



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



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Niles Rosenquist*

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LWCF Call to Action

National Parks Call to Action

Hink Pink

Submitted by: Maryann Watson

Solve the clue to come up
with two 1-syllable
rhyming words:

Troglodyte Enclosure

Answer on Page 6

A Message from Our President

*****Did You Vote?*****

It's November and our thoughts turn to exercising our rights as citizens. Many of our members, supporters, and volunteers have been busy. Have you?

Did you contact your legislators about conservation issues that matter to you?

There are several to choose from: The Land and Water Conservation Fund has expired. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of America's oldest and most important wildlife conservation laws, is threatened. The Endangered Species Act is under attack.

Did you write a letter to the editor?

National Audubon's Chapter News recognized Evansville Audubon's own Niles Rosenquist for writing a terrific letter to the editor in the *Evansville Courier and Press*. Niles addressed important issues like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the impact of climate change on birds.

Have you responded to our donation appeal letter?

Donations from our supporters and friends like you help us provide education and conservation grants to further our outreach to those who might otherwise never experience the wonders of nature.

Did you help a child explore the natural world around them?

Jim and Mary Jo Campbell have been busy with the Jr. Birders. They organize hikes to local birding hot spots. All interested boys and girls, ages 8-18, are welcome to experience a connection with nature (binoculars, snacks and drinks are provided on the outings).

Finally, thank you for all that you do!

By leading hikes and lining up programs, participating in cleanups, manning our booth at events, serving on committees, handling our finances and approving grants to worthy recipients, conducting citizen science with bird counts and surveys, maintaining our Website, Facebook page and members list, editing and mailing our newsletters, providing outreach to kids and their families, and *especially, by voting!* you have made the world a better place. We could not do it without you.

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird,
Sue Vernier, President

The National Audubon Society Recognizes Our Own Niles Rosenquist

Read Niles Rosenquist's insightful letter to the editor. His thought-provoking message, entitled 'Trump's False Concern About Birds is Laughable', was originally published on September 11, 2018, in the *Evansville Courier and Press* and was highlighted in the National Audubon Society's Weekly Chapter Update:

President Trump expressed a newfound concern for birds at his recent rally in Evansville.

"They want to have windmills all over the place. When the wind doesn't blow, what do we do? Uh -- we got problems. What about the thousands of birds they are killing."

"Newfound" because back in December his administration moved to eliminate protections for native bird species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, enacted in 1918, a foundation of our modern conservation movement. For decades the act has been interpreted as applying to the incidental but avoidable killing of birds. Trump's new interpretation would cover only deliberate killing and would be a gift to the petroleum industry which would no longer have to conduct mitigation for damages caused by oil spills or conduct preventative activities such as covering with nets its waste oil pits, which kill hundreds of thousands of birds a year.

This same act applies to the Wind Turbine industry, giving that industry incentive to minimize bird deaths, primarily by more careful siting of turbines to avoid migratory routes and critical habitats. Technological solutions are also being researched, eg radar tracking of incoming flocks.

Beyond the killing of individual birds, Trump's policies put the existence of entire species at risk, due to his refusal to acknowledge the obvious fact of climate change and his attempts to reverse policies for reduction of carbon dioxide and methane emissions by the fossil fuel industry and motor vehicles and failure to support solar and wind technologies. According to a recent study by the National Audubon Society, of the 588 native North American birds, "even in that best of futures, where North America is two to four degrees Celsius warmer, 314 bird species could struggle to find places they can survive... with 126 species projected to lose more than 50 percent of their current range by 2050"

2050 - We are talking about the world a child born today would experience in young adulthood- when humans, as well as wildlife, will be struggling to deal with the catastrophes of global warming- scorching heat, rising sea levels, intense storms.

Fortunately, because of President Trump's ignorance, or apparent ignorance, of legal precedents and procedures and of the fundamental requirement that changes to regulations be based on the law and scientific facts (not the whims of the president), most of his "deregulation" initiatives quickly end up in court where environmental and other public interest law firms, and state's attorneys general, often find it an easy matter to halt and, in many cases, obtain reversals of his poorly thought out initiatives.

