FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PROGRAM

*Lindsay Grossmann, Past President*

We plan on returning to Rum Village Nature Center on Sunday, February 13th at 2:00 p.m. for a brief membership meeting to update you on current Society activities, followed by an educational presentation. This month’s speaker is Garry Harrington, Director of Rum Village Nature Center. Garry is often present as a facility host at our meetings, but we will be treated this time to a program about our local reptiles and amphibians. As several herps are on display at the nature center, we may also get an opportunity to observe some up close! Please join us for this special event! As a reminder, this event will observe all COVID restrictions and guidelines at the time (see our website or Facebook for more up to date information).

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP TO NOTRE DAME LAKES

*Carol Goodall, Field Trip Chair*

Join us on February 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. We will walk around the lakes at Notre Dame in search of waterfowl. Dress for the weather. Some trails may be slippery or muddy. COVID-19 precautions will be observed. Bring a mask in case we are unable to maintain a 6-foot distance. KN95/N95 masks are now recommended.

We will meet in the NE Corner of Lot D6. This lot is the north lot off of Door Rd. See https://maps.app.goo.gl/PzyqayhQd3yagf296 for a map showing our meeting point.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol at fieldtrips@sbeaudubon.org.

Check our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SouthBendElkhartAudubon/) and website (www.sbeaudubon.org) for the latest updates regarding SBEAS events and cancellations.

SUE STUCKMAN

*Pat Frank*

SBEAS member Sue Stuckman passed away of natural causes at home January 4, 2022. She was curious about all things of nature and before she advanced her interest in birding she would accompany friends on bird walks, looking down instead of up so she could identify native and non-native plants.

Sue was also a board member of INPS North Chapter and an active member of Master Gardeners since 1998, working in the Elkhart Community Gardens for many years. Among other volunteer activities, Sue frequently promoted these organizations by manning the information table at different events. She was also a member of the Elkhart Conservation Club. She enjoyed walks at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens and working in her yard with her native plants and different vegetables. Her diverse interests in other groups include being a sub for her church euchre group, the members of which knowing of her interest in plants and trees, have had a tree planted in her memory.

SBEAS 2022 BUDGET

*Martha Kummerer, Treasurer*

On December 4, 2021, the Board of Directors met and approved the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society operating budget and the Woolman-Groet-Miller grant-funding budget for fiscal year 2022. The final budgets are posted on our website at sbeaudubon.org/budget. If you can't access our website and you'd like a paper copy of the budget, please contact Martha Kummerer at treasurer@sbeaudubon.org. Members will vote on the budget at the February membership meeting.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Board Meeting at Rum Village Nature Center, 1 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Membership Meeting and Program at Rum Village Nature Center, 2 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>March Audubon Leaves Articles Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21</td>
<td>Great Backyard Bird Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Field Trip to Notre Dame Lakes, 9 AM</td>
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FROM THE MINUTES

John Bentley, Secretary

President Heidi Gray called the January 9, 2022 SBEAS membership meeting at Rum Village Nature Center to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed the 15 members and guests in attendance. Recent bird sightings reported were Red-breasted Nuthatch at the window during this meeting, White-throated Sparrow at Laura Fuderer’s feeder, and Tennessee Warbler on the Christmas Bird Count.

Treasurer’s Report

Heidi reported for Martha Kummerer that the December 31st balances were $17,164.52 in the operating account and $12,297.82 in the Woolman-Groot-Miller account. The 2021 solicitation letter has brought in $8,360 to date.

Committee Reports

Conservation. Heidi reported that, on January 19th, Tai Gunter and representatives from Great Lakes Audubon were to travel to the Indiana Statehouse to make climate change proposals to legislators (unfortunately, this meeting was cancelled).

Education. Heidi reported for Melissa Gunter that she declined an invitation to participate in this year’s Michiana Gardeners’ Garden Expo due to COVID concerns. She has tentatively scheduled SBEAS to participate in this year’s Science Alive!, but will withdraw from that if COVID precautions are not taken or if enough volunteers are not available.

Membership. Jude Keltner reported that memberships have increased by about 100 over the past year. New membership forms are available.

Programs. Lindsay Grossmann reported that the February speaker is Garry Harrington, the March meeting will feature the members’ slide show (held over from the Holiday Potluck), and the April meeting will feature an outside speaker. Check the Audubon Leaves, website or Facebook for details.

