



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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Jr. Birders

A Message from Our President

Native Plants Are Better for Birds, People and the Climate!

Bird-friendly landscaping provides food, saves water, and fights climate change. With some careful plant choices, your outdoor sanctuary can be a haven for native birds. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital habitat for birds passing through, overwintering, or nesting.

Better for Birds

To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. With 96% of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food. No insects? No birds. Native landscaping is a key tool in increasing bird diversity and abundance.

Better for People

When you landscape with native species, you can spend more time with the birds and less time with the mower. Less lawn also means less air, water, and noise pollution.

Better for Climate

Mowers and weed whackers burn gasoline to the tune of 800 million gallons per year, contributing to the greenhouse gases that drive global warming.

By planting native species, you will also:

- Save Water – Native plants have adapted to thrive in their regional landscape, without added water or nutrients.
- Control flooding – Planting many different species of herbaceous flowering plants, shrubs, and trees creates layers of vegetation that deflect pounding rains, increasing the chance for water to be absorbed by your soil before running off into storm drains and streams.
- Use Fewer Chemicals – Less lawn mowing, fertilizing, and pesticide application means cleaner air and water. Native plants are often hardier than non-native ornamentals and thrive without pesticides or fertilizers.
- Reduce Maintenance – With careful landscape planning and plant selection, you can create a garden space that minimizes the ongoing input of time and money.
- Create Beauty – By putting in native plants, you can create a colorful, visually appealing landscape that helps give birds a fighting chance in a changing world.

Some local sources for getting started are at your fingertips. We have recently had native plant programs from Heather Zengler, Invasive Species Tech, Vanderburgh SWCD, and Sharon Sorenson, local author (her latest book *Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard* is a must have). National Audubon is a good online resource at www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds. The Southwest Chapter Indiana Native Plant Society has a Facebook group. This is just a partial list of resources.

Spring is here and it's time to get busy creating your bird friendly space!

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird.
Sue Vernier, President
Evansville Audubon Society

Recommendation for fascinating book:

Alexander von Humboldt (1769 –1859) became one of the most famous men and scientists in Europe, and was considered by some to be second only to Napoleon, but today he is virtually unknown. ***“The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World”***, by Andrea Wulf, shows how much we have missed not knowing about this fascinating man. Born into a wealthy aristocratic Prussian family, he had an overwhelming desire to travel, and his travels took him to such places as the jungles, mountains and volcanos of South America, and to Russia, Mexico and the US. He met and impressed Thomas Jefferson in a series of discussions. At the beginning of his travels, he was invited to visit his brother in the town where Goethe and Schiller lived. During his visit, he and Goethe, Germany’s greatest writer and poet, met every day, and there were lively, wide-ranging discussions of scientific and nature subjects. It was this exposure to Goethe that had a major influence on Humboldt’s perception of the universe from both a scientist’s and a poet’s point of view.

The descriptions of his travels in his book, ***“Views of Nature”***, influenced many of the greatest thinkers, artists and scientists of his day. Humboldt was praised by Emerson and his concept of nature was reflected in the poems of William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Henry David Thoreau found in Humboldt’s books an answer to his problem of how to be a poet and a naturalist. *“Walden”* only became the book as we know it today when he discovered a new world in Humboldt’s book ***“Cosmos”***. Humboldt’s ***“Personal Narrative”***, the seven-volume account of his Latin American expedition, was the actual reason Darwin had applied for duty on the Beagle. Wulf states that John Muir was so obsessed with Humboldt that he highlighted the sections that referred to him in his Darwin and Thoreau books. One of Humboldt’s greatest achievements was to make science accessible and popular with farmers, craftsmen, schoolboys and teachers, as well as writers and scientists. In his travels in Venezuela, where he saw the devastating environmental effects of colonial plantations, he became the first scientist to talk about the harmful human-induced environmental changes, and unwittingly became the father of the environmental movement.