Of course, President Trump did not come to Evansville to speak on substantive policy matters. He spoke to over 11,000 that evening and he understands that his unrestrained rhetoric, however incoherent, works well with a portion of the electorate.

He apparently feels immune to any sort of criticism or serious debate.

It is up to the rest of us to send him a message on Election Day in November.

- Niles Rosenquist

EAS Minutes 18 September, 2018

The meeting was called to order with a quorum of 8 members since we are 1 director short (Carolyn Bennett moved to Michigan to be nearer family). Jim Kimsey moved and Steve Heeger seconded that the June minutes which had been sent out earlier be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: There was no formal report due to Niles's absence. Pam Kimsey reported that she and Maryann Watson had met with Niles to conduct the treasury audit. The proposed budget was reviewed, which includes an increase from \$250 to \$300 payable to WWNP to help with their accommodating the Jr. Birders. Don said that Schnuck's has changed its E-Scripts format and noted that the Treas. should watch for the next check. The Campbells' reported that Carolyn Bennett has donated a pair of binoculars. Maryann moved and Jim Kimsey seconded that the budget be approved and that motion carried. We were also informed that our liability insurance renewal invoice should be coming.

Field Trips: Bob Meier reported that a mid-October outing to Twin Swamps/Hovey Lake is in the works. Details will be posted.

Programs: Don Batema said that these are set up through May 2019.

Conservation: We were reminded about the National Audubon concerns that were noted in our newsletter.

Education: Patchwork Central has requested \$600 to help fund Susan Fowler's programs. Sue Vernier moved and Don Batema seconded that we accept the request which was approved.

Jr. Birders: There will be an outing at Howell Sat. 22 Sept.

Ohio Valley Birding Festival: LD has sent a tentative schedule: Audubon Park April 13-15; Van trips May 3-5 if there is adequate interest.

New Business: EAS will have a booth at the 13 Oct. PRNWR "Year of the Bird" event and assistance will be appreciated. Our EAS donation letter is ready to go out in mid-Oct. Our Annual Chapter Cert. form is not completed yet. The Annual Liability Release forms were distributed to the board. Pres. Sue Vernier moved and Jim Campbell seconded that we accept Chris Briggs of JC's Wildlife as Carolyn Bennett's replacement as Director and that motion was approved. There will be an Audubon Great Lakes gathering 19-21 Oct. in Grand Haven MI. Don may be attending. Our president has met with Levy Schroeder, the new Director of WNS. An 8,000 + increase in attendance with 800 memberships have been reported since the PlayScape opened.

The meeting was then adjourned before Heather Zengler, the new SWCD Invasive Technician, spoke about the possible impact of invasive species on our feathered friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Watson
Secretary



UPDATE!!

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.

Schnucks has now rolled out their Schnucks Rewards program. Shoppers cannot currently use both their Rewards and eScrip. However, the corporate office has assured us that change is coming soon (hopefully, before the Holiday shopping season). Please watch for e-mails and updates, or speak to your cashier at check out before attempting to use both your Rewards and eScrip. Please note that **if you attempt to use both now, your Schnucks Rewards will override eScrip.**

EAS Minutes 16 October, 2018

President Sue Vernier called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. A quorum being present. Minutes of the May 15th meeting were approved as mailed in the Newsletter.

President Vernier reported that the audit, the Federal IRS, and Annual Report to Audubon had been completed and submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The following balances were reported:

Bulk Mail \$195.09 Savings \$5.09 CD \$4943.01 Checking w/o reserves \$1583.20 Checking \$2407.21 Reserve Accounts Total \$824.01 Ed&Cons Available \$-31.93 eScripts \$158.25 OVBF \$697.69

Committee Reports:

Field Trips- Ten people attended the October 6th field trip to Twin Swamps. October 20th is the trip to Hovey Lake.

November Program- Levi Schroeder, Executive Director of Wesselman Park, will be the speaker at the November meeting.