Other Business

Laura Fuderer indicated that the next Climate Watch counting period is January 15th to February 15th. Two new participants have been added, bringing the total to 20.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jude Keltner, Membership Chair

We welcome the following new and returning members:


We look forward to seeing you at an activity soon. See the calendar in this newsletter and also check our Facebook page for details.

Should you have any questions about your membership, please email us at membership@sbeaudubon.org. If you would like to renew your South Bend-Elkhart Audubon membership online, you can do so at www.sbeaudubon.org.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lindsay Grossmann, Past President

Each April at our membership meeting we hold an election for the four SBEAS Board executive positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and two Board of Directors positions. The executive positions are for a commitment of at least one year and are voted on annually, whereas the general Board positions are a three-year term commitment with two positions opening each year. As you most likely know, we are a very active group and we thrive on diversity and everyone’s abilities, input, and contributions. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving in any of these positions, please let me know. I can be reached at (574) 807-4443 or earthlindz@gmail.com.

Want to recycle your Styrofoam?

If you have excess polystyrene (the kind used in packaging, not for food), bring it to our meetings so our members can transport it to a company that will recycle it.

BIG RED BARN SALE

Doug and Heidi Gray, Red Barn Sale Co-Chairs

It’s not too early to start collecting items for our annual rummage sale. This year it will be held at St. Patrick’s County Park on April 23rd. The Red Barn Sale is one of our major fundraisers. It is amazing how many unneeded items can make a major contribution to our Society. Several members are needed for the Red Barn Sale Committee. Please contact Heidi at (574) 339-2675 or president@sbeaudubon.org to help. We will meet in March to go over pricing levels and inventory supplies. Please put April 23rd on your calendar. COVID protocols will be adhered to during the sale. More information will be provided next month.

Newsletter Policy - The newsletter editors will only consider nature or Audubon related submissions from members. Promotion of specific products may negate our non-profit status for the purposes of mailing newsletters. Inclusion in the newsletter is at the discretion of the Audubon Leaves editors. Thank you for understanding.
The winter season has been slow to start, but it certainly is here. The tractor is ready for snow plowing. The brush hog was removed and a bucket with weight has been added. A tree that stretched across the drive and close to the Summer Quarters was cut up and set aside. The bird seed barrels in the shed have been filled. We welcome members that have a key to the Sanctuary to fill the feeders if they wish. We want to stress how important it is to replace the wooden lids on the large 55-gallon barrels. Mice are able to enter the tiniest of openings and may not be able to get back out. This leaves the next person the responsibility of removing live or dead mice. When putting the lids back on, check with your fingers that all edges of the lid are equidistant from the barrel. Then place a piece of wood or other weight on top. Thank you to those that do help in filling the feeders. If you are a member and wish to obtain a key, you may receive one from Doug or Heidi at the membership meetings for $5 or contact us for other options.

**COUNT WEEK**

*Count Week birds included the Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, Horned Grebe, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Greater White-fronted Goose, Merlin*

A huge thank you to the 72 volunteers:

### Field Counters


### Yard/Feeder Counters


Mark your calendars: The 27th Annual Elkhart County CBC will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2022.
SOUTH BEND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Kristen Sweinhart, Count Compiler

In all, 36 field counters and 18 feeder counters helped to tally birds on December 18, 2021. Overnight rain stopped just in time for sunrise on Saturday morning, but the day remained cloudy and gray. It was the kind of cold damp weather that chills you to the bone and can only be resolved with a hot shower, fuzzy slippers, and a cup of hot cocoa. Many counters reported a slower day for birds than had typically been observed in the nicer weather days both shortly before and after the CBC count day.

Three fewer than last year, only 60 species of birds were reported within the count circle, but amongst them were a few interesting and unexpected sightings! The number of individual birds counted was 13,185 this year, which is within 100 birds of last year's count.

The following is a complete list of the species seen (a few are pending the approval of the CBC reviewer):


Many thanks to all who participated in this, the 122nd Audubon Christmas Bird Count (the 78th year of annual counts for the South Bend Circle). Your contributions to science are truly invaluable! I hope you will consider participating again next year!

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Lindsay Grossmann, Past President

For one weekend in February each year (Friday, February 18th to Monday, February 21st for 2022), the world unites in effort to count as many birds as possible. This "snapshot" helps us to determine how bird populations are faring, ranges are changing, and more. It is relatively simple to participate and be a part of the worldwide effort - begin by checking out the website, birdcount.org - you can participate for as little as 15 minutes or for as long as you want! Checklists submitted via eBird over this period will automatically count for the report.

