



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



Inside This Issue:

Page 2

EAS 2021 Grant

EAS Grants Available

Programs

Field Trips

Page 3

Southern Indiana Christmas
Bird Count

Page 4

Minutes

Evansville Audubon Society Supporters and Friends,

Last year we received a much appreciated \$3,285 in donations which enabled us to 100% fund all education and conservation grant requests. We truly appreciate the generosity of supporters and friends like you! Thank you!! It's only through your ongoing support that we will continue our mission to promote the awareness, appreciation and preservation of birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation

The following recipients of our grants were able to provide outreach to those who might otherwise never experience the wonder and appreciation of nature:

- . Talon Trust
- . Patchwork Central
- . Wesselman Woods - Howell Wetlands Prairie Restoration
- . Wesselman Woods - Salamander Gate, View Area Upgrade, Signs
- . Michelle Adam-Smith - Tekoppel School 2nd grade classroom teacher
- . Sycamore Land Trust - "Sponsor a Preserve" for Eagle Slough
- . Climate Leadership Summit 6 Sponsorship

Please help us to continue this kind of outreach by supporting us again! You should have received our donation appeal letter in the mail; if not, it is not too late to contribute. Just make your check payable to: Evansville Audubon Society and mail to: Richard Vernier, EAS Treasurer, 580 N 350 E, Princeton, IN 47670.

Remember, your contributions are fully tax deductible as Evansville Audubon Society is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Also, many employers will match donations to local nonprofits, so be sure to check with your employer!

Brian Taylor, President, Evansville Audubon Society

Evansville Audubon Society 2021 Grant: Patchwork Central

Last year, Patchwork Central requested \$600 from the Evansville Audubon Society to fund Susan Fowler's art residency during Patchwork's Summer 2021 Arts & Smarts Art Garden activities for 1st-8th Graders. Susan was able to provide 10 days of storytelling for the summer and stopped by for an additional visit.



Participants got milkweed plants to take home



A participant adding to the plants in Patchwork's native plant/butterfly garden

EVANSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

Evansville Audubon Society is now accepting applications for their education and conservation grants! We are offering small grants (generally \$250 to \$750) for individual or group projects that are either educational in nature or support a conservation need and include an emphasis on the environment.

Applications should include:

- * A brief description of the project
- * Items/activities to be accomplished by the project
- * Budget amount to meet the goal
- * Timeline for completion of the project

If you have an education or conservation project in mind for which a small grant would be beneficial; or you know of an organization or individual in need of a grant, simply send the information to our education and conservation grants chair, Jim Lodato, jclodato@yahoo.com. All grant requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all funds available are expended.

Projects that we've funded in the past include: Talon Trust; Howell Wetlands prairie restoration; Wesselman Woods salamander gate; Tekoppel 2nd grade classroom bird watching project; "Sponsor a Preserve" project at Eagle Slough; Junior Forest League program for youth; and education outreach to schools, scouts, community groups, and more.

PROGRAMS

Programs are the third Tuesday of each month at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. Masks are required when entering the building.

NOTE: With upcoming holidays and winter weather, our in-person programs may be changed to Zoom only. Any last minute changes will be posted on our Facebook page and Website and via email.

Nov. 16, 2021 - "Friends of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge", presented by Nancy Gehlhausen, president of the Friends of the Refuge organization.

Dec. 21, 2021 - "Wood Warbler Coffee is For the Birds", presented by Jeff Canada, owner of Wood Warbler Coffee. Jeff is former president of Indiana Audubon Society and an avid birder now specializing in roasting Smithsonian certified Bird Friendly coffee. He'll discuss the certification and why it is important to support bird and wildlife friendly farming practices in Latin America and beyond.

Jan. 18, 2022 - "The Surprising Tales of Indiana's Changing Energy Utility Landscape", presented by Matt Skuya-Boss, Sierra Club.

FIELD TRIPS

Feb. 13th, 2022 - KY Dams trip

*Meet at Rural King parking lot on Green St. Henderson, Ky, depart at 6:30am.

April 30th, 2022 - Bluegrass FWA Evening rip

*Meet at the main parking lot off B'ville/N. Harmony Rd, depart at 6:30 pm.