Junior Birders- Jim Campbell reported that 4 attended the Hovey Wetlands Trip and 11 attended the Eagle Slough trip. In December there will be a trip to see the water fowl at Blue Grass.

Conservation: The Board was alerted that the fund expired at the end of September. We were asked to write Congress to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Education & Conservation Grants: WNS \$500 to underwrite low income students attending enviro science programs. Motion to approve was made by Maryann Watson, seconded by Jim Kimsey. Motion carried.

Old Business:

EAS booth at Patoka River NWR event October 13 was well attended. Falconer, Whooping Crane and Audubon Society were among the many booths.

Donation Request Letter was sent to membership, people who have attended EAS meetings and for who we have emails. A \$1000 donation was given by Chris Briggs from JCs Wildlife.

Annual Chapter Certification will be submitted on October 17th.

Annual Release of Liability Forms were distributed to board members.

Audubon Chapters Great Lakes Gathering in Grand Haven, MI October 19-20 will be attended by Don Batema.

Schnucks Grocery eScript verses Rewards Card- Members can use both, but not at the same time. Amanda is going to put something in the Newsletter regarding this.

New Business:

Deadline for submission of newsletter articles is October 20th

Last year we received a grant from National Audubon for a Whooping Crane Collaborative Grant. President Vernier has submitted one again this year.

National Audubon News recognized Niles Rosenquist for the terrific letter he wrote to the editor.

Items From the Floor:

Maryann Watson reported that Fish & Wildlife purchased 7+ tilled acres for \$70,000 adjacent to Hovey Lake to build an office. Ducks Unlimited is also interested in the project. No signs have been erected with rules of what can and cannot be done on the property.

Recent bird and butterfly sightings include: Monarch Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Carolina Chickadees, and Chimney Swifts at the Tekoppel School chimney.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45. At 7:00 Leigh Ramon from Mesker Zoo presented a program on Indiana's Endangered Hellbender

Carolyn Egan
Secretary



Evansville Audubon Society Junior Birders Outing

When: Saturday, November 10, 9:00 AM

Cost: None

Duration: One to two hours -- You may leave at any time though.

For: Youth approximately 8 to 18 years old and their parents or grandparents

Provided: Binoculars -- Snack and drink after hike

Where: Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve Recycling center parking lot

Directions: Entrance from Boeke Road between Morgan Avenue and the Lloyd Expressway

We truly appreciate being able to visit the preserve free of charge due to an arrangement between Evansville Audubon Society and the staff there!! We will spend time at the feeder viewing room where we will be able to discuss how to identify the birds. This will also be a good opportunity to get some pictures. A Pileated Woodpecker may even show itself, and there should be some winter residents that we don't normally see. We will then take a hike in the woods to look for species that do not use the feeders.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Jim and Mary Jo

jcampbell27@roadrunner.com

News from Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge...

There's a new South Fork Boardwalk trail at the Refuge! The trail is from the other side of Buck's Marsh and the new boardwalk offers a wonderful view of the expanse of marsh. Someone has already taken video from the boardwalk of five otters playing in the marsh. Go check it out and enjoy (and be sure to thank the Friends of the Patoka River NWR volunteers for making it possible)!

Directions: Go north on Hwy 57 past the intersection of state Hwy. 64 and Hwy 57. Continue north on Hwy 57, and take the very next road to the right AFTER the turn-off for Hwy 357. When you exit to the right from Hwy 57, immediately take the one-lane gravel road (Base road) angling left, do not continue to the right on the paved rd. The one-lane gravel road will go straight into the parking area after crossing the RR track. CAUTION! RR track is an active track without signal lights or crossing arms so be careful. The new trail begins behind the gate in the parking area.

Christmas Bird Counts

The Christmas Bird Count for Vanderburgh County will be conducted on Saturday, December 15. If you can assist in this annual event, "*The nation's longest-running community science bird project*", please contact Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net, or call 812-499-0177. Even those who are not expert birders are invited to assist some of our more experienced birders for a learning experience, and have fun in the process!