Humboldt was so popular that in September 1869, one hundred years after his birth, his centennial was celebrated across the world. In Cleveland some 8,000 people took to the streets, and in Syracuse another 15,000 joined a march that was more than a mile long; 25,000 onlookers assembled in Central Park. According to Wulf, more places are named after Humboldt than anyone else. In North America alone, four counties, thirteen towns, mountains, bays, lakes and a river are named after him. The state of Nevada was almost called Humboldt when the Constitutional Convention debated its name in the 1860s.

Alexander von Humboldt has been largely forgotten in the English-speaking world. The possible reasons, according to Wulf, are two-fold: “He was one of the last polymaths and died at a time when scientific disciplines were hardening into tightly fenced and more specialized fields. Consequently his more holistic approach has fallen out of favor. Another reason why Humboldt has faded from our collective memory, at least in Britain and the United States, is the anti-German sentiment that came with the First World War. In a country such as Britain, where even the royal family felt they had to change their German-sounding surname ‘Saxe-Coburg and Gotha’ to ‘Windsor’, and where the works of Beethoven and Bach were not played any more, it is hardly surprising that a German scientist was no longer popular.... In Cleveland, where fifty years earlier thousands had marched through the streets in celebration of Humboldt’s centennial, German books were burned in a huge public bonfire.”

So, although Alexander von Humboldt is hardly known today, Andrea Wolf’s well-written and readable book helps to restore his rightful place in the relevance among today’s scientific greats.

Submitted by Steve Heeger



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. Shoppers cannot currently use both their Rewards and eScrip. Please note that **if you attempt to use both now, your Schnucks Rewards will override eScrip.**

UPCOMING EAS PROGRAMS

May 21, 2019: "Damned if You Do and Damned if You Don't: Migratory Birds and Climate Change". Dr. Eric McCloud, Assistant Professor, USI will address how climate change can cause migratory birds to lose synchrony with their breeding food supplies and whether affected species can evolve to avoid trouble, given the rapid pace of climate change.

June 16, 2019: **PLEASE NOTE THIS PROGRAM WILL START AT 6:30PM.** Movie night--Audubon documentary. We will show a documentary about John James Audubon written and directed by Al Reinhart in 2017.

FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

June 15 - Harmonie SP **PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**

URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES

A few weeks ago, the White House released a proposed budget for fiscal year 2020, which slashes the budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) by 90 percent. The GLRI has been critical to efforts to improve water quality in the Great Lakes by cleaning up toxic pollutants, protecting wildlife by restoring critical habitat, and helping combat devastating invasive species.

The GLRI has been successful in turning around many of the most degraded natural areas in our region and driving real impacts for our water, wildlife, and economy. A 90 percent cut to this program would be devastating for the 30 million people and the more than 350 species of birds in the region.

Contact your members of Congress and tell them to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

COMING SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 -- INDIANA'S PAST AND FUTURE CLIMATE

Our climate shapes our lives. The ways we build our roads, manage our farms, move our water, and use energy are all influenced by our unique Indiana climate. But our climate has been changing, and it will continue changing in ways that affect our productivity, our safety, and our livelihoods. We need to know what climate change means for Indiana.

You are invited to a lecture sponsored by Evansville Audubon Society, Sierra Club SW Indiana Network, Creation Care, Citizen's Climate Lobby, and The League of Women Voters of SW Indiana . It will be led by the Purdue Climate Change Research Center. The Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment (IN CCIA) provides the latest scientific research to help Hoosiers understand and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. This presentation will highlight results from the IN CCIA analysis.

For a preview of the extensive studies that this lecture will be based on, search "Purdue Climate Change Study".

The lecture will be at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central, Browning Event Rooms A and B, Wednesday, September 25, 2019. Look for details in our September newsletter.

The NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE submits the following slate of officers and directors to be voted in at the June 18 annual meeting. An opening for Director remains to be filled. If you are interested or have a recommendation, please contact Nominations Committee Chair, Maryann Watson, pakawats@aol.com or 812-838-0546. We are also in need of a Program committee chair and an Education committee chair. If you think you might be interested, contact Sue Vernier, President, at rsavcaver2@gmail.com or 812-385-5058 for details.

Officers:

President - Sue Vernier
Vice-President - Don Batema
Treasurer - Richard Vernier
Secretary - Carolyn Egan

New Directors, term ending 2022:

Maryann Watson
Brian Taylor
Jim Campbell
Andrew Nunn

Replacement Director, term ending 2020 (filling a vacancy):

Niles Rosenquist

Replacement Director, term ending 2021 (filling a vacancy):

UNFILLED

The remaining Directors are not up for re-election, and will continue serving out their terms ending 2020 -- Bob Meier, Pam Kimsey, Chris Briggs, and 2021 -- Steve Heeger, Jim Kimsey, Mary Jo Campbell.

EAS Minutes 19 February, 2019

President Sue Vernier call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum being present. Maryann Watson moved and Bob Meier seconded that the corrected minutes of the January 15th be approved as emailed. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported: Bulk Mail \$57.00 Savings \$5.09 CD \$4973.57 Checking w/o reserves \$1539.53. Checking \$2872.03 Reserve Accounts Total \$1332.50 Ed&Cons Available \$946.07. E-Scripts \$250.24 OVBF \$136.19 "checking" is from check register, includes transactions not on the bank statement yet. \$180 for OVBF web site, \$40 for printing. Annual Fund Donations \$2935 from 42 donors (\$130 from 3 this month) Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Field Trips- Bob Meier announced the results of the 100 in January Contest 100 in January winners: Evan Speck 102 species, Beth Hanson 98, Jeremy Ross 88, Clay Bliznick 88, Heath Harlan 87 New Years Day of Birding Clay Bliznick 88, Evan Speck 75. Team Meier 67 and Stephen Bell 63 Most Backyard Species Jeremy Ross 40 species, Terri Green 36 and Bath Hanson 22 Jeremy Ross had a Common Yellowthroat. Kentucky Dam Trip on Feb 2nd Best Trip, good weather only 3 people attended. Crab Orchard WMA on March 16th will meet at 6am at the 4H Center leaving at 7.

Education and Conservation There are no new educational grant requests.

OVBF & Wildflower Extravaganza will take place April 12-14 & May 4-5.

US SB 47 passed Senate and going to the House. In Alaska acreage in public lands was opened to native Americans, their heirs and Vets. National Parks and refuges were temporarily excluded. Environmentalists are supporting the bill because of permanent renewal of LWCF.

Old Business

Audubon Collaborative Grant Update Have heard nothing from National Audubon

EAS Archival Records Update – Nothing to report

Purdue Climate Change Study – Niles Rosenquist reported that he spoke with Melissa at Purdue. She said they are booked for February, March and April is filling up fast. Early Fall dates in September are available except for the 12th. \$750 to \$1000 could be used for this and would fit into Education and Conservation. On April 9th Hans Schmitz will be speaking at the McCullough Library. Jann McCabe will be at the Red Bank Library on March 19th the same as our meeting date.

New Business

March/April Newsletter Deadline is Tuesday, February 19.

Nomination Committee – Three volunteers are needed to serve on the committee. Maryann Watson agreed to serve. Replacements are needed for Niles Rosenquist, Steve Heeger and Jim Kimsey all of whom are term-limited. [Later, Sue Vernier reported she was in error and only Niles was term-limited; Steve and Jim are eligible to continue as directors.]

Bills HB 1613 and SB 347 presently before the state legislature concerning the sale of the land adjacent to Wesselman Park which was transferred to the U of E from the state of Indiana "for any purpose associated with or related to its operation". The deed further stipulates that if "any portion of such real estate at any time be used for industrial, commercial or residential development or other uses not associated with the operations of U or E " that land "shall revert to the state of Indiana. If you agree that WWNP should be protected, contact your legislatures who sponsored the two bills and attend the March 9th Meet Your Legislators at 9AM at the Evansville Central Library to express your concern.

