



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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A Message From Audubon Great Lakes:

Audubon's Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People

Audubon Great Lakes has released an ambitious new report, *Audubon's Vision: Restoring the Great Lakes for Birds and People*, which offers a blueprint for how to address the threats facing the Great Lakes region for the benefit of birds and people.

Securing a bright future for the birds and people of the Great Lakes region has never been more important. As the largest freshwater ecosystem on the planet, the Great Lakes provide clean drinking water to 40 million people and serve as a global resource to millions of birds. Audubon's vision for the Great Lakes will ensure that the waters and lands of this iconic ecosystem remain healthy for communities of birds and people that rely on them for survival.

The loss of and degradation of our coastal habitats from urban and agricultural development, invasive species, and a changing climate pose the greatest threats to Great Lakes birds, especially the marsh bird populations that are in steep decline. A recent study found that North America has lost more than a quarter of its bird population in the last 50 years. Audubon has developed a cohesive strategy to engage communities across the region to address these threats.

With more than 10,000 miles of shoreline, Audubon has identified twelve nearshore watersheds of the Great Lakes that most need our help. The projects and programs highlighted in this report are critical to helping the region recover from current threats and will directly benefit key bird species that have seen dramatic declines, while setting the region on a path to long-term environmental health and resilience.

Website with Report: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/great-lakes-restoration>

Press Release: <https://gl.audubon.org/news/audubon-announces-plan-restore-great-lakes-birds-and-people>

Report PDF: https://nas-national-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/restoring_the...

Great Lakes Video: Protecting Birds in the Great Lakes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbaTxnMRATg>

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes March 16, 2021

Program at 6 PM "Right Plant for the Right Location" presented by Larry Caplan, retired extension educator.

Following the Program the Zoom Board Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Brian Taylor.

Minutes- President Taylor asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February minutes as emailed; there being none, minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board: Checking balance \$5871.19; Bulk Mail \$128.93; Savings \$5.09; CD \$4135.71. Checking w/o reserves \$1770.93. Reserves Edu & Cons \$3514.11; eScrip \$306.15; Jr. Birders \$280.00. Donations from annual drive \$3255.00 from 40 donors.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips: Brian read Bob Meier's report. The KY Dams trip had 9 people in attendance. Bob is considering bringing back "Friday at 5 Migration Walks" at Howell Wetlands and Burdette Park, beginning April 2. Masks will be required.

Programs: Sue Vernier announced that Sharon and Charlie Sorenson will present "Hummingbirds: Their Characteristics and Migration Habits" in April.

Conservation: Sue Vernier and Niles Rosenquist gave updates on Indiana SB 389, the bill to repeal wetlands protection. Niles also discussed HB 1381 which establishes commercial wind and solar standards and siting and intends to prevent local government attempts to restrict such projects.

Education & Conservation Grants: Existing grants were discussed. No new requests have been received, but Sue said she hopes her article in the latest newsletter will generate new applications.

Old Business

The online version of the Mar/April newsletter was emailed today. The paper version is at the printers and should be mailed in a week or so.

New Business

Sue announced that the Indiana DNR is looking for a few more volunteers to help with the annual marsh bird surveys.

Brian said he needs two more volunteers to serve on the nominations committee. The Secretary and two Directors are term-limited and need replacing (all others are eligible to serve another term). Niles Rosenquist volunteered to serve as Secretary. Brian has two people in mind to ask to serve as Directors, and he will contact them in the next few days. EAS plans to conduct in-person programs and meetings come September, provided it meets COVID guidelines.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM

Sue Vernier, Secretary Pro-Tem

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes April 20, 2021

Program at 6 PM "Hummingbirds: Their Characteristics and Migratory Habits" presented by Sharon Sorenson, author and conservationist.

Following the Program the Zoom Board Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by President Brian Taylor.

Minutes- President Taylor asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March minutes as emailed; there being none, minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report was emailed to the Board: Checking balance \$5699.74; Bulk Mail \$182.35; Savings \$5.09; CD \$4138.52. Checking w/o reserves \$1579.09. Reserves Edu & Cons \$3514.11; eScrip \$326.54; Jr. Birders \$280.00. Donations from annual drive \$3255.00 from 40 donors.

Committee Reports:

Field Trips: Bob Meier reported an outstanding response to the Friday bird walks with 57 in total attendance for the previous three walks. The April 30th walk will be at Angel Mounds. He is adding an additional May 7th walk at Audubon Wetlands. A Saturday May 15 trip is planned at New Harmony.

