



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org

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AS WE WERE... Part II 113 Years of the Evansville Audubon Society

In Part I of our stroll down memory lane in the previous newsletter, we were in the 1970's. **At this time, the Evansville Audubon Society became more involved with the total environment, not just birdwatching.** The Society's first conservation project offered free trees to the public. Members presented educational programs to various groups, with a wide range of topics on nature and conservation. Also, the Society sponsored environmental poster and essay contests for elementary and high school students.

In the spring of 1972, members built a bluebird trail at the ISUE (now USI) campus. Twenty-two nest boxes were built and monitored, which helped in the bluebird's rapid recovery.

In 1974, among the many field trips offered, was the memorable "Let's Graze for Lunch" (gathering of edible plants) at ISUE's (now USI) Westwood Lodge. This popular outing continued for a decade.

In 1979, the Society began selling wild bird seed as a fundraiser (there were few local sources at the time)—members received a 10% discount. The sales continued until 2002; when, by that time, many commercial businesses sold bird seed.

In 1980, when there was only one known Barn Owl nesting site in Indiana, Society members constructed and placed twenty-five owl nesting boxes in Vanderburgh County.

From April to June, 1983, the Science gallery of the Evansville Museum of Arts and Science exhibited an "Audubon Today" display! Prints and slides represented all phases of Evansville Audubon activities, field trips, and local flora and fauna.

In 1985, the Society co-sponsored with Wesselman Park Nature Center an Ohio Valley Acid Rain Symposium. From 1988 thru 1991, as part of the Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network (Evansville area), an Evansville Audubon member diligently took measurements as Acid Rain Monitor.

In 1986, we began working with many organizations in a long effort to establish the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. By 1989 endorsements were obtained from Senator Lugar, Governor Bayh, and Congressman McCloskey. The Refuge was successfully established in 1994. Also, the Society successfully obtained a grant to establish the Friends of the Refuge group in 2010.

During the 1990's, the Society offered a series of Bird ID Workshops, conducted a survey of bird species along the Pigeon Creek Greenbelt, observed and recorded data for the Peregrine Falcon release project in downtown Evansville, and became part of a coalition to form Friends of Ayrshire to support the Indiana DNR purchase of reclaimed mine land to become Blue Grass FWA.

Our activities in the 2000's would take up another page (Ohio Valley Birding Festival, Climate Change lecture, etc.), but I hope that you have enjoyed this brief look at the Evansville Audubon Society and that you will become inspired to join our organization, if you are not already a member, to continue our efforts into the next century!

Sue Vernier, President

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.

Mar. 18, 2025 -- "On the Hunt for Hummingbirds in Arizona and New Mexico", presented by Richard and Sue Vernier, birders and photographers. Follow the Verniers as they visit the Arizona and New Mexico hot spots to bag (with cameras) their birds.

May 20, 2025 -- "Wildlife Wonders", presented by nature photographer Bill Vieth. A photo slideshow featuring birds of the Brazil Pantanal, Costa Rica and the U.S.

June 17, 2025 -- Annual Meeting & Elections. A get-together with your fellow Audubon members to share refreshments, birding stories, and elect incoming officers and directors.

HAPPENINGS on the PATOKA RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE:

Peent! An Evening with the Woodcocks

Saturday evening, March 1, the Refuge Friends will offer a unique birding experience for the whole family. Most outings aren't focused on just one animal, but woodcocks are so neat they get a whole night all their own!

Just what is a "Peent"? It's the sound made by male woodcocks while performing their courtship ritual flights. Join us at Columbia Mine Preserve main parking lot on Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge at 5:30 pm CST for a brief presentation on the woodcock. Then we'll walk Timberdoodle Trail and hope the woodcocks are in the mood to put on a show.

This event is open to all, regardless of age or experience. Yet, since this is an event in the evening that is dependent on a fairly quiet environment, parents are encouraged to stay with their children. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Flash lights are optional. Consider arriving early to enjoy the sunset and walk some trails. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held on March 2.