On Sunday, February 20th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (exactly one week after our membership meeting), SBEAS will be hosting a Great Backyard Bird Count event at Rum Village Nature Center. Help us determine how many birds are using the feeders around the nature center from the comfort of the heated building with its excellent bird observation window. This is a "come as you please" event, so feel free to stop by whenever you want! There will be binoculars and guides available for those who want to learn or better their birdwatching skills. Social distancing and COVID protocol will be in effect.
PHOTO QUIZ!
There were 10 correct responses to the December-January photo quiz. The winner was Lydia Bergdall, who correctly identified the bird in the December-January Audubon Leaves as a Snowy Owl. Lydia was awarded a $20 gift card to the South Bend Farmer’s Market. Congratulations, Lydia! Read about the Snowy Owl in the article to the right.

The February Audubon Leaves Photo Quiz is shown above. All correct answers will be entered in a drawing, and the winner will receive a $20 gift card. Send responses along with your mailing address to Leaves@sbeaudubon.org with PHOTO QUIZ in the subject line. You can also send a response in the mail to:

Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 SR 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554

Good luck!

THE SNOWY OWL (BUBO SCANDIACUS)
Susan Taylor
Like Hedwig, from Harry Potter, the large Snowy Owl is usually not pure white, rather it has a pattern of dark, prominent bars. Females have more dark markings than males and are larger.

Snowy Owls eat voles, lemmings, and other small rodents. On their arctic summer breeding grounds, it’s daylight 24 hours a day, so Snowy Owls hunt in the light. In the winter they prefer to find food under cover of darkness. Owls fly silently to surprise their prey. This arctic owl winters irregularly in the United States when there is a decline in the northern lemming population.

The Snowy Owl is a nomadic bird, rarely breeding at the same locations or with the same mates. The female nests on tundra in a shallow depression on top of a mound lined with moss and feathers. The three to 10 eggs hatch in 32-39 days. The young fledge in 14-28 days. Owlets often leave long before they have fledged because they have outgrown the nest. Demanding to be fed, they keep both parents very busy.

The Snowy Owl has a relatively long life of 10 years. The oldest banded individual on record lived 23 years and 10 months.

Primary resources used in this article include:


NEW OR RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM: NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OR CHAPTER ONLY
(For a renewal, only include your address if it has changed)

NAME:______________________________________________________________________________________
FULL ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________________

_____ I want to join or renew my membership in National Audubon Society. I will receive the AUDUBON magazine plus membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society. Make check payable to National Audubon Society for $20.00.

_____ I want to join or renew my membership in the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society only. Make check payable to South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society for $20.00 (all the money goes to our local Society). You do not receive the AUDUBON magazine.

All memberships will receive the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter, Audubon Leaves. Please send the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society newsletter by:
   ______ mail ______ email email address ________________________________

Can we contact you via email when necessary (such as to notify you of meeting cancellations)? _____ yes _____ no

MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO: SBEAS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, PO BOX 581, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546.
Audubon Leaves

South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society
Membership Chair - Jude Keltner
PO Box 581
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Officers
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(574) 339-2675
Vice President: Bruce Cates
(574) 335-9373
Editor: Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
(574) 656-3511
Membership: Jude Keltner
(574) 276-6348

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society publishes the Audubon Leaves nine times a year: February, March, April, May, Summer, September, October, November, and December-January. Comments and members’ articles are welcome; deadline for the March issue is February 16th. Send comments or articles to:
Lindsay and Scott Namestnik
26568 State Road 4
North Liberty, Indiana 46554;
or email to: Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.

GO PAPERLESS!
E-subscribe to the Audubon Leaves at Leaves@sbeaudubon.org.
Include your present mailing address, and put “Leaves” in the subject line.
We’ll do the rest!

IT’S YOUR TIME TO SHINE!
Heidi Gray, President
Did you know that South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society is one of the most active Audubon chapters in the state? We thrive because of dedicated volunteers at all levels of the organization. We become a better Society through continuous growth and flourish as a result of diverse opinions. Right now, we are in immediate need of a Program Chair to find speakers for our membership meetings and an Historian. For more information, contact me at president@sbeaudubon.org or (574) 339-2675 to inquire how we might best put your skills and talents to use to better our Society.

The South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society is on the web at www.sbeaudubon.org