The Christmas Bird Count for Western Gibson County will be conducted on Sunday, December 16. If you can assist in this annual event, please contact Dan Collins at danc@collinspestmgt.com or call 812-499-8121.

The Oakland City Christmas Bird Count is Saturday, December 22. This CBC includes some of the most diverse habitat in the Midwest and encompasses Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, Sugar Ridge Fish and Wildlife Area, and thousands of acres of reclaimed mine land grasslands. New participants welcomed!! Please contact Heath Hamilton if you would like to volunteer. Contact info: heath_hamilton@fws.gov or 812-749-3199.

Goose Pond Trip

Coming up on November 17th is our annual Goose Pond FWA trip. This is one of Indiana's best wetland restorations. Expect lots of fall migrating waterfowl, raptors, and Sandhill Cranes.

We will meet on the north side of the Schnucks parking lot at N. Hwy 41 and the 4-H around 6:30am, and we will leave at 6:45am. This trip should last 5-6 hours. Carpooling is encouraged.

See you there!

Somerville Mine Owl Prowl

The Somerville Mine Owl Prowl will be held December 7th.

We will meet at the Schnucks on N. Highway 41 at 2:00pm.

Come join us!

Future Field Trips

Jan. - 100 in January contest

Feb. 2 - Ky dams trip

Mar. 16 - Crab Orchard WMA

Apr. 26 - Bluegrass evening trip(OVBF?)

June 1 - Harmonie SP trip



During an impromptu Chimney Swift sit at Tekoppel Elementary School on Saturday, October 6, Bob Meier and 11 others were joined by 200+ migrating Chimney Swifts!

Photo taken by Beth Hanson



New and Completely Redesigned: The Audubon Bird Guide App

The new [Audubon Bird Guide app](#) is here! You can now use the app to stay up to date on Audubon news, read about our conservation wins, and take action on behalf of the birds we all love. For example, you can tap the "My Audubon" icon in the lower right corner of the app, scroll down to the "Take Action" section, and tap "Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

This also includes the bird guide app similar to I-Bird and you can go to the explore portion that has link to E-bird sightings and hot spots in your area. Enjoy.

Hink Pink Answer
from page 1:

Wren den or Wren pen

Renew LWCF Now

I'm deeply concerned that Congress did not act and allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to expire on September 30. Our nation and our planet cannot afford to put essential conservation programs in jeopardy.

LWCF is one of America's most important and successful conservation programs, benefiting every state in the nation (and at the local level, Patoka River NWR). LWCF has a 50-year track record of helping provide clean water, conserve natural resources, increase recreation opportunities and support communities.

Vital conservation work is in danger every day LWCF continues to be expired. Plus, renewing it and increasing its funding will not cost taxpayers a penny because it's paid for with drilling revenues from oil and gas companies.

Please contact Congressman Buchson - 202-225-4636 and Senators Donnelly - 202-224-4814 and Young - 202-224-5623 and urge them to reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund as soon as possible. (or, if you prefer, go to their websites and send them a webmail message.)

Sue Vernier, President, Evansville Audubon Society



Many national park trails are in need of repair.
Amy Hagovsky/NPCA

Congress: Fix America's National Parks!

For decades, America's national parks have suffered from overdue maintenance needs, such as degraded roads, deteriorated trails, and outdated visitor centers. These repairs currently total \$11.6 billion.

Thankfully, Republicans and Democrats in Congress, along with the administration, recently came together and crafted legislation that addresses the parks' most critical needs over the next five years. **In fact, this is our best opportunity in more than 50 years to get national parks the help they need with much-needed repairs.**

Tell your members of Congress to do everything they can to fix America's parks by supporting and passing this bipartisan legislation today: S.3172 and H.R.6510, 'Restore Our Parks (and Public Lands) Act'!

Evansville Audubon Society
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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

Name _____

My check enclosed

Checks payable to: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Address _____

City _____ State _____

If this is for a *gift*, please include name and address of person giving gift:

Name _____

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