



THE BLUEBIRD

Evansville Audubon Society Newsletter

www.evvaudubon.org



Inside This Issue:

Page 2

*May Birdcount
Field Trips
Minutes
Programs
Contest Results*

Page 3

*Ohio Valley Birding
Festival Program*

Evansville Audubon now has a Facebook Page!

You can find us by searching "Evansville Audubon Society" or by the following address:

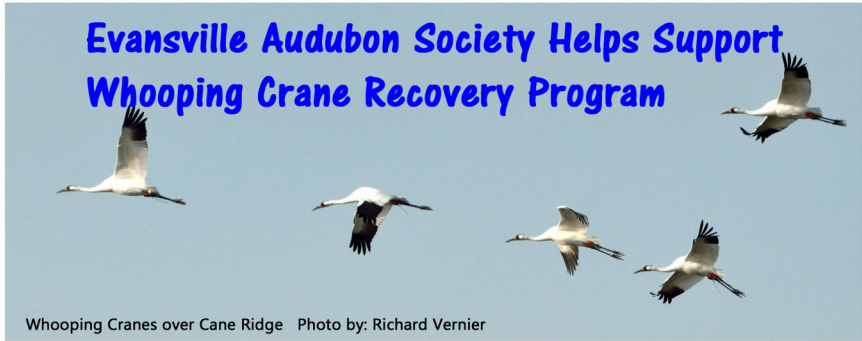
www.facebook.com/evvaudubon

Please Like our page. We will be sharing news about the chapter and all our events.

More Thanks!

James Campbell
Mary Jo Campbell
Daniel Wersich, Jr.
Maureen Shepherd
Cynthia Graves
Glenn Tindell
J Christopher Sartore
Rosetta Sartore
Grant Hartman Jr.
Jean Hartman

For their kind donations to the Education & Conservation fund. It's never too late to make or add to a donation!



Whooping Cranes are making a comeback from near extinction and the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has Indiana's Audubon Societies to thank as they help lead the "flight" to awareness through outreach and education in Indiana. Part of ICF's work to save the Whooping Crane involves educating our youth.

Whooping Crane Education Trunks are one of the educational tools in Indiana. Evansville Audubon Society has paid for one of the eight trunks in Indiana. The trunk shares the Endangered Whooping Crane's story while meeting education standards. The Crane Trunks offer a variety of activities and information for the classroom to help students understand the historical and current efforts to save a species on the brink of extinction. Combining this exploration with a field trip reinforces student learning. The curriculum consists of a series of activities paired with hands-on learning tools, including a crane skull, bird flight diverters and a captive-rearing crane costume. This trunk is available in Evansville upon request by contacting Gena Garret at ggarret@wesselmannaturesociety.org.

Housed at Wesselman Woods Nature Center, the Evansville Audubon Society grant funded trunk will reach an expected 800-1000 students by June of 2019 through the three-way partnership. ICF's Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant, James Kawlewski, already trained 15 staff, volunteers, and educators on using the trunk and presented a program to 30 youth scouts. Additionally, Wesselman Woods plans to use the trunk at an Earth Camp program with the potential to reach 800 students at that program alone.

The National Audubon Society has had an important role in Whooping Crane recovery since the historic work of Robert Porter Allen's "The Whooping Crane," a publication of the National Audubon Society. A shout out goes to these Audubon Societies for continuing to support Whooping Crane conservation in Indiana: Evansville Audubon Society, Sassafras Audubon Society, and Amos Butler Society. Thank you to the International Crane Foundation for helping us to save the Whooping Crane!

James Kawlewski
Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant
INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

Funding was provided through a collaborative grant with National Audubon Society.

Big May Day Bird Count: Counters are needed for this year's count on May 12. For the Vanderburgh count, please contact Steve Heeger at sdheeger@sbcglobal.net, or call 812-499-0177.