Items from the Floor

Bird Sightings – Red Headed Woodpeckers and Black Vultures were spotted.

Steve Heeger reported that Wild Bird Centers just opened on North Green River Road by Schnucks

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Program at 7:00 PM Sharon Sorenson presented a program "How Your Yard Can Mean Life or Death for Migrants"

Carolyn Egan, Secretary

EAS Minutes 19 March, 2019

Prior to the Board Meeting Amy Kearns, Assistant Nongame Bird Biologist, IDNR presented a program "Barn Owls In Indiana" at 6:00PM

Following the program, President Sue Vernier call the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. A quorum being present. The minutes of the February 19th were approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported and accepted: Bulk Mail \$207.00 Savings \$5.09 CD \$4980.55 Checking w/o reserves \$1339.64 Checking \$2184.78 Reserve Accounts Total \$845.14 Ed&Cons Available \$426.07 E-Scripts \$282.88 OVBF \$136.19. "Checking" is from check register, includes transactions not on the bank statement yet. Annual Fund Donations \$3015 from 44 donors (\$80 from 2 this month). \$50 spent on January contest and \$600 to Patchwork Central/Susan Fowler. \$500 ed/con grant from NAS not entered yet, not yet in the latest bank statement. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Field Trips- March 16th 5 people attended the trip to Crab Orchard and Rend Lake. April 26th Blue Grass evening trip leaving Blue Grass parking lot at 6:30PM

Program- April 16th program Monarch Butterflies & Egg Laying Preferences in Milkweed.

Jr. Birders- April 13th ties in with OVBF bird banding.

Conservation- HB1613 & SB 479 concerning U of E land next to WWNP was discussed. LWCF received permanent authorization from Congress but Trump budget provides \$0 for 2020.

Education & Conservation Grants- Friends of the Patoka River NWR requested a grant of \$312.80 to support three projects. (Letter attached to Secretary's minutes.) Julie Loehr, 4-H Leader and Envirothon Coach in Gibson County requested \$300 to purchase natural resource items to showcase in the nature trunks. (Letter attached to Secretary's minutes.) Both requests were discussed and Mary Jo Campbell moved and Mary Ann Watson seconded the motion that both requests be granted. Motion carried. To get speakers here from Purdue for a climate change event Niles Rosenquist requested \$500 to have an event here in the Fall. Niles made the motion, Jim Kimsey seconded and it was approved.

Tuesday April 9th at McCullough Library, between 4 and 7:30PM, Hans Schmitz and Laura Unfried will speak on climate change.

OVBF & Wildflower Extravaganza will take place on April 12-14 and May 4-5.

Old Business

Nominating Committee announced that there is an open position for Treasurer.

Audubon Collaborative Grant of \$500 was received.

EAS Archival Records Update – Brian Taylor found the missing newsletters and Sue Vernier printed copies for the archives.

New Business

Seeking a Program Chair and Education Chair for the 2019-2020 Season.

Don Batema asked for volunteers to work the booth for UE Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd between 5 and 7 PM. Please call Don to let him know when you would like to work.

Indiana Dunes Bird Festival May 18th and 19th needs volunteers to assist with plant sales. This will take place in Chesterton, Indiana. If interested, please call Don Batema.

