

**Wabash Valley Audubon Society  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)  
Terre Haute, IN  
January 20, 2021**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order @ 5:08**
  - a. Nick Gabry
  - b. Carissa Lovett
  - c. Phil Cox
  - d. Ray Peck
  - e. Ellen Lunsford
  - f. Lucinda Berry
  - g. Courtney Wiesepape
- II. Approve Minutes**
  - a. Phil motioned to approve minutes from December 2020 meeting. Courtney seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Membership Chair Report (Lucinda Berry)**
  - a. November report: National – 147
    - i. Updated quarterly. Nick to get access to this.
- IV. Treasurer’s Report (Phil Cox)**
  - a. Checking: \$17,789.50
    - i. -\$100 - Bird Town Application
    - ii. +\$210 – T-shirt sales, craft sales, milkweed seed sales, chapter membership dues
  - b. Savings: \$2933.17
- V. WVAS Public Relations**
  - a. Facebook
    - i. 1,449 up from 1,440 likes
    - ii. 1,498 up from 1,488 following
- VI. Recently Completed Events**
  - a. December 16th, 2020 – Member Photo Night
    - i. 5 in attendance
  - b. December 20, 2020 – Vigo County Christmas Bird Count
    - i. 33 Participants
    - ii. 81 total species – Peter Scott sent out the report and the highlights to those involved
  - c. January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Perry Seitzinger
    - i. The Rise and Fall of the Ruffed Grouse in Indiana: An interactive discussion of the history of the ruffed grouse and the habitat it relies upon in the Hoosier state.
    - ii. 15 in attendance

## VII. Upcoming Events

- a. March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1pm – 5pm
  - i. 2021 Terre Haute Bird Fest
  - ii. Proposal to postpone 2021 Bird Fest until October 2021 (tentatively Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> depending on the October Big Day date) due to COVID-19 transmission concerns.
  - iii. Carissa motioned to postpone Bird Fest 2021 to October 2021. Ellen seconded motion. Motion passed.

## VIII. Upcoming Board (5:00pm) & Member Meetings (6:30pm)

- a. February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Barny Dunning
  - i. Winter irruptives: finches, owls and Red-breasted Nuthatches
- b. March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Brad Bumgardner
  - i. Significance of the Indiana Dunes: Ecology and Migration
- c. April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021
  - i. WVAS Banquet is normally held during this meeting
  - ii. Proposal to potentially have banquet outdoors and event catered – Lucinda to reach out to determine if catering is possible.

## IX. Projects

- a. Bird Town
  - i. Sign is up in front of Dobbs! Other is in storage for display at events and what not.
  - ii. Interview with WTWO this Thursday! Will share this on Facebook, and with Indiana Audubon.
- b. Universal Mine IBA
  - i. Apex is working on finalizing their subsidence insurance policy and are waiting on confirmation from their insurance broker.
  - ii. Conversation (zoom-based) is set up with Troy Peters and Nat Miller from Great Lakes Audubon
  - iii. Emily Jacob is working towards private landowners in Vermillion county being eligible to receive assistance for grassland habitat conservation, which could benefit this project. Will likely not occur until 2022.
- c. Indiana Bird Trail
  - i. Write-Ups to do for local publication: **(5/15)**
    1. JI Case Wetlands/Hawthorn Park
    2. Deming/LE Waterman Bird Sanctuary
    3. St. Mary of the Woods/White Violet Center
    4. Universal Mine/Grand Canyon Lake
    5. Trail Head Park
    6. Smith Cemetery nature Preserve
    7. Raccoon Lake/Cecil Harden Reservoir
    8. Mossy Point Nature Preserve
    9. Sullivan Lake
    10. Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve
  - ii. Nick to reach out to Jane for info about guide

- d. Equity Diversity and Inclusion Statement
  - i. EDI page was added to the WVAS website.
  - ii. EDI statement will be included in the next newsletter
- e. Newsletters
  - i. Winter newsletter plan?
    1. Carissa and Ellen to begin to work on Winter newsletter
    2. Include bird counts for surrounding counties in newsletter
    3. Provide physical copies for those who do not have access to email

**X. WVAS Fundraiser/Advertisement Ideas**

- a. T-shirts
  - i. \$10 each, Sand or Gold, Sizes Kids Medium – Adult XL
  - ii. Can be purchased at member meetings, board meetings, and events

**XI. New Business**

- a. Institute for Bird Populations
  - i. Seeking collaborators in the Upper Midwest who might be interested in partnerships with Latin American bird monitoring stations (Monitoring Overwinter Survival, or MoSI) in order to help protect birds across their full annual life cycle.
  - ii. They would like to give a short online presentation about MoSI and this outreach project over Zoom with us and our group so that chapter members can ask questions or explore options for collaboration with MoSI members.
  - iii. Nick to forward email to board members with info – vote via email or at February meeting
- b. FeatherFriendly – partnership for UV window dots
  - i. Move forward with working together
  - ii. Get sample pack and test it out at nature center
- c. Donation to the International Crane Foundation as an honorarium for presenting at November member meeting
  - i. WVAS to donate \$50 as organization
    1. Carissa motioned to donate \$50 to ICF. Ellen seconded. Motion passed.
- d. Online contest via Facebook using 1955 sports illustrated cover of 60 species of birds. Individual who is the first to identify all 60 species receives a family membership (\$60 value) to the International Crane Foundation.
  - i. Carissa motioned to move forward with the contest. Ellen seconded. Motion passed.

**XII. Adjourn @ 6:14**