nicholas using the Merlin app



Evan checking out the birds



The woodpeckers (downy and red-bellied) were a big hit as were the nuthatches (red-breasted and white-breasted). They learned that the white-breasted is the most common in our area and that the red-breasted occurs mainly when the seed crops in the North fail and they come to our area for the food they need. We were also able to see pine siskin as well. Evan snapped a picture of the busy feeder on the left, and Nicholas was able to capture a Downy Woodpecker eating some suet!

ATTENTION: FREE BIRDING SOFTWARE FOR KIDS!!!

WHO? Any young birder in pre-K, grade school, middle school, or high school can download Thayer's Birds of North America software at NO COST. This includes all our Jr. Birders.

HOW? Go to www.ThayerBirding.com and select the Mac or Windows version to download, type in this special code when prompted: EvansvilleAudubonYoungBirder. Then simply follow the online instructions.

WHY? Pete Thayer is celebrating his 70th birthday and wants to get as many young birders interested in birds as possible to give back to the birding community. He is hoping to spark the interest in young people and get them started on a life-long quest for knowledge about birds and the natural world.

P.S. If you enjoy using the software, Pete would like to hear from you. Simply contact him at Pete@ThayerBirding.com

P.S.S. And if the software kindles your interest in birds, and if you are not already a Jr. Birder, please join us on our walks to area birding hotspots. Follow our facebook page to keep up-to-date of Jr. Birder activities.



New and Completely Redesigned: The Audubon Bird Guide App

The new [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) is here! You can now use the app to stay up to date on Audubon news, read about our conservation wins, and take action on behalf of the birds we all love. For example, you can tap the "My Audubon" icon in the lower right corner of the app, scroll down to the "Take Action" section, and tap "Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

This also includes the bird guide app similar to I-Bird and you can go to the explore portion that has link to E-bird sightings and hot spots in your area. Enjoy.



UPDATE!!

ATTENTION SCHNUCKS SHOPPERS!!

Please support Evansville Audubon by shopping at a Schnucks grocery store. Just pick up a Schnucks eScrip Customer Card at the customer service desk and follow the directions on the card to register. Our group ID number is: 500023419

A percentage of your purchases at Schnucks will benefit the education funds of EAS. It's just that easy! Every time you shop at Schnucks, give the cashier your eScrip card to scan. It won't cost you a thing! We thank Schnucks for donating over \$400 to our education funds via eScrip. This money is then used for various school environmental/conservation projects.

Schnucks has now rolled out their Schnucks Rewards program. Shoppers cannot currently use both their Rewards and eScrip. However, the corporate office has assured us that change is coming soon. Please watch for e-mails and updates, or speak to your cashier at check out before attempting to use both your Rewards and eScrip. Please note that **if you attempt to use both now, your Schnucks Rewards will override eScrip.**



North Woods Invasive Plants Workday

As a follow-up to the talk by our September program speaker, Heather Zengler, on invasive plants, a workday was held on November 17 at North Woods (by Lloyd Pool). Evansville Audubon was actively involved in the project in 2003 with Rotary, the Parks Foundation and various other organizations in making this 35-acre woods and its nearly one mile of hiking trails a wonderful asset for use by our community.

Unfortunately, the woods have become a prime example of invasion by alien plants, particularly Winter Creeper, Bush Honeysuckle, Burning Bush and Asian Bittersweet. Several of us have been working on and off for several years, attacking the Winter Creeper, which can eventually kill the established large oaks and other trees in the woods. Luckily we were able to influence Heather, the new invasive plant technician, who is with the Vanderburgh Soil and Water Conservation Department, to make this her first project in her five counties of responsibility. We had 30 volunteers, and great fall weather, to make this a very successful morning's work for a major offensive on these extremely invasive plants. Another workday is planned this winter—anyone interested in helping please contact Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net or call 812-499-0177. All are encouraged to come out and take advantage of the nice trails in this superb woods.

Article submitted by Steve Heeger, Images taken by Carol Pettys



**Hink Pink Answer
from page 1:**

Mail Quail

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: Sue Vernier, (812)385-5058, rsavcaver2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)773-7946, 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** should renew with National Audubon Society. **Chapter Code C9ZH030Z**

☐ \$20: 1 year introductory rate

☐ \$15: 1 year Student/ Senior (62 and over) rate

☐ \$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville, IN 47714

Name _____

☐ My check enclosed

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Address _____

City _____ State _____

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

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____