Southern Indiana Bird Count

Help Count Birds for Science during Audubon's 122 nd Annual Christmas Bird Count

Join thousands of participants will be part of the world's longest-running wildlife census, which contributes invaluable data to bird population research.

Southern Indiana –The National Audubon Society invites birdwatchers to participate in the longest-running community science survey, the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). On December 18 th 2021 in Evansville and January 1 st 2022 for Posey County birders and nature enthusiasts in Southern Indiana will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate.

Please contact us at info@evvaudubon.org to participate and for info on other area counts.

This year, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count will mobilize nearly 80,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,600 locations across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale that scientists could never accomplish alone. Data compiled in Southern Indiana will record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area, contributing to a vast community science network that continues a tradition stretching back 120 years.

"The Christmas Bird Count is a great tradition and opportunity for everyone to be a part of 122 years of ongoing community science," said Geoff LeBaron, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count director, who first started leading the community science effort in 1987. "Adding your observations to twelve decades of data helps scientists and conservationists discover trends that make our work more impactful. Participating in the Christmas Bird Count is a fun and meaningful way to spend a winter for anyone and everyone."

When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Audubon's Christmas Bird Count provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. The long-term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well. Christmas Bird Count data have been used in more than 300 peer-reviewed articles.

Again for this year's 122 nd Christmas Bird Count will be "CBC Live," a crowd-sourced, hemisphere-wide storytelling function using Esri mapping software. This "story-map" will ask users to upload a photo taken during their Christmas Bird Count as well as a short anecdote to paint a global picture of the Christmas Bird Count in real time.

Birders of all ages are welcome to contribute to this fun, nationwide community science project, which provides ornithologists with a crucial snapshot of our native bird populations during the winter months. Each individual count is performed in a count circle with a diameter of 15 miles. At least ten volunteers, including a compiler to coordinate the process, count in each circle. The volunteers break up into small parties and follow assigned routes, which change little from year to year, counting every bird they see. In most count circles, some people also watch feeders instead of following routes.

Interested birders must arrange with the count compiler in advance to participate. To sign up for the local count, please visit/contact Brian Taylor at info@evvaudubon.org or 812-480-0588 To look for a count circle near you go to Audubon's map of CBC circles here. Using the map you can contact the circle compiler to arrange to participate.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a free community science project organized by the National Audubon Society. Counts are open to birders of all skill levels and Audubon's free Bird Guide app makes it even easier to learn more. For more information and to find a count near you visit www.christmasbirdcount.org.



Evansville Audubon Society Minutes October 19, 2021

Meeting in person and by Zoom

Program at 6:00 PM "Nature's Best Hope", presented by Dan Sweigard, manager and owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. An overview of foods birds eat and native plants and insects birds interact with.

Business Meeting convened at 6:46, quorum of 9 present

Minutes: accepted as emailed, Sue Vernier moved, Brian Taylor seconded.

Treasurer's report: emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$2395.51, Bulk Mail \$130.09, CD \$4155.14, Checking w/o reserves \$1359.67, Reserve Accounts 1035.84 (includes Education and Conservation \$670.65, eScripts \$85.19, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280) One donation to the C & E fund \$100 included. (An additional \$501 received to C&E fund after this report was prepared.)

Field Trips: Bob Meier reported on three field trips in the last month, Howell Wetlands, Burdett Park, Eagle Slough, all well attended (by both people and birds) and that the next field trip will be to Goose Pond on October 30, meet at the North 41 Schnucks parking lot at 6:30.

Evansville Christmas Bird Count will be on December 18 2021.

Posey County Christmas Bird Count will be on January 1, 2022, Jared Emmack, Assistant Property Manager for Hovey Lake, will help Brian Taylor.

Programs: The program for November will be on the Patoka River NWR, speaker Nancy Gehlhausen, president of the Friends of the Patoka River NWR.

Junior Birders: Big Day at Wesselman Woods on Oct. 9, 22 species. walked 1 mile in 90 min. Elaine Kung was out with Pearl, the Nature Center's turkey vulture, and gave lots of information about vultures.

