

**Wabash Valley Audubon Society  
Monthly Board Meeting  
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)  
Terre Haute, IN  
February 17, 2021**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order @ 5:02pm**
  - a. Nick Gabry
  - b. Jane Santucci (guest)
  - c. Ray Peck
  - d. Ellen Lunsford
  - e. Phil Cox
  - f. Carissa Lovett
  - g. Courtney Wiesepape
  
- II. Approve Minutes**
  - a. Ellen motioned to approve minutes from January 2021 meeting. Phil seconded. Motion passed.
  
- III. Membership Chair Report**
  - a. January Report: 161 Members
  
- IV. Treasurer's Report (Phil Cox)**
  - a. Checking: \$18,444.75
    - i. +\$705.25 – National Audubon Society
    - ii. -\$50.00 – Honorarium to International Crane Foundation
    - iii. PROPOSAL: \$50.00 honorarium to the Ruffed Grouse Society
      1. Carissa motioned to approve. Ray seconded. Motion passed.
  - b. Savings: \$2933.17
  
- V. WVAS Public Relations**
  - a. Facebook
    - i. 1,456 up from 1,449 likes
    - ii. 1,505 up from 1,498 following
  
- VI. Recently Completed Events**
  - a. 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
  - b. February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Meeting with Institute for Bird Populations

- i. 6 Participants
- c. February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Barny Dunning
  - i. Finches and Owls and Nuthatches (Oh My!): Winter Irruptives in Indiana
  - ii. ~20 participants

**VII. Upcoming Events**

- a. October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1pm – 5pm (**TENATIVE DATE**)
  - i. 2021 Terre Haute Bird Fest

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

- a. March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Brad Bumgardner
  - i. Significance of the Indiana Dunes: Ecology and Migration
  - ii. Nick to lock in details
- b. April 21<sup>st</sup> – Catered Banquet? – Speaker Needed
  - i. Postponed to August 18, 2021
  - ii. Speaker from riverscape (Jane? Fred?)
  - iii. Location: Moggers back patio or Dobbs nature center
  - iv. Phil to contact Moggers in regard to honoring deposit
  - v. Need speaker for April member meeting!

**IX. Projects**

- a. Bird Town – COMPLETED!
  - i. News interview and stories published with WTWO and from Mike Lunsford in the Tribune.
  - ii. Renew every three years with Brad Bumgardner and Cookie Ferguson.
  - iii. There is only an additional fee if you need more signs
- b. Indiana Bird Trail- Local Guide
  - i. Message from WVAS?
    - 1. Goal of this is to provide a purpose of the guide and introduce WVAS
    - 2. Use Indiana DNR statement in outdoor magazine for example
  - ii. Add bigger, “overall” map – then add detailed map for each site
  - iii. Branch out into different counties
    - 1. Parke, Vermillion, etc.
  - iv. What should be taken away?
  - v. What pictures could be added to further illustrate the text?
    - 1. Use photographs from local photographers! Marty, Michael Brown, Jim, etc.
      - a. Put out a call for photos!
      - b. Need a lot of options for layout purposes
      - c. Compensation??
      - d. Add some landscape photos – Nick and Courtney to potentially do this

- vi. WVAS branding guide?
  - 1. Reach out to Marty for high-quality images and such and about brochures
- vii. Distribution and Sponsorship?
  - 1. Guide online for download – need to increase reach through increased online presence
  - 2. Can distribute at hotels and such – turkey run, nature centers, etc.
  - 3. PRIORITY: complete digital copy
- viii. Write-Ups: Target goal of 10
  - 1. Completed: Wabashiki, Dobbs, Turtle Creek, Chinook, Shakamak, St. Mary of the Woods, Deming, Fowler Park
  - 2. Nick to reach out to Alan Bruner for Parke Country write up (Turkey Run)  
**COMPLETED: 8 / TO DO: 2**
  - 3. JI Case Wetlands/Hawthorn Park
  - 4. **Universal Mine/Grand Canyon Lake – Marty/Steve/Peter?**
  - 5. Smith Cemetery nature Preserve
  - 6. Raccoon Lake/Cecil Harden Reservoir
  - 7. Mossy Point Nature Preserve
  - 8. Sullivan Lake
  - 9. Sanctuary Oaks Nature Preserve
  - 10. **Turkey Run – Alan Bruner**
- c. Universal Mine IBA
  - i. Meeting with Audubon Great Lakes team **tomorrow @ 2pm**
  - ii. Strategize on making the right requests to Apex to maximize the conservation project within the solar project footprint.
  - iii. Discuss how to really start making progress.
- d. Institute for Bird Populations
  - i. Met with Steve Albert and Lauren Helton through Zoom to learn about their MOSI project. Annual cost of a station is 2 to 3k.
  - ii. Steve followed up with a candidate station in Nicaragua, with recorded instances of banded Indiana native birds, including a population of Wood Thrushes. Station has been active for 20 years.
  - iii. Direct Cash infusion of \$1,000?
  - iv. QUESTIONS before committing:
    - 1. Is English spoken at the site in Nicaragua? (for presentation purposes)
    - 2. Is this a donation that needs to reoccur every year?
- e. FeatherFriendly – partnership for UV window dots
  - i. Received a display package for public engagement, as well as some for windows at Dobbs. Both free of cost.
  - ii. If we like this, we could consider purchasing some for retail sale to the public. Get this for sale at banquet, or bird fest later in the year.
- f. Sports Illustrated Cover contest.

- i. Ideas for encouraging interaction?
    - 1. Send out email blast, announce at member meetings, etc.
- g. Winter Newsletter
  - i. Carissa and Ellen working on this!

**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. No new business.

**XII. Adjourn @ 6:23pm**