



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter



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Pablo Picasso, who grew up surrounded by the pigeons his father raised, chose them as the subject of some of his earliest drawings and continued to draw them throughout his life.

In 1949, a pigeon in his sketchbook was picked to be the symbol for the Paris World Peace Conference.

When Picasso's daughter was born in 1949, he had the perfect name for her — Paloma, which means pigeon in Spanish.

Audubon Ambassador

The donations that the Evansville Audubon Society receive have long been used to support a number of educational and conservation projects. This is, after all, consistent with our mission to promote the awareness of and appreciation for birds and other wildlife and their habitats through education and conservation. In the last few years, one of the grant recipients, Susan Fowler, has faithfully supported our mission through her work. Susan is an artist, storyteller, and scientist who has melded her talents to produce interactive, educational programs on a wide range of topics.

I want to stress the interactive part of her programs, because anyone attending is likely to be involved. For her 'Audubon's Life and Adventures' program, she will pluck members from the audience to portray key individuals in Audubon's life, including the great man himself. With all the characters in place among a detailed set of props, Susan educates the rest of the audience by weaving a fascinating story about the life and times of Audubon and in particular the impact he had in the tri-state area.

In addition to 'Audubon's Life and Adventures' program, Susan's other presentations include, 'Under the Arms of an Elm' (the 200 year celebration of Indiana statehood), 'The 2017 Eclipse', and several other habitat related programs emphasizing the importance of conservation. This year alone Susan has presented 12 programs and taken her storytelling on the road to several schools, nature centers, public libraries, and community centers spread throughout southern Indiana and Illinois. Susan reaches all ages, but her focus is primarily on youth. This year she presented her stories to 517 folks; 468 children and 49 adults.

What makes these programs unique is that Susan follows every program by sending the group one of her 'memory sketches'. The memory sketch chronicles the story told to that particular group and provides highlights, important facts on the environment and conservation, and of course drawings of the audience members who helped tell the story. It represents an important keepsake for all the participants.

It is my hope in writing this article that for all who have not seen one of Susan's programs, that you can appreciate what one person has been able to do to spread the word about the mission of the Evansville Audubon Society. The value to our local chapter is that Susan educates so many people about nature and conservation issues that are important to southern Indiana. And this is why she has deservedly been dubbed our 'Audubon Ambassador'.

Submitted by Don Batema



THANKSGIVING is when our thoughts turn to family and friends and we start receiving those holiday appeals from worthy organizations. By now you should have received your donation request letter from Evansville Audubon. As the letter outlined, Evansville Audubon was able to provide environmental grants and programs to teachers and their classrooms, offer bird and nature hikes for Jr. Birders, sponsor the Ohio Valley Birding Festival, support projects at the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, and help to provide chimney swift towers and raptor nest boxes. All this due to your generous donations last year!

EAS would like to do even more this year, as we receive many requests for our education and conservation grants. This month we have already helped the Friends of the Patoka River Refuge reach over 90 biology and environmental science students with wetlands equipment purchased through an EAS grant. Another grant went to a 4-H leader to purchase items for a nature trunk to showcase during natural resource conservation and education events. And the season has only begun; we are sure to receive many more requests!

This is where you come in—the more donations we receive, the more education and conservation programs we can fund. Please respond to your appeal letter and make your check payable to Evansville Audubon Society and mail to: Niles Rosenquist, EAS Treasurer, 732 S. Willow Rd., Evansville, IN 47714.

Wishing you a bountiful Thanksgiving,

Sue Vernier, President, Evansville Audubon Society



Christmas Bird Count

The Vanderburgh and Posey Christmas bird counts will be held again this year. This is our participation in 'the nation's longest-running citizen science bird project', and is important for scientists monitoring trends throughout the world as in indication of birds' overall health and the effect of such things as climate change and pollution. The Vanderburgh count will be held Saturday, December 16. The date for the Posey count is to be announced. Help is needed by both experienced and novice birders, and also by feeder counters in your yards. If you would like to help with the Vanderburgh count, please contact Steve Heeger, sdheeger@sbcglobal.net, or by phone at (812) 499-0177. For information on the Posey count, you may also use these same contacts.

BirdBreath



Jr. Birder Hikes



The Evansville Audubon Society Junior Birders are planning an outing to Blue Grass Fish and Wildlife Area to search for waterfowl and birds of prey. We will be going in either November or early December, depending on when the ducks and geese arrive. We will drive to different parking lots to view the lakes and check fields along the roads for grazing geese and possibly Sandhill Cranes.

