



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org

Volume 54 Number 1, Jan-Feb 2024, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd. Evansville, IN 47711

THANK YOU! To our faithful Members and Supporters who have already responded to our annual donation appeal! Your response ensures our continued outreach to the community with our education and conservation projects.

If you want to see what your donations have already supported, read the articles in this newsletter on the Eagle Scout and the Hovey Lake FWA observation deck projects.

If you have not yet contributed, it's never too late! Just make your checks payable to Evansville Audubon Society and mail your donation to Evansville Audubon Society, 551 N. Boeke Rd., Evansville, IN 47711.

Donors:

Pat Goodaker

Luan Greubel

Mary Petkovsek

Richard and Sue Vernier

Jan and Dan Schrader

Charles Carper

Nancy Gehlhausen

Bob and Laura Martin

Joe Dauer

Charlene Talley

Carol Pettys

LD Harry

Jim and Mary Jo Campbell

Niles Rosenquist

Susan Everett

Tom Cochran

Mike Lodato

Andrew Thieneman, Jr.

Laurel Vaughn

Ana Stransky

Donna Mayes

Carolyn Egan

Steve Briscoe

TGAL Recycling, Inc.

Jeffrey Helfrich

Bill Pierrot

Phil and Pat Copp

Jo Littrell

Last year we were able to fund all of the education and conservation grant requests we received. This year we have an opportunity to support three exciting new projects (the Eagle Scout and Hovey Lake projects already completed!), in addition to our usual recipients of our yearly grants.

We are a bit shy of our goal, so if you have not already done so, please help us to continue our outreach. We don't want to say "no" to any of our worthy grant requests.

Sue Vernier, Treasurer
Evansville Audubon Society

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.

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.

May 21, 2024: "Birds and Transmission" presented by Wendy Bredhold, Sr. Mgr. Transmission Initiative - National Audubon Climate. She will talk about the National Audubon Society's bold new transmission initiative and Audubon's work to build the electrical grid birds need.

June 18, 2024: Join us for our Annual Potluck and Meeting. Please bring a covered dish to share, your favorite beverage, and your own table service (disposable table service and lemonade will also be available). A brief annual meeting to elect incoming officers and directors will follow the potluck.

SAVE THESE DATES

February 3, 2024 will be our annual Kentucky Dams trip, an area favorite. As always, it is free to the public. We hope to see lots of Raptors, Waterfowl and Gull species. We will meet up at the Columbia Sports Outlet parking lot in Henderson, Ky and depart at **6:15 AM**. Please bring appropriate clothes and footwear. This trip should take 6 to 8 hours. For more information, contact Bob Meier, birderbob68@yahoo.com.

The Ohio Valley Birding Festival is scheduled **April 26 - 28, 2024**. For information, contact LD Harry at ldharry007@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! MANY OPENINGS NEED TO BE FILLED!!

The Nominations Committee will soon be looking for volunteers to fill out a slate of Officers, Directors, and Committee 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 June to conduct this vital mission.

We must fill the officer positions for President and Secretary (the present officers serving are term limited and ineligible to continue). For Directors, we currently have a vacant director's position for term ending 2026, and we will need to fill 4 director positions for term ending 2027 (director terms are 3 years). We also have vacancies for Programs and Jr. Birders Committee chairs.

If you are interested in helping Evansville Audubon with this very necessary need to conduct the business of the Evansville Audubon Society, please contact us at info@evvaudubon.org or Brian Taylor, president, brian.taylor@par.consulting

Climate Rally at Indiana Statehouse - January 16, 2024

Here's an opportunity for Evansville Audubon members and supporters to stand up for the climate. You are invited to a climate action rally and press conference, co-hosted by Confront the Climate Crisis and Representative Carey Hamilton of Indianapolis, which will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 11 AM Eastern in the Fourth Floor's South Atrium of the Indiana Statehouse. Join the rally on January 16 to stand with a bipartisan coalition of youth, advocacy organizations, and legislators supporting policies that advance clean energy, conserve Indiana's forests and wetlands, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change!

EVENT DETAILS: "IN This Together: Uniting Hoosiers for Our Future"

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Indiana Statehouse Fourth Floor South Atrium
200 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204, USA**

LEARN MORE AND RSVP:

www.ConfrontTheClimateCrisis.com/event-details/in-this-together-uniting-hoosiers-for-our-future
(RSVPing is not required, but it is recommended so we can send you an email reminder in January.)

For further details contact Rahul Durai, Co-Executive Director, Confront the Climate Crisis,
Cell: (765) 701-8472
Email: rahuldurai28@gmail.com

CONFRONT THE CLIMATE CRISIS PRESENTS:

IN This Together

UNITING HOOSIERS FOR OUR FUTURE

JOIN US AS WE RALLY FOR UPCOMING CLIMATE LEGISLATION AND CALL FOR ACTION! SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE ACTIVISTS AND LEGISLATORS.

