



# THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

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



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### Members & Volunteers- Evansville Audubon's Superheroes

The Evansville Audubon Society would like to thank you, our readers for all your participation in our programs, bird hikes and special activities we provide. We are proud of the caring and hard-working individuals that make us better by using our informational services and volunteering to make sure birds, wildlife and the environment are all protected.

We encourage you to take the time to view our website which has a lot of useful information, and we are always open to suggestions to give relative content which you would enjoy. Many of you have subscribed to our email newsletter and are already able to view our full color newsletters, but we would love to see even more of you subscribe by going to the bottom of our home page at [www.evvaudubon.org](http://www.evvaudubon.org). When you do sign up, you will also get notices of our programs and bird hikes. We typically only send one email per month because we respect your time, but the maximum we would send is 3 per month if we have special events.

It was wonderful to see so many people come out for the Ohio Valley Birding Festival. We love hearing phrases like "Oh Wow! I never knew that bird existed." It is exciting to introduce new birders to species they have never seen before or rather make them aware of birds and nature that was right in front of them all the time, but takes special training to notice them. It is equally exciting to see experienced birders enjoy making new friends and sharing their experiences. We have many more programs and events coming up and we would love to see you and share those experiences with you.

We also love seeing our grant recipients making a difference in the tri-state area. We are able to connect with local students with education programs and fund environmental projects which makes Evansville and the surrounding area a better place to live. As always, we thank you so much for the time and financial means to make our organization better!

Sincerely,  
Brian Taylor  
President  
Evansville Audubon Society

## **ELECTION SLATE**

The NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE submits the following slate of officers and directors to be voted in at the June 21 annual meeting:

Officers:

President - Brian Taylor

Vice President - Richard Vernier

Treasurer - Sue Vernier

Secretary - Niles Rosenquist

New Directors, term ending 2025:

Jacob Scheller

Phil Copp

Pat Copp

Jim Kimsey

The remaining Directors (Bob Meier, Jim Lodato, Pam Kimsey, Kate Lynch, Mary Jo Campbell, Amanda Joest, Carolyn Egan, and Chris Robinson) are not up for re-election, and will continue serving out their 2023 and 2024 terms.

Thanks to all our volunteers willing to serve in these important positions! Also, a special thanks to our retiring directors Maryann Watson and Jim Campbell.

## **PROGRAMS**

Programs are the third Tuesday of each month (excepting July and August) at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. NOTE: Any last minute changes will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

May 17, 2022 -- "Green River National Wildlife Refuge and How It Finally Got Here", presented by Mike Morton, wildlife biologist and supervisor for over 30 years at the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area in western Henderson County.

June 21, 2022 -- Program Speaker is Jared Emmack, Assistant Property Mgr., Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area. This is also our annual meeting for election of officers and directors. The slate of candidates are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Evansville Audubon Society Minutes February 15, 2022

Meeting by Zoom

**Program** at 6:00 PM, "Songbird Conservation from a Forester's Perspective", presented by Allen Purcell, Director of Forest Conservation for The Nature Conservancy.

Business Meeting convened at 6:48, attendance – 11 board members, quorum present

**Minutes:** accepted as distributed by email

**Treasurer's report:** emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$2592.80, Bulk Mail \$129.49 CD \$4164.66, Checking w/o reserves \$1266.96, Reserve Accounts 1325.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1045.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), annual donations \$1740, 30 donors (\$125, 2 donors this month) \$600 education grant previously approved by the Board has been paid to Patchwork Central.

### Field Trips:

April 1st – Migration Walk at Howell Wetland

April 8th – Burdette Park

April 15th – Howell Wetland

April 22nd – Howell Wetlands

April 28th – Burdette Park

April 30th – Harmonie State Park. Warbler Madness with John Meridig.

**Programs:** March 15th program will be "Spring Wildflowers of Audubon State Park" presented by Lisa Hoffman, Park Naturalist, J.J. Audubon State Park

**Junior Birders:** Field trip planned on April 23 as part of the ORBF, at Audubon Museum Conservation: Niles Rosenquist discussed briefly the status of legislation before the Indiana General Assembly. Several problematic energy bills (nuclear, carbon sequestration) and one bill S411 on wind and solar siting that should be supported and one restricting Indiana's ability to enact environment rules HB1100 should be opposed. HB1224 dealing with financial entities boycotting fossil fuel investments died. A letter in the Courier by Wendy Bredhold has much more detail.

**Education & Conservation Grants:** no new requests for grants. Audubon Collaborative grant was approved, \$750 from NAS to cover Susan Fowler as Audubon Ambassador, which means \$750 will go back to our Education Fund. A suggestion was made that we consider renewing our sponsorship of Eagle Slough with Sycamore Land Trust.

**OVB:** April 22-24th. The schedule of events flier has been distributed to various locations. The schedule will be printed in the Mar/Apr newsletter. Included are Friday April 22nd "Friday at 5 migration walk" Howell Wetlands and Sunday April 24th 7am Eagle Slough with Bob Meier

**Old Business:** January contest results: Big Weekend David Stone (71 species), Waterfowl David Stone and Jacob Emmack (19). Feeder R. Hayden and Greg Hayden (21). Prizes donated by EAS, WWNC and Birds Unlimited.