Directions: Head east from Oakland City on State Highway 64 for two miles to CR 100W. Turn left (North) onto CR 100W and continue 3/4 mile until the road "T's". Turn Left (West) on W CR 475 S, travel 1/10 mile. Look for the Columbia Mine Preserve sign across from Patoka Grove Church, turn right (North) onto CR 125W and follow the road two miles back to the large parking area at the center of the Columbia Mine Preserve.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Nominations Committee is looking for volunteers to fill out a slate of candidates for Officers and Directors positions to be voted in at our June annual meeting. Do you have a couple of hours every other month that you can devote to helping Evansville Audubon with the task of meeting our mission *to promote the awareness of and appreciation for birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation?* The Board meets every other month from September thru May to conduct this vital mission.

Presently, all four of our Officers are eligible and agreeable to serve another term, but new faces are always welcome! The positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

For Directors, all three Directors with terms ending this year are eligible to serve again for another 3-year term ending 2028; and we hope they say 'yes' when contacted by the Nominations Committee. However, our by-laws allow a maximum of 12 Directors, so there's room for new candidates to be considered. This is an easy way to be a part of our mission.

Most importantly, we have an existing Director vacancy that has remained unfilled this past year, so we need new people to step forward!

If you are interested in helping Evansville Audubon with this very necessary need to conduct the business of the Evansville Audubon Society, please contact Alex Gansmann, Nominations Chair, at alexander.w.gansmann@gmail.com or Sue Vernier, President, rsavcaver2@gmail.com.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Ohio Valley Birding Festival

The Ohio Valley Birding Festival is scheduled for April 25-27, 2025 and will include hikes at Patoka River NWR, Howell Wetlands, JJ Audubon Wetlands, JJ Audubon State Park, Eagle Slough, and Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Bird Banding activities, presentations by Talon Trust, local author Sharon Sorenson, and Greg Dubois speaking on Smithsonian Certified Bird Friendly Coffee will be held at the JJ Audubon State Park on Saturday April 26. Multiple family friendly activities will also occur Saturday April 26th at the JJ Audubon State Park. On Sunday April 27 a raptor encounter will occur at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve. Please see the OVBF page on the Evansville Audubon Society website (evvaudubon.org/about) for finalized times and printable handouts.

Advocacy Day at the Indiana Statehouse!

We're Flocking to the Indiana Statehouse on March 10

Audubon Great Lakes is organizing an advocacy day at the Indiana Statehouse on March 10 to advocate for birds, other wildlife, and communities. You will be with other Audubon members for this gathering at the Statehouse. When you RSVP (see below) you will receive event updates and virtual training on Audubon's policy priorities and what to expect during your conversations with elected officials.

It's only by working together with Great Lakes Audubon and other chapters that we are able to advance the conservation of Indiana's natural resources.

Register at this link! *includes Panera box lunch*

<https://www.mobilize.us/audubon-great-lakes/event/749737/>

Save the Date: We're Flocking to the Indiana Statehouse on March 10



On March 10, Audubon Great Lakes is gathering at the Indiana Statehouse to advocate for strong policy solutions to protect Indiana's birds, other wildlife and communities.

[Will you join us to speak up for vulnerable birds like the Wood Thrush? RSVP Today.](#)

Indiana birds face big challenges including the loss of suitable habitat in a changing climate. Join us to meet with your elected officials to share the importance of investing in the conservation of Indiana's natural resources and expanding responsibly sited clean energy.

No previous advocacy experience is necessary. A virtual training will review Audubon's policy priorities and what to expect during a conversation with elected officials.

WHAT: Audubon Great Lakes Advocacy Day at the Indiana Statehouse

WHEN: Monday, March 10 from 11:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET*

WHERE: Indiana Statehouse, North Atrium; 200 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

[RSVP to reserve your spot and receive important event updates as we get closer to the event.](#)

Together, we can advance solutions to protect Indiana's birds!

We hope to see you there.



2025

Tri-State Creation Care Conference

“Building Resilience Together”

Saturday, March 8, 9 am - Noon CST

CK Newsome Center, 100 E. Walnut St., Evansville

The event is free.



All are welcome.

Readying Our City for the Future:

- How will climate change impact our area?
- What is our city’s plan to become more green and resilient?
- How is our city prepared for severe weather events?
- What is our role as individuals and faith/civic organizations?