WHEN: JANUARY 16 | 11AM - 1PM
WHERE: INDIANA STATE CAPITOL,
4TH FLOOR SOUTH ATRIUM



EVANSVILLE AUDUBON OWL PROWL



We had a good turn out for the Evansville Audubon Owl Prowl this past Sunday. 13 brave souls joined us on this cool and breezy afternoon. We had 5 birds of prey species, SE Owls and N. Harriers put on a nice show.

Happy Holidays!



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Evansville Audubon received this "thank you" note from Sarah Market, a recipient of one of our education and conservation grants to assist in funding her Eagle Scout project. The photo shows the new bird feeders and landscaping in front of the bird feeding/wildlife viewing area that were part of her project at J.J. Audubon State Park.

Dear Audubon Society of Evansville,
Thank you for assisting in funding my Eagle Scout project at Audubon State Park. The project went well, and is now finished. I hope the Henderson community enjoys the new bird feeders!!

best wishes,
Sarah Market



HOVEY LAKE HIKE

Wood Ducks were plentiful during our hike on the Rail Marsh Trail at Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area on November 25.



We had a great trip to Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area near Mt. Vernon, IN on November 25, for a hike led by Assistant Property Manager Jared Emmack. We hiked the new Rail Marsh Trail and used the observation platform built by Jared and his workers and funded by Evansville Audubon Society (through their education and conservation grants program).

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes November 21, 2023

Program: at 6:00 PM – “Dancing with Grouse in the Sandhills” presented by Richard and Sue Vernier, long-time Evansville Audubon members and photographers. There was also a brief presentation by Sarah Market on her Eagle Scout project at JJ Audubon S.P., funded by an Evansville Audubon grant.

Business Meeting convened at 6:55, quorum 9 needed , 10 present

Minutes: approved as distributed by email

Treasurer's report, October, (distributed by email):

Previous Month's Checking Account Balance: \$6,428.73

Income – Donation - Eagle Scout Project \$100.00 Donation – General Fund \$200.00, Interest \$0.03, **Total Income \$300.03**

Expenses: Check Order \$29.25, Wesselman Woods -Lewis Memorial \$303.84, Program Speaker Fee – Peaks \$25.00 , Eagle Scout Grant \$220.00, Newsletter Printing \$65.00 **Total Expenses \$643.09**

Current Checking Account Balance: \$6,085.67, Checking Without Reserves: \$2,377.18

Reserve Account Balances: Education & Conservation - \$277.67, Jr. Birders \$280.00 , Lewis Memorial \$3,706.16 **Total \$3,708.**

Other Accounts: Bulk Mail \$63.23, Savings \$5.09, Certificate of Deposit \$4,328.16, **Total \$4,396.48**

Treasury Updates-

- Expended Edu and Con money, since October treasurer's report: Tekoppel School \$700 and Wood Thrush Project \$560 (Patchwork \$600 committed but not sent, not needed yet)
- Expended Lewis Memorial Money: \$303.84
- Last print newsletter, Nov/Dec issue, email only will save about \$600/year for other programs.
- Flier prepared by Don Batema for use where print newsletters have been previously distributed.
- Annual payment from National will be delayed until March due to change in Chapter Report process.
- To date \$1255 received in the annual donation campaign.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips: Rend Lake trip canceled, Owl Prowl Dec 10 at Somerville Mines, see website for details

Programs:

Jan 16 th 2024 “Cranes over Indiana from the Crane Foundation (Zoom Only)

March 19 th 2024 “Natives and You” by Donnarae of Ancient Roots Native Nursery

Junior Birders: no activity scheduled, discussion of possible future plans.

Conservation: Indiana is soliciting input for development of a state Climate Action Plan. City projects (pickle ball and dog park), are ongoing.

Education and Conservation Grants: The Evansville Audubon Society Board of Directors has approved providing \$560 to sponsor the costs for the deployment, tracking and monitoring online of a single Wood Thrush as part of the Indiana Wood Thrush project.

Events, Christmas Bird Counts:

Western Gibson Co Sat Dec 16 Dan Collins, dancollinspest@gmail.com

Vanderburgh Co Sun Dec 17 Jacob Scheller jscheller@warrick.k12.in.us

Warrick Co Sat Dec 23 Jacob Scheller jscheller@warrick.k12.in.us

Oakland City Wed Dec 17 Heath Hamilton heath_hamilton@fws.gov

Posey Co Sat Dec 30 Jared Emmack jemmack@dnr.in.gov

contact leader and web site for details

Media/Marketing: Web page and Facebook activities consolidated into a Media committee

Old Business : Still have vacancies for president, one board member, and program chair.

Greg Meyer sent a note saying that Eagle Slough is open, even though the parking lot gate is locked.

New Business:

Rail Marsh trail opening at Hovey Lake, Nov 25

Families of a Feather program through Lewis Memorial is on going

Meeting will be scheduled for planning the Ohio River Birding Festival.

Items from the floor: none

Bird observations: sand hill cranes and whooping cranes at Goose Pond; short eared owls.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:15

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

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

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 H03

\$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: _____ Zip: _____

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