Some waterfowl of interest include Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Hooded Mergansers, Ring-necked Ducks, Redheads, Northern Shovelers, and others. Other water birds that we may encounter would be Grebes, Cormorants, and possibly Common Loons. We might encounter birds of prey such as Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, and hopefully a Merlin.

When we make a decision as to the date, I will post it on Evansville Area Birders Facebook page and the Evansville Audubon Society webpage. If you would like to receive a notice of this and other outings through the mailing list, please contact me at jcampbell27@roadrunner.com.

On a trip to Eagle Slough, along with a variety of birds, we saw several twigs on the path to the observation deck that were obviously girdled and had broken off from the tree. Twig



girdlers, like the longhorn beetle, might be a likely culprit.

Membership Status

If you did not receive your September newsletter, and you have not requested to be on the 'on-line' only list, you might want to check your Audubon membership expiration date, which is used for generating the newsletter mailing list. The expiration date is no longer included on the Audubon magazine mailing label, and we have complained to National with no success. If you would like for me to check your expiration date, I would be happy to do so. Feel free to email me at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net or call 812-499-0177.

We would again like to recommend that members utilize the on-line only version if you are comfortable with that format. There are several advantages: first, it 'saves trees' and mailing cost, making more dollars available for our education projects. Second, the on-line version includes great photos from our members of birds, field trip activities, etc. And, of course, if you prefer the mail version, you can still access the current newsletter as well as back issues at our website, evvaudubon.org (click on "Newsletter" at the top to view the current or past newsletters). You can also request to be included on the email that Carolyn Bennett sends out when each newsletter is published (carolyn.evv@gmail.com), and still receive the mail version.

Patoka Wildlife Refuge Information Monarch Habitat

The following message was sent from the Patoka River NWR manager to the Friends members but I thought that there might be EAS members with property that they want to turn into pollinator gardens with milkweed plants for Monarch butterflies. Schools and educational organizations can also participate. Please note that there is a minimum order requirement.

Hi Friends,

Here is an opportunity to obtain flats of milkweed plants with species known to be in our area. The minimum request must be for 50 plants per acre on a minimum of two (2) acres. The recipient must pay for shipping of the flats which they say runs from \$40-\$50 for 200 plants or 4 flats. They recommend 3-4 plants in a group with 13 groups per acre. This is for schools and non-profits that have a suitable location where the milkweed plants will be allowed to grow without disturbance.

Bill McCoy bill_mccoy@fws.gov

Drunk birds sing like drunks. When scientists raised finches' blood alcohol to between 0.05 and 0.08 percent, the tipsy birds began to slur their melodies.

Volunteer Opportunity

Evansville Audubon members,

We are looking for a replacement for one of our volunteers. Our long-time committee chair who handles the email list has graciously agreed to be Evansville Audubon's historian, thus leaving the email list position open. Basically, the job entails forwarding emails to the Evansville Audubon membership about upcoming field trips, programs, Jr. Birders outings, etc. You would not be composing the information but simply forwarding what has been written by the various committee chairs. Your only other responsibility would be keeping the email address list updated, as necessary, with information from the membership chair. A job that can be done from the comfort of your home!

If you are interested, please contact president Sue Vernier, rsavcaver2@gmail.com

Conservation News



The ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE coastal plain is home to one of the most prolific bird nurseries on the planet and the calving grounds of the largest land migration caribou herd.

The BAD NEWS: The Senate has taken the first step in opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling in a budget resolution maneuver.

The GOOD NEWS: Senator Donnelly voted to protect the Arctic. Please call his office at 1-855-980-2398 to thank him for protecting the Arctic and for his continuing support of this priceless habitat.

Sue Vernier, Conservation Chair



Upcoming Programs

Programs are at WWNP, at:700pm

November 21, 2017 *Trees Talk*, Sandra Messner, Outreach Director, Indiana Forest Alliance

Recent scientific research has unveiled an incredibly complex forest ecosystem, in which trees communicate with each other and with animals, share resources, and "work together" to ensure a healthy forest ecosystem. You will also learn about the state of forests in Indiana, and how you can protect them.

December 19, 2017 *Movie Night, The Everglades of the North: The Story of the Great Kankakee Marsh*

The Great Kankakee Marsh once occupied nearly one million acres in Northern Indiana and Illinois. This film, presented by Lakeshore Public Television, relates the story of the diverse ecology, history, and controversy surrounding the use (and abuse) of this wetland.