Upcoming Fields Trips:

March 3: PRNWR- Meet at Schnucks on Hwy 41 at 7am, leave at 7:15am. 3-4 hrs

March 31: Eagle Slough- Meet in parking lot at 7:30, start at 8am. 2-3hrs

April 28: Bluegrass FWA evening hike- Meet at parking lot on Boonville/ N. Harmony road at 6:30pm, leave at 7pm. 2-3hrs

May 26: Harmonie SP- Meet at old Westside Walmart parking lot at 6:30am, leave at 6:45am. 3-4 hrs

EAS Minutes - 16 January, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Pres. Batema. No quorum was present. Dec. minutes were noted but not approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bulk Mail: \$ 169.85 CD: \$ 4899.98 Savings:\$ 5.09 Checking w/o Reserves: \$ 2654.63 Checking w/ Reserves: \$ 4423.25 Reserve Accts. Total \$ 1768.62

Reserve Accts. Balances: Education and Conservation Available: \$ 416.25, E-Scripts: \$ 571.52, OVBF: \$ 780.83

It was noted that we still need to pay our Wesselman Nature Center dues and previously approved educational expenses have not been paid yet. Don noted that EAS will be included in someone's will.

Field Trips: Bob reported that the 3 Feb. trip will meet up at 7:30 a.m. There were 66 sightings for Pike Co. count. Two more trips are in the works. The "100 in Jan." has had several reports: 69 species reported on 1 Jan.; 13 reports have 75 or more and one report has 100 total.

Programs: Grant Hartman will present "Plants That Attract Birds" in Feb. and the March and April programs have traded places.

Conservation: Niles reported that the "Old Forest" SB 275 is still being considered. SB 309 would restore net metering for schools and municipalities. We were also reminded that the 100 year old Migratory Bird Act under attack and Pres. Vernier signed a petition on our behalf.

Education: There was no report

Jr. Birders: There was no report.

OVBF: Schedule has been set.

Old Business/Announcements: There was no Facebook update. It was reported that we had received the National Collaborative Grant.

New Business: There will be an Educator Training Workshop (Whooping Crane Trunk use) 6 Feb. NAS has designated 2018 as the Year of the Bird. The DNR is seeking volunteers for marsh bird study.

Items from the Floor: Recent sightings include: Snow Geese; Orange Crown Warbler; Kingfisher.

The meeting was adjourned before Brad Feaster's presentation on the Indiana State Wildlife Action Plan.

Respectfully submitted, *Maryann Watson*



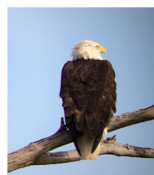
Upcoming Programs

Presented at Wesselman Woods
Nature Preserve: 7:00pm

March 20, 2018, Notes on the ABA "Big Year" Dr. Evan Speck Retired Anesthesiologist Deaconess Hospital - Evan recently retired from Deaconess Hospital and as a gift to himself, decided to spend the year taking birding trips around the country. While he is not calling this a Big Year, he will discuss the concept of a big year and share both stories and pictures about his adventures.

April 17, 2018, The Physiology of Bird Migration Dr. Alex Champagne Assistant Professor University of Southern Indiana - Every year birds undertake impressive journeys that may take thousands of miles, sometimes without stopping for food or water! Tonight we will learn about what gives birds the urge to migrate, how their bodies are built for travel, what they eat to fuel up, and other factors that allow birds to be the ultimate endurance athletes.

May 15, 2018, Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden Landscape Lisa Hoffman Parks Programs Services Supervisor John James Audubon State Park - Join Lisa Hoffman, Master Naturalist and Parks Programs Services Supervisor at Audubon State Park, for an informative presentation about butterflies. She will share some butterfly basics with us, including the roles butterflies play, and highlight threats to their existence. A look at some of our local butterflies will be included, as well as tips and information to consider when attracting butterflies to your garden sanctuaries.