Conservation: Sue Vernier reported on several successes in areas that National Audubon has been working on relating to reinstating important environmental protections in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and in National Monuments (Bear Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante and Northeast Canyon Marine Sanctuary)

Niles Rosenquist reported that the hearing in Evansville on October 13 on the proposed CenterPoint Natural Gas Power plant went well, about 90 in attendance, 19 spoke, all in opposition with several providing very professional comments. Also the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has announced that it will require a full Environmental Impact Statement for the related 24 mile natural gas pipeline project through Kentucky and under the Ohio River.

Niles also reported on dumping at Eagle Slough, Greg Meyer could use help from someone with a truck.

Education and Conservation Grants: Susan Fowler requested a grant of \$ 750 to support her presentation of 10 programs to various groups of young people. Sue Vernier moved, Maryann Watson seconded, the grant was approved. Sue Vernier has contacted the Audubon Great Lakes office, and has their support for applying for an Audubon Collaborative Grant to cover all or part of Susan Fowler's funding (which would free up our E&C funds for other projects.)

Patchwork Central has indicated that they will be applying for a grant for their programs for inner city children, specifics expected next month.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival: April 23 at Audubon Park, April 22 at local site tbd.

Old Business: Some liability release forms for the new year are still needed.

New Business: Sue Vernier has begun preparing the annual Chapter Certification Report, which is required before National will release our annual dues split. She very much needs estimate from board member of hours spent on EAS activities for last fiscal year, the year ending June 30, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:40.

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes September 21, 2021

Meeting in person and by Zoom

Program at 6:00 PM "What's Up at Wesselman Woods?", presented by Cindy Cifuentes, Director of Natural Resources & Research at Wesselman Woods. (Discussion included Howell Wetlands, salamander survey, bird window strikes, wildlife cameras.)

Business Meeting convened at 7:43 PM, quorum of 9 present

Minutes were accepted as emailed, Brian Taylor moved and Chris Robinson seconded

Treasurer's report was emailed to the Board. Checking Account Balance \$2559.34, Bulk Mail \$135.46, CD \$4152.41 Checking w/o reserves \$1536.16, Reserve Accounts 1023.18 (includes Education and Conservation \$670.65, eScrip \$72.53, Memorials for Jr Birders \$280) one donation to the C & E fund \$100.

Annual audit was conducted in August, the committee (Rosenquist, Robinson) approved the report.

Budget for 2021/2022 was emailed to the Board, the Board approved the budget as emailed.

Audubon will no longer be receiving funds from Schnucks eScrip program, donations now going to limited list that Schnucks has selected. Over the previous 11 years Audubon has received \$3860 from eScrips for Education and Conservation grants.

Field Trips: 16 attendees/25 species at Howell and 13 attendees/38 species at Burdett, next field trip Saturday Sept 25, 5:45 PM for Swifts, site tbd.

Programs: The program speaker for October will be Kim Flagg , Assistant Manager at Wild Birds Unlimited. There are still openings to be filled for programs in January and June.

Junior Birders: One person showed up at Howell, junior birders will join the Swift field trip and the October Big Day at Wesselman Woods on Oct. 9.

Conservation: Centerpoint's proposed new natural gas power plant was discussed (Rosenquist) and comment cards expressing opposition were distributed, which will be sent to the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor.

Recent success by National Audubon in its opposition to a gold mine that threatened Bristol Bay and to sand mining on protected beaches were discussed (Sue Vernier.)

Education and Conservation Grants: Susan Fowler has indicated that she will make a grant request.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival: April 23 at Audubon Park, April 22 at local site tbd.

Old Business: Robinson and Rosenquist discussed highlights of the Climate Leadership Conference that took place in Evansville on Aug 31, which EAS cosponsored.

Some liability release forms for the new year are still needed.

New Business: Steve Heeger reported that 347 names are on the list for for the annual donation request mailing for the Conservation and Education fund. More names were requested.

The web site has been updated, with new Advocacy and Birds of Concern pages, and updated Hot Spots page.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM

Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

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: Brian Taylor, (812)480-0588, brian.taylor@haubstadt.com
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)567-0477, 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** may renew directly with National Audubon Society at 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 _____