January 16, 2018, *Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan*, Brad Feaster, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator

The Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is a guide and strategic vision for preserving the state's fish and wildlife resources. Brad will discuss SWAP, updates on DNR activities to address threats to wildlife resources, and provide information on opportunities that conservation partners (like EAS) have in collaborating (both with the DNR and with other partners) in conservation and outreach activities. This talk is designed to allow plenty of time for questions/discussion.

February 20, 2018, *Hartman Arboretum and Plants That Attract Birds*, Grant Hartman, curator of Hartman Arboretum

Hartman Arboretum, located on the west side of Evansville, was founded in 2001. The facility serves as an outdoor classroom and highlights the diversity of trees and shrubs of southwestern Indiana. Mr. Hartman will discuss the arboretum, its plant diversity, the adjoining gardens and meadows, and what plants in particular are beneficial and attractive for birds.

U. S. Air Force Colonel John Paul Stapp holds the record for horizontal g-force. Accelerating backward, Stapp endured an :eyeballs out: force of 46.2 g and sustained temporary damage to his vision.

A woodpecker undergoes a force of 1000 g every time it drives its beak into bark.



Interested in endangered species??

The Indiana Endangered Species list can be reached via the DNR Wildlife Diversity Section page:

<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2356.htm>

Field Trip to Twin Swamps/ Hovey Lake



Book Review

“John Muir: The Scotsman who saved America’s wild places” by Mary Colwell

Review from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com):

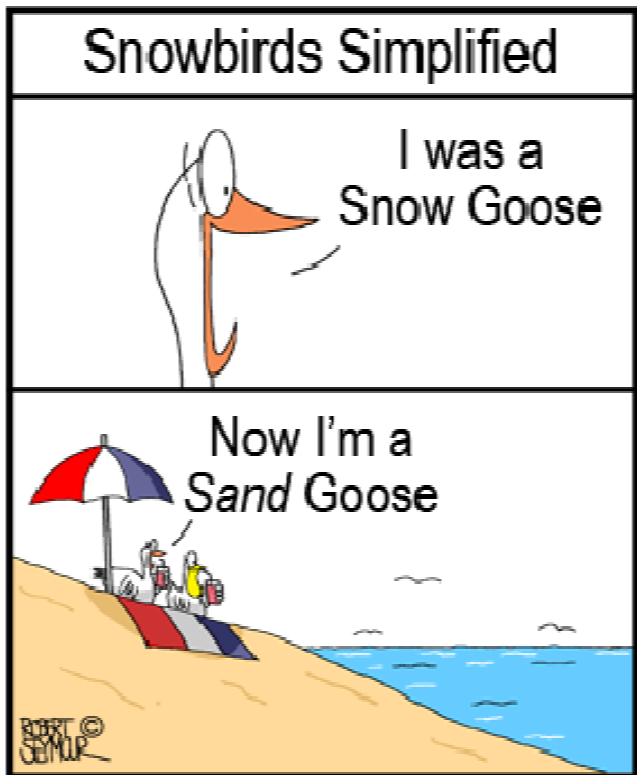
John Muir is regarded as the ‘father of America’s national parks’ and is a towering figure in the history of that country’s involvement with ecology. Born into a harsh home in Dunbar, Scotland he would often escape to revel in the birds and wildlife of the area. When his father suddenly uprooted the family and moved to the United States, the oppression he associated with his childhood continued – and so did his involvement with the natural world. Despite the difficulty of his formative years Muir grew up to be a man of great joy – first an inventor and then an explorer, he found his haven in the mountains of Sierra Nevada. He was a fascinating character: on the one hand a recluse, who sought solitude, and on the other a passionate activist, determined to save the places he loved. A strong believer in both God and the essential goodness of humanity, he was the founder and first president of the Sierra Club. This wonderful memoir pays tribute to a giant of ecology and is essential reading for lovers of natural history.

From Steve Heeger



We had 7 brave souls attend the EAS Twin Swamps/Hovey hike this October morning. We ended up with 33 species, highlights were a very vocal group of Red Headed Woodpeckers, a late White Eyed Vireo, 3 Warbler species and a Bald Eagle. Our next hike will be at Goose Pond FWA on November 11. submitted by Bob Meier

BirdBreath



Evansville Audubon Society
Evansville, IN
Permit No. 1666
Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve
551 North Boeke Road
Evansville, IN 47711

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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** 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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____