Items From The Floor

Pollinator Day April 27 at 10 AM – 3PM, in New Albany, IN Bird Sightings -pelicans, trees swallows, purple martins, ducks of various kinds were sighted.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Carolyn Egan, Secretary

EAS Minutes 16 April, 2019

President Sue Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM a quorum being present. The minutes of March 19th were approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report The following balances were reported and accepted: Bulk Mail \$162.17, Savings \$5.09, CD \$4988.29, Checking w/o reserves \$1210.80, Checking \$1989.35. Reserve Accounts Total \$778.55: Ed&Cons available \$413.27, e-Scripts \$304.09, OVBF \$61.19. "Checking" is from check register, includes transactions not on the bank statement yet. Annual Fund Donations \$3115 from 45 donors (\$100 from 1 this month) \$300 grant to Julie Loehr at 4H, \$500 ed/con grant received from NAS, \$312.80 grant to Friends of PRNWR for Monarch garden plants, \$75 bird banding, \$500 committed to Purdue Climate Change lecture. Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Field Trips- April 26, Bluegrass Evening Trip, June 15 Harmony Hike, Friday, April 12th at 5 at Howell Wetlands – 14 people attended. Planning every Friday at 5 at Howell Wetlands.

Program- May 21st Migratory Birds and Climate Change by Dr. Eric McCloud from USI

Jr. Birders- April 13th at JJAudubon, April 20th at Howell Wetlands, & April 26 at Bluegrass FWA.

Conservation- Email sent to membership asking them to contact Congress to Protect the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Education & Conservation Grants- Nothing new to report.

Bird Count- Saturday, May 11th is the Indiana Audubon Society May Count. Steve Heeger will be the leader for Vanderburgh County and Chuck Mills will be the leader for Gibson County

OVBF & Wildflower Extravaganza took place on April 12–14 and on May 4-5th there will be Van Trips (pre-registration deadline is May 2nd)

Old Business

Nominating Committee announced that Richard Vernier will be the new treasurer. Niles Rosenquist will fill the term ending in 2020 vacated by Sarah Karges. One more director is needed to fill Richard Vernier's term ending in 2021.

Booth at UE Earth Day Celebration on April 22 between 5 & 7 PM, Don Batema will bring his set up and several students have agreed to help.

Audubon Great Lakes Native Plant Sale at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center will take place May 18th and 19th.

Purdue Climate Change Event is scheduled for September 25th in the Browning Rooms A&B at Central Library. Several organizations are lending support: League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby, & Creation Care.

New Business

Newsletter Deadline – April 20th for the May-June publication.

Meeting & Program Starting Times were discussed for the 2019-2020 season. Discussed changing the Board Meetings to follow the Program which would be scheduled for 6:00PM.

Items From The Floor

Bird Sightings – Bald Eagles nesting in Riverfront in Mt. Vernon. Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Henslow Sparrow

Meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM

Program followed: Monarch Butterflies & Egg Laying Preferences in Milkweeds by Anna Stratman and Julie Rabe from the Environmental Studies group at UE.

Carolyn Egan, Secretary



Fortunately, the rain quit just in time for our two hikes at Howell Wetlands on April 20, but the temperature was still quite cool. We had two families who braved the weather, and they were able to get nice looks at a variety of species. The highlight was the mama Wood Duck with her nine ducklings that provided opportunities for some nice photographs by both groups. Also, our goal of the day was to find some warblers, and we began our list with a cooperative Yellow Warbler in the parking lot. It was followed by several more colorful species such as Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Yellow-throated Warbler that was nice enough to fly down to the trail to feed. After hearing the Eastern Phoebe call for several minutes, it flew close to an open spot where everyone had good looks. Other highlights included a calling Barred Owl and a Red-shouldered Hawk that landed in an open tree providing a clear view for all. All in all, it was an excellent day for birding in spite of the weather.



Pictures from the April 20th hike.



GOING GREEN?

Send an email request to Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net and ask to begin receiving your newsletter electronically.

CHECK OUT OUR REVAMPED EAS FACEBOOK PAGE

Check out our updated Facebook page! Go here for the latest in our upcoming field trips, programs and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/evvaudubon>

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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** should renew with National Audubon Society. **Chapter Code C9ZH030Z**

\$20: 1 year introductory rate
 \$15: 1 year Student/ Senior (62 and over) rate
 \$30: 2 year Special Rate

Mail to: Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville, IN 47714

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