



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org

Volume 55 Number 1, Sept-Oct 2024, Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, 551 N Boeke Rd. Evansville, IN 47711

A LETTER FROM THE EVANSVILLE AUDUBON PRESIDENT

Dear Evansville Audubon Society Members,

This past year was an adventure! And I mean that in a good way. We successfully made the transition from mailing a paper copy of our Bluebird Newsletter to sending it as an electronic online-only issue. A great many of you gave us your email, so you were able to continue receiving the Bluebird with greatly increased content and color photos too! It can be viewed, as well, on our website and Facebook page. (If you have not sent us your email, it's not too late; send your email address to info@evvaudubon.org.)

We also had a banner year in providing education and conservation grants to continuing and new recipients (some of that is courtesy of the cost savings of switching to online newsletters). Have you checked out the observation deck at Rail Marsh Birding Trail at Hovey Lake FWA or visited J.J. Audubon State Park's updated bird feeding/wildlife viewing area, an Eagle Scout project? Evansville Audubon provided grant money for both projects.

Previously, we changed the scheduling of our programs from monthly to bi-monthly. We will continue on that schedule of having programs every other month – Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., May – with a great lineup of speakers and subjects. Our popular potluck at the June annual meeting will also continue.

Finally, thank you to those of you that have attended our programs, birding walks, and events such as the Ohio Valley Birding Festival and Christmas Bird Counts. I encourage you to bring your family, friends, and acquaintances to be part of Evansville Audubon and the great outdoors.

As always, you can keep up with us on our website www.evvaudubon.org, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/evvaudubon, or through email blasts if you have given us your email.

Oh, one last thing, be on the lookout for our annual fundraising letter soon. We will need to fund another round of education and conservation grant requests in the coming months.

Remember, you are what hope looks like to a bird,

Sue Vernier, President
Evansville Audubon Society

PROGRAMS

Programs are on the third Tuesday of every other month beginning in September at Wesselman Woods Nature Center at 6 PM (central time) and are free and open to the public. Any last minute changes will be posted on our Facebook page, Website, and via email.

Sept. 17, 2024 -- "Chasing Melody, Indiana Wood Thrush Conservation Project" presented by Allisyn-Marie Gillet, State Ornithologist IDNR. She will discuss the Chasing Melody Project which is a collaborative initiative designed to deploy Motus Tracking tags on Wood Thrushes to follow this species of conservation concern throughout its life cycle.

Nov. 19, 2024 -- "Feeding Native Songbirds" presented by Alexander Gansmann, Naturalist at Wild Birds Unlimited. He will discuss a journey with backyard bird feeding.

HAPPENINGS on the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

October 26, 2024 -- A bat program will be presented by Ryan Slack at 10 AM central time on Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Oakland City Public Library.

Additional details can be found at the patokarefugefriends.org/happenings website and Friends of the Patoka River NWR Facebook page as they become available.



Evansville Audubon Society

Your Support for Evansville Audubon allows us to do things like this!

This past summer Evansville Audubon Society was recognized by the Sycamore Land Trust as a sponsor for the Columbia Mine Preserve in their Sponsor-a-Preserve Campaign for 2024. The campaign is designed to help Sycamore Land Trust to protect land, restore habitat, and maintain hiking trails throughout their network of preserves in Indiana. Columbia Mine Preserve is part of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge under a Refuge Conservation Easement. If you have recently visited the preserve you will have seen a sign at the entrance recognizing EAS in assisting Sycamore Land Trust in their conservation efforts.

JOIN THE Cornell Lab eBird OCTOBER BIG DAY -- October 12, 2024

Mark your calendars for October Big Day -- October 12, 2024! October Big Day is an opportunity to unite around our shared love of birds. Wherever you are on October 12, take a few minutes to join in this global celebration by sharing your bird sightings with eBird. Participate from anywhere--even from home! By taking part in October Big Day you're also celebrating Global Bird Weekend and World Migratory Bird Day. Be a part of the global team and help set a new record for October birding.

Participation is easy--just watch the birds and enter your observations through the eBird website or download the free eBird Mobile app to make submitting lists even easier. Your observations help scientists to better understand birds. Your data can make a difference in bird conservation!

Help Indiana surpass last year's count! Get details at ebird.org/octoberbigday.