**New Business:** Newsletter deadline February 18, Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 18-21. Enter list(s) online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Nominations Committee Needed. President, vice president and secretary are eligible to serve one more term. Treasurer is termed and will need to be replaced. The four directors with terms ending (Maryann Watson, Phil and Pat Copp, and Jim Campbell) are eligible to serve another 3-yr term. Sue Vernier will follow up. Aimee Stachura from Girl Scouts of SW Indiana has asked us to again participate as a Girl Scout Community Partner this year. Don Batama has previously participated as an adviser on a birding merit badge. Sue Vernier will contact Don and check on the merit badge status.

**Items from the Floor:** WWNC is asking for volunteers to help with seeding at Howell on 2/16, Falconer event is scheduled at Harmonie SP on 2/20, Butterfly count scheduled for July 4, coordinated by Eric McCloud of USI.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:40.

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

## **Evansville Audubon Society Minutes March 15, 2022**

Meeting by Zoom and in person

**Program** at 6:00 PM, Program – “Spring Wildflowers of Audubon State Park” presented by Lisa Hoffman, Park Naturalist, J.J. Audubon State Park.

Business Meeting convened at 6:55, quorum present

**Minutes:** accepted as distributed by email

**Treasurer's report:** emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$3242.81, Bulk Mail \$229.49 CD \$4166.74, Checking w/o reserves \$1166.97 Reserve Accounts 2075.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$1795.84, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280), annual donations \$1740, 30 donors, no new donors this month. NAS grant from National received, to cover Susan Fowler programs.

### **Field Trips:**

LBL trip had good turnout, 14 people, 14 waterfowl, 6 birds of prey 4 gull species, 42 species total

Future Field Trips

April 1st– Migration Walk at Howell Wetland

April 8th– Burdette Park

April 15th– Howell Wetland

April 22nd– Howell Wetland

April 28th– Burdett Park

April 30th– Harmonie State Park. Warbler Madness with John Meridig.

**Programs** April 19 program will be "How Birds Behave: What They Do and Why They Do It" by Sharen Sorenson. May program will be Mike Morton on the new Green River NWR.

**Junior Birders:** Field trip planned on April 23 as part of the OVBF, at Audubon Museum

**Conservation:** Niles discussed a “Coalition Statement to CenterPoint” and proposed that EAS sign on with other environmental, consumer and social justice groups urging CenterPoint to abandon plans for a new natural gas plant, provide transparency on bills and relieve the immediate burden on ratepayer. Moved and approved. Niles gave a very brief summary of the legislative session, most environmental bills, good and bad, did not eventually pass or were very much weakened. Sue Vernier discussed the proposed Mid States Highway, two proposed routes would be extremely destructive to south central Indiana's forest and karst region. She distributed information from the Indiana Karst Conservancy, urged members to contact the governor, INDOT and the project manager and that EAS write a letter. Moved and approved.

**Education & Conservation Grants:** \$1000 grant to Sycamore Land Trust for sponsorship of Eagle Slough, moved and approved. Susan Fowler requested additional funding to be able to provide four additional programs, up to \$300 moved and approved.

**OVBF:** April 22-24th

Friday April 22nd will be the “Friday at 5 migration walk”

Sunday April 24th will be 7am Eagle Slough with Bob Meier

The 2022 Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events flier has been distributed to various locations and the schedule will be printed in the Mar/Apr newsletter. The OVBF will be incorporated into the EAS web site, and the separate OVBF will be discontinued.

### **Old Business**

#### **New Business:**

Nominations Slate:

President - Brian Taylor

Vice President - Richard Vernier

Treasurer - Sue Vernier  
Secretary - Niles Rosenquist  
Directors, term ending 2025  
Jacob Scheller (replacing Maryann Watson)  
Phil Copp  
Pat Copp  
Jim Kimsey (replacing Jim Campbell)

**Items from the Floor:** Sycamore Land Trust will have an Arbor Day tree give away at Old National Bank downtown, 250 trees, April 29 11- 2PM, with EAS as partner, can distribute EAS brochure. Sycamore Land Trust has scheduled a clean up at Eagle Slough on March 26, 9:00 to noon. Contact Sue Haislip at SLT, dependent on river flood conditions. Weed Wrangle scheduled for North Woods/ Iglehart Park (behind Lloyd Pool on north 1st Ave) on March 19, 9:00 AM to noon, contact Steve Heeger. Butterfly count scheduled for June 1 to July31, coordinated by Eric McCloud of USI who will provide details on training, count area and rules.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:40.  
Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

### **Email Information and Notifications**

If you are not receiving EAS information and notification emails, and wish to be included in these postings, it could be that the email address on file has an error. In order to correct any inadvertent errors, and ensure the correct address for these mailings, or you would prefer not to be included in these, please send your email address to [sheeger0839@gmail.com](mailto:sheeger0839@gmail.com).

### **NEWS FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON ON TOP POLICY WINS...**

Nearly \$1.1 billion will be provided to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program to support projects in 2022. This funding comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that was signed into law in Nov., 2021, and represents a sweeping investment in the Everglades.

Bird protections were restored when, in Dec., 2021, the Biden administration repealed the rollback of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) by the previous administration. Critical bird protections returned for the first time in nearly four years.

Audubon won its lawsuit last year to stop a Trump-era rule that allowed sand mining on pristine, undeveloped coastlines. Audubon, joined by several partners, filed suit against the rule that weakened the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) and in response to the lawsuit, the Biden Administration revoked the rule, solidifying this victory for birds and their coastal habitats.



**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**

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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** may renew directly with National Audubon Society at [www.audubon.org](http://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: Richard 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 \_\_\_\_\_