100 in January Contest



Results

100 in January

*Evan Speck 108 species
*Jeremy Ross 101 species
*Neal Bogan 96 species
*Jesse Meier 93 species
*Beth Hanson 91 species

January 1st day of birding

*Steve Graves - 69 species
Stephan Bell - 67 species
Jesse Meier - 67 species
Jeremy Ross - 64 species

Most species found in the fewest counties

*Neal Bogan 95 species(Gibson)
Jeremy Ross 56 Species(Pike)

Most backyard species

*Sharon Sorenson 46 species
Jeremy Ross 39 species
Jessa McCauley 25 species
Beth Hanson 20 species

Special mention for rare species at feeders

Jeremy Ross - Yellow Headed Blackbird
Jessa McCauley and Jesse Graves - Orange Crowned Warbler

* **Winner in category**

Ohio Valley Birding Festival Schedule of Events 2018



***Note:** For the hikes requiring pre-registration, the registration and payment must be received by the posted due date. Please send payment including your phone number, street address and email address to "Evansville Audubon Society," c/o LD Harry, 4600 Surrey Way, Evansville, IN 47725." Please make checks payable to Evansville Audubon Society. For hikes where transportation is provided, no private vehicles will be allowed to caravan. All times are Central time zone. Please choose appropriate footwear as many hike areas present marshy conditions.

Friday, April 20

Patoka River NWR Birding Hike

7:00 AM

Meet at Boyd Woods, Oakland City, IN.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required.

Duration: Approximately 2 to 3 hours. Sturdy shoes recommended for primitive portion of trail.

Directions: East on SR 64 out of Oakland City 1 mile from SR 357 (Main) to CR 1275E (look for Refuge sign). Turn left and follow signs to Snakey Point Marsh and continue on to parking lot on left at Boyd Woods (Maxey Marsh on right).

Join us for a birding walk through Boyd Woods in search of warblers and other migratory songbirds, continuing the hike past Snakey Point Marsh for possible views of waterfowl and marsh birds, and ending at a little visited portion of Columbia Mine Preserve to look for grassland sparrows.

Saturday, April 21

Birding the Audubon Wetlands

7:00 AM

790 Wolf Hills Road, Henderson, KY

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Meet us at the Audubon Wetland parking lot across from 790 Wolf Hills Road in Henderson, Kentucky. Walking component is weather dependent. A new property purchase significantly increased the size of Audubon State Park. Help us identify this bottomland forest property's bird guests. This property has a heron rookery and an active bald eagle nest.

Audubon's Bird Migration Walks

8:30 AM

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1.5 hours

John James Audubon State Park's Beech-Maple forest is an urban oasis for woodland and song birds. In addition to the seven woodpecker species, several neotropical migrants make the park their home. Species spotted on these hikes include: Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Indigo Bunting, Prothonotary Warbler, and White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos. New birders welcome.

Family Birding Fun!

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: Stop by anytime until noon!

Eye See You—Birds have remarkable, specialized eyesight. In fact, a bird may see 2 or 3 times better than a human! Predators like owls have a competitive edge for hunting with their "owl's-eye" view. Come test your skill and see how your eyes measure up!

Make-N-Take Owl Puppet—Big eyes, a sharp beak, special feathers – What kind of owl can you make? Try your hand at designing your very own owl puppet to take home. You can practice your owl's hoot for a grand performance!

Hands-on Bird Banding Workshop

10:30 AM

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1.5 hours

Come and help us with an ongoing conservation project as we catch, identify, band, and release birds from the John James Audubon State Park. Bird banding helps us understand bird migration and movements, behavior, social structure, lifespan and survival rates, and population growth. This is a great opportunity for spotting early migratory birds and connecting with nature, so bring a camera!

“Owls—Creatures of the Night” presented by The Talon Trust

12:00 P.M.

Friends of Audubon Meeting Room, John James Audubon State Park Museum

Fee: FREE. Donations accepted for The Talon Trust

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Enjoy an interactive personal experience with live owls! Volunteers from The Talon Trust, Inc. will share stories of these nocturnal birds that have been injured and can't survive in the wild, and now serve as ambassadors for their species. *The Talon Trust, Inc. is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to the conservation of native raptors through rescue, rehabilitation, and education. All donations received by The Talon Trust go to help feed and care for injured raptors. During the Birding Festival, a silent auction benefiting The Talon Trust will be offered on site and on their Facebook page.*

“Seven Owls in the Area: Permanent Residents and Seasonal Visitors,” presented by Sharon

Sorenson

1:00 P.M.