EAS has adopted a Motus-tagged Wood Thrush to track

Certificate of Adoption

Indiana Audubon Chasing Melody Project

Presented to:

Evansville Audubon Society



Wood Thrush Federal Band No. 8061-02818

Banding Date: June 11, 2024

Location: Hovey Lake FWA
Posey County

Age: Second Year Sex: Male

Motus Tag ID: 88757



<https://motus.org/data/project?id=788>

EAS has adopted a Wood Thrush through the Chasing Melody Indiana Wood Thrush Conservation Project. The adoption of our bird, along with many other similar adoptions, will help to advance our understanding of the migration patterns, longevity, and population trends of a bird of conservation concern.

Our bird was banded at Hovey Lake FWA on June 11, 2024 with a tag ID of 88757. To track our bird you can scan the QR code provided to the left (or go to <https://motus.org/data/project?id=788>) Tap or click the table link next to the number of available tags registered for this project, then search for your Motus tag ID. Motus stations may only download data seasonally, so real time updates may not always be available. Please note that EAS has a program scheduled for September 17, 2024 where the Chasing Melody Project will be discussed.

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes May 21, 2024

Program: at 6:00 PM – Wendy Bredhold, Senior Manager for the National Audubon Society's Transmission Initiative to build out a bird friendly electric grid to support the transition to clean energy.

Business Meeting convened at 6:53, Quorum present, eight board members - Brian Taylor, Richard Vernier, Sue Vernier, Niles Rosenquist, Mary Jo Campbell, Phil Copp, Pat Copp, Carolyn Egan

Minutes: March 2024 meeting minutes approved

Treasurer's report: (reported by email, April 30)

Income of \$0.02, interest

Expenses of \$242.34, Lewis Memorial money to Wesselman Woods

Current checking balance is \$5934.01.

Checking account without the reserve account balances is \$2718.15

Reserve account balances

Education & Conservation	\$0.00
Jr. Birders	280.00
Lewis Memorial[<u>2935.86</u>
Total	3215.86

Other Accounts

Bulk mail	0.00
Savings	5.09
CD 14 month at 4.85%	<u>3409.81</u>
Total	3414.90

no change in Education & Conservation expenditures

Committee Reports:

Field Trips-

Migration walks April 19 (19 participants), April 26 (16 participants), May 4 (17 participants)

The Ohio River Birding Festival had 247 total attendees, including 166 on family day, 81 on hikes. The OVBF was promoted in Evansville Living magazine.

Families of a Feather had 2 adults, 4 children in April, two more events planned for May

Programs-

Sue Vernier reported that programs have been scheduled for next September, November, January. A new program chair is needed to coordinate with these three speakers and recruit two more to finish the year.

Junior Birders- no activity scheduled.

Conservation- Updates on the proposed dog park on city park land.

Education and Conservation Grants- All E&C money spent. No new applications.

Events – Amanda Joest represented Evansville Audubon at the Wesselman Woods Earth Day event.

Media/Marketing- No update

Old Business : none

New Business:

-Request- We received a request from the Ferdinand Library for a “birding 101” series of programs. Volunteer needed, no one for now, Brian will follow up.

- Nominees for officers and directors to be voted on at the June annual meeting:

Officers

President- Sue Vernier

Vice-President- Niles Rosenquist

Treasurer- Richard Vernier

Secretary- Brian Taylor

Directors - term ending 2027

Pam Kimsey

Hope Hartmann

Alex Gansmann

(The remaining Directors for terms ending 2025 and 2026 are not up for election but listed for information purposes: Phil Copp, Pat Copp, Jim Kimsey, Eric Howard, Jeremy Ross.)

-Bylaws Amendments that will be presented for a vote at the June annual meeting

The proposal will change the number of Directors from a fixed number of 12 to a flexible range of a minimum of 4 to maximum of 12 to enable the Governing Board (Officers and Directors) to meet quorum requirements to conduct the business necessary to continue as an effective chapter of National Audubon. (This is more in line with what other 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations of similar size have in their Bylaws structure.)

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

Section 1: The business of the Society shall be administered by a Governing Board ***of not less than four (4) nor more than twelve (12) Directors and the Officers*** [replaces 'of twelve Directors and the Officers' in the existing bylaws], directly elected from the Society's membership and by the membership. Each Director and Officer shall have one vote.

Section 2: Each year at the annual meeting ***up to four Directors*** [replaces 'at the annual meeting four Directors'] shall be elected for a term of three years. This shall stagger the terms of the total ***number of Directors*** [replaces total twelve Directors].