Our Presenters:



Dr. Beth Hall, Indiana State Climate Office Director

“Climate Trends and Considerations for Reducing Risks”



Lauren Norvell, Evansville’s Climate Action Director

“Taking Action to Build a Resilient Community”



Cliff Weaver, Evansville /Vanderburgh EMA Director

“Evansville’s Severe Weather Preparations and How Communities Might Play a Role”

Pre-registration is not required but appreciated.

Register to tristate.creation.care@gmail.com

Doors will open at 8:30 am for registration and exhibits.

Website: www.tristatecreationcare.org

Facebook: [tristateinterfaithcreationcare](https://www.facebook.com/tristateinterfaithcreationcare)

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes January 21, 2025

Program: at 6:00 PM – Brad Bumgardner, Executive Director of Indiana Audubon, gave a presentation on “Update on the Chasing Melody Wood Thrush Motus Tagging & other Indiana Audubon Projects” virtually through Zoom.

The business meeting convened at 6:55pm after the program concluded. A quorum was present with ten board members - Brian Taylor, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Niles Rosenquist, Jim Kimsey, Pam Kimsey, Phil Copp, Pat Copp, Alex Gansmann and Hope Hartman.

Minutes: The November 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Richard Vernier gave the treasurer's report as of 12/31/2024.

Income of \$1,380.02, NAS Collaborative Grant, Donation appeal letter and interest Expenses of \$2,425, EAS Ambassador, Patchwork Central, Wesselman Woods, and Tekoppel 2nd grade study
Current checking balance is \$4,998.93.
Checking account without the reserve account balances is \$3,018.93

Reserve account balances
Education & Conservation \$1,140
Jr. Birders \$280.00
NAS Collaborative Grants \$560
Total \$1,980

Other Accounts
Savings \$5.09
CD 14 month at 4.85% \$3,519.75
Total \$3,524,84

Committee Reports:

Field Trips- Sue Vernier gave results of the Owl Prowl held on Sunday the 8th. A Ky. Dam trip is scheduled for February 1st.

Programs- The March 18th program “Hummingbirds of New Mexico and Arizona” will be presented by Richard and Sue Vernier.

Junior Birders- Sue Vernier let everyone know the Jr. Birders Facebook page will be replaced by a webpage on www.evvaudubon.org. Hope Hartman announced they will be participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count from 2/14-17/2025. The site is www.birdcount.org.

Advocacy- Sue Vernier told about the Audubon Great Lakes Advocacy Day at the Indiana Statehouse on March 10th (11-4pm ET). Niles Rosenquist mentioned HB 1447 and SB 321 concerning an energy bill to restrict coal and use small nuclear power.

Education and Conservation Grants- Sue Vernier presented grant requests under new business. **Events –**
No update

Media/Marketing- Brian Taylor gave an update on the email newsletter delivery rates.

Old Business :

Sue Vernier reported there is still a vacancy for the program chair.

National Audubon approved an Evansville Audubon Society collaborative grant application for \$560 to fund MOTUS tagging for one Wood Thrush in 2025. The check was mailed to Indiana Audubon.

New Business:

A motion was made by Brian Taylor and seconded by Niles Rosenquist to approve an education and conservation grant request from Sycamore Land Trust for \$1,000 to support Eagle Slough Natural area and provide funding for restoration, trail maintenance, and monitoring.

Sue Vernier reported that the Annual Chapter Certification Report was submitted to National Audubon and was approved.

Sue asked for volunteers for the Nominations Committee. Alex Gansmann and Brian Taylor offered to be on the committee. Sue also reported that Sue Vernier, Niles Rosenquist, Richard Vernier and Brian Taylor are eligible to serve again. In addition, existing directors Phil Copp, Pat Copp and Jim Kimsey are eligible for new term ending 2028. Two vacancies for term ending 2026 are still needed.

Items from the floor:

Sue Vernier reported during the snows they had a Sapsucker and Mockingbird visit the feeders. Alex Gansmann reported a Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, Brown Thrasher and Eastern Phoebe. Brian Taylor reported a member found a Great Egret on the Posey County Christmas Bird Count.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Submitted by Brian Taylor, Secretary

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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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

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 H03

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

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

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