Programs: Sue Vernier announced that Valerie Schneider, Wildlife Biologist at Patoka River NWR, will give a talk on "Marsh Bird Nest Monitoring and Nest Density Analysis" in May. June's speaker will be Dr. Eric McCloud discussing "Causes & Consequences of Insect Decline".

Jr. Birders: Bob Meier has received an additional donation for the Jesse Meier Memorial fund for Jr. Birders. He will mail it to the treasurer.

Conservation: Sue Vernier and Niles Rosenquist gave an update on Indiana SB 389, which passed both the House and Senate and awaits the governor's signature. Everyone should ask Governor Holcomb to veto this anti-wetlands bill. Niles reported on other bad bills including SB 373.

Education & Conservation Grants: A new request was discussed under new business.

Old Business

- 1) Brian needs one more person to serve on the nominations committee. He has contacted a few people about serving as directors (there are three openings); one did express interest. The search continues.
- 2) Brian said Wesselman Woods is ready for us to meet in person in Sept., if state COVID rules allow.

New Business

1) Brian talked with the Executive Director at Wesselman Woods about their immediate needs. They are having a fundraiser to protect salamander migration with new metal gates to replace the vandalized wooden barricades at the road crossing. Other needs include renovation of outside area next to viewing area and new trail signs.

Niles Rosenquist made a motion to provide \$1,000 in conservation and education grant funds to Wesselman Woods for these projects. Brian seconded and the motion passed.

2) Don Batema will man the EAS booth at Mesker Zoo's "Party for the Planet" event 4/24. Thanks go to JC's Wildlife for providing items for the table.

Contact Don if you can help.

3) Tri-state Creation Care is having an online environmental conference 4/24. The invitation flyer was emailed to members.

4) The Global Big Day bird count is 5/8. Checklists should be uploaded to eBird.

5) Amanda Joest wants all articles for the May/June newsletter sent to her by 4/23. Brian will provide a cover article.

Items from the Floor

1) Niles announced the SW Indiana Sierra Club will have a Zoom meeting 4/27. Brad Smith of TNC will be the program speaker.

2) Reported bird sightings include summer tanager and green heron.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Sue Vernier, Secretary Pro-Tem

Birds Tell Us It's Time to Restore the Earth

Earth Day presents us with a moment to commit to meaningful change. This year's theme is "Restore Our Earth", and the call to action could not be more critical. As the world takes the first steps in emerging from the global pandemic, we have the opportunity to build a cleaner and brighter future for us all. The science is clear, and birds are telling us that we need to act now to save the places that both people and wildlife need to survive. We're making a huge effort to Restore Our Earth and help birds in the process by helping preserve the largest freshwater ecosystem in the world- the Great Lakes. Conserving our natural spaces is a central tenet of our work on Earth Day, and every day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE AS DIRECTORS

If you are able to spend an hour a month (meetings are the third Tuesday of each month September thru June) to attend a Board of Directors meeting, please contact us at info@evvaudubon.org.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization.

PROGRAMS (VIA ZOOM)

May 18, 2021 "Marsh Bird Nest Monitoring and Nest Density Analysis at Loess Bluffs NWR", presented by Valerie Schneider, Wildlife Biologist, Patoka River NWR. Valerie will briefly cover what she's working on at Patoka River NWR and then discuss the marsh bird survey project in Missouri where they surveyed for least bittern, common gallinule, and pied-billed grebe nests, recorded incubation rates and habitat information, and determined overall nest density within the wetlands based on their nest observations.

June 15, 2021 "Causes and Consequences of Insect Decline", presented by Dr. Eric McCloud, Associate Professor, USI. Insect extinctions have drawn recent attention in the press. Earth is entering a 6th mass extinction event and declines are documented in many groups. But it is too early to say whether insect declines exceed or merely track together with other groups. Given the ecological importance of insects, any decline in these, "the little things that run the world", should be of concern. Dr. McCloud will discuss the current state of knowledge on this topic.

Evansville Audubon Society Education and Conservation Grants Available

Evansville Audubon Society is still 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: enhancements to school courtyards to support wildlife; materials for students to have nature art classes outdoors; student summer camps to study nature; school composting project; Jr. Birders' kestrel nest boxes; educational wetland equipment for Friends of the PRNWR; and prairie restoration.



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.

DON'T FORGET TO LOOK FOR US ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND OUR WEBSITE

Go here for the latest in our upcoming field trips, programs and events.
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/evvaudubon>
Website: <https://www.evvaudubon.org>

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 _____

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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____