Items from the floor: none

Bird observations:

Red shouldered hawk nest in oak tree (at the Verniers), Vulture eating a road kill squirrel (C. Egan), dead rose breasted grosbeak from window strike (B. Taylor)

Meeting adjourned at about 8:00

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

Evansville Audubon Society Minutes June 18, 2024

Program: at 6:00 PM – Potluck dinner.

Business Meeting convened at 6:37, annual membership meeting, about 15 members present.

Minutes: May 2024 meeting minutes approved

Bylaw Revisions:

Bylaws Amendments presented for a vote:

The proposal will change the number of Directors from a fixed number of 12 to a flexible range of a minimum of 4 to maximum of 12 to enable the Governing Board (Officers and Directors) to meet quorum requirements to conduct the business necessary to continue as an effective chapter of National Audubon. (This is more in line with what other 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations of similar size have in their Bylaws structure.)

proposed language:

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

Section 1: The business of the Society shall be administered by a Governing Board ***of not less than four (4) nor more than twelve (12) Directors and the Officers*** [replaces 'of twelve Directors and the Officers' in the existing bylaws], directly elected from the Society's membership and by the membership. Each Director and Officer shall have one vote.

Section 2: ***Each year at the annual meeting up to four Directors [replaces 'at the annual meeting four Directors'] shall be elected for a term of three years. This shall stagger the terms of the total number of Directors [replaces total twelve Directors].***

Approved unanimously

Election of Officers and Board Members:

President - Sue Vernier

Vice-President - Niles Rosenquist

Treasurer - Richard Vernier

Secretary - Brian Taylor

Directors - term ending 2027

Pam Kimsey

Hope Hartmann

Alex Gansmann

(The remaining Directors for terms ending 2025 and 2026 are not up for election but listed for information purposes: Phil Copp, Pat Copp, Jim Kimsey, Eric Howard, Jeremy Ross.)

Approved unanimously

Treasurer's report: (reported by email, May 31)

Income \$100 donation, \$0.03 interest, total \$100.03

Expenses of \$224.77, Lewis Memorial money to Wesselman Woods

Current checking balance is \$5809.27

Checking account without the reserve account balance \$2818.08

Reserve account balances	
Education & Conservation	\$0.00
Jr. Birders	280.00
Lewis Memorial[<u>2711.09</u>
Total	2991.09
Other Accounts	
Bulk mail	0.00
Savings	5.09
CD 14 month at 4.85%	<u>3423.53</u>
Total	3428.62

Committee Reports:

Field Trips- April 25 - 27, 2025 - The annual Ohio Valley Birding Festival brought to you by Evansville Audubon and J. J. Audubon State Park. Join us for bird walks, programs and family day activities!

Programs-

This is an open position. The job involves contacting and scheduling a speaker for each of our five bi-monthly programs which occur September through May. The outgoing chair already has a confirmed list of speakers for the 2024-2025 season and would be happy to give on-the-job training for this easy task.

September 17, 2024 - The next program after our summer break will be "Chasing Melody Wood Thrush Project" presented by Allisyn-Marie Gillet, State Ornithologist, IDNR. Evansville Audubon is a Forest Steward sponsor of this exciting collaborative initiative to deploy Motus radio tracking tags on Wood Thrush for a first full scale, lifecycle tracking project on this Bird of Conservation Concern.

Junior Birders- Hope Hartmann volunteered to lead Junior Birders.

Conservation- No updates

Education and Conservation Grants- \$500 to Sycamore Land Trust for the Columbia Mine property approved by email. (will be included in the next month's treasurer's report) \$1000 request from SLT for Eagle Slough will be presented to the Board in the fall.

Events- no updates

Media/Marketing- no update

Old Business - none

New Business- none

Items from the floor- none

Meeting adjourned at about 7:30

Submitted by Niles Rosenquist, Secretary

Evansville Audubon Society
551 North Boeke Rd.
Evansville, IN 47711

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.

President: Sue Vernier, 812-385-5058, rsavcaver2@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Amanda Joest, (812)215-4201, amanda.joest02@gmail.com
Visit our website at: www.evvaudubon.org Or Facebook:
www.facebook.com/evvaudubon

To receive newsletters & notices of EAS activities:
Go to our website at <https://www.evvaudubon.org>
and sign up at the bottom of the page, or send your email address to
info@evvaudubon.org

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 H03

\$20 minimum membership includes one year of the award-winning Audubon magazine

My check enclosed made payable to:
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Mail to:
EAS Treasurer
c/o Evansville Audubon Society
551 North Boeke Rd.
Evansville, IN 47711

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (to Receive Newsletters & Notices of EAS Activities):