Audubon Theater, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1 hour

Owls carry reputations that range from the symbol of wisdom to the harbinger of death. They can hear well enough to snatch unseen mice from under deep snow in the black of night. And these "silent killers," the only birds that fly soundlessly, can strike their target prey like fierce ghosts, unseen, unheard, and totally without warning. How can they do all that?

Join Sharon Sorenson for the afternoon as she shares amazing facts about owls--which owls live here, which owls only visit, when and where they breed, how they survive, and who governs the family territory. The story of these birds of prey will leave you awestruck!

Sharon Sorenson is an Evansville Courier & Press and Henderson Gleaner columnist, a lecturer, and the author of "[Birds in the Yard Month by Month: What's There and Why and How to Attract Those That Aren't.](#)"

Owl Puke—Yuck! Or not?

2:00 PM

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 1 hour

The thought of owl puke may seem disgusting, but wait until you see what's inside that lump! These nocturnal hunters seek out all sorts of prey. Discover what critters the owls consider a tasty dinner, when you dissect a sterilized owl pellet. You just may be amazed at what you find!

Junior Birders Hike @ John James Audubon State Park

Audubon Museum, John James Audubon State Park.

3:00 PM

Fee: Free. No preregistration required

Duration: 1-2 hours

Join the Jr. Birders for a bird hike through John James Audubon State Park. The hike will be led by several Evansville Audubon Society members with the Jr. Birders assisting. Appropriate for children ages 8-18 accompanied by an adult. Binoculars will be provided.

Sunday, April 22

Eagle Slough Natural Area Birding Hike

7:00 AM

Meet at the entrance to Eagle Slough located on Waterworks Road, just north of Ellis Park.

Fee: Free. No pre-registration required

Duration: approximately 2 hours

Eagle Slough is one of the most recent local areas to be returned to its natural state. Join us for a birding walk through this 127-acre urban wetland area. Expect to see warblers and other migratory songbirds. Species observed on this hike may include: Wood Duck, Winter Wren, warblers, vireos, thrushes, tanagers and late shorebirds.

Friday, May 4

Birding the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

5:30 AM

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only. Pre-registration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a message including your phone #.

Duration: approximately 7 hours. Expected return 1:00 PM CDT

Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve entrance and join Wildlife Refuge Specialist Heath Hamilton as he leads an outing to Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge. The trip will hit the birding hot spots while traveling through one of the best remaining bottomland hardwood forests left in the Midwest. Participants should expect to see songbirds, shorebirds, and wetland-dependent marshbirds. Registration ends April 28. Please wear appropriate footwear for marshy conditions. Maximum 12-15. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.

Saturday, May 5

Big Day of Birding

4:00 AM

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$30 includes transportation only. Pre-registration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a message including your phone #.

Duration: 12 to 14 hours. Expected return 7:00 PM CDT

Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve entrance and join us in our Big Day of Birding event. We will scout the tri-state for most species seen in one day. Please wear appropriate footwear for marshy conditions. Registration ends on April 28. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.

Sunday, May 6

Squaw Creek Mine/Bluegrass Birding Hike and other Warrick County stops

7:00 AM

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

Fee: \$20 includes transportation only. Pre-registration required*-

contact LD Harry @ 812-867-0144 and leave a message including your phone #.

Duration: approximately 7 hours. Expected return 2:00 PM CDT

Meet at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve entrance and join local birder Jim Campbell as he guides an outing geared toward novice birders who want to learn more about birds and places to see them. Stops will include grasslands where Blue Grosbeaks, Bell's Vireo and Dickcissels could be seen, upland woods for spring warblers and woodpeckers and open areas with lakes where hawks, possibly some late waterfowl and a Bald Eagle may reside. Extra time and consideration will be given to birders wanting to take pictures. Registration ends on April 28. Maximum 12-15. No food or drink will be provided but coolers will